



# Village of Oak Park

123 Madison Street  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302  
www.oak-park.us

## Meeting Minutes

### President and Board of Trustees

---

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

7:00 PM

Village Hall

---

#### I. Call to Order

Village President Vicki Scaman called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

#### II. Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, Village Trustee Robinson, and Village Trustee Straw

**Absent:** 1 - Village Trustee Wesley

#### III. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Trustee Enyia, seconded by Trustee Robinson, to Approve the Agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

#### IV. Minutes

- A. [MOT 24-157](#) A Motion to Approve Minutes from the April 9, 2024 Special Meeting and April 11, 2024 Special Meeting of the Village Board

It was moved by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Robinson, to Approve the Minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

#### V. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Alicia Chastain: Tonight's community safety materials lack demographic data. Invest in community-led supports for safety.

#### VII. Village Manager Reports

- F. [ID 24-219](#) A Presentation on the Community Safety Project and Strategic Plan by Michele Weinzetl, BerryDunn Consulting

Village Manager Kevin Jackson introduced the Item. Oak Park Police Department (OPPD) Chief Shatonya Johnson presented the Item. BerryDunn Law Enforcement Consultant Michele Weinzetl provided additional information via remote participation.

Trustee Buchanan inquired about the timeline for this plan. Chief Johnson said the Village is working on multiple recommendations simultaneously and they are divided into short-term, mid-term, and long-term plans.

Manager Jackson said the Board can expect periodic updates on the implementation of the plan.

## VI. Proclamation

- B.**     [MOT 24-164](#)   **A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Recognizing May 2024 as National Bike Month**

Trustee Straw read the Proclamation into the record. David Marshall of Bike Walk Oak Park expressed his gratitude.

Trustee Buchanan announced a bike ride to the Village Board meeting on May 21.

**It was moved by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Enyia, that this Motion be approved. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

- C.**     [MOT 24-165](#)   **A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Recognizing May 5-11, 2024 as International Compost Awareness Week**

Environmental Services Manager Erica Helms presented information about the Village's composting program and benefits of leaving the leaves.

President Scaman encouraged the community to read the proclamation.

**It was moved by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Buchanan that this Motion be approved. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

- D.**     [MOT 24-166](#)   **A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Recognizing May 2024 as Jewish American Heritage Month**

Trustee Buchanan read the Proclamation into the record.

**It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Buchanan, that this Motion be approved. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

- E.**     [MOT 24-167](#)   **A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Recognizing May 2024 as Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander/Desi Heritage Month**

Trustee Parakkat read the Proclamation into the record.

**It was moved by Trustee Parakkat, seconded by Trustee Buchanan, that this Motion be approved. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.**

## VIII. Village Board Committees & Trustee Liaison Commission Reports

There were no comments.

## IX. Citizen Commission Vacancies

- G.**     [ID 24-263](#)     **Board & Commission Vacancy Report for May 7, 2024**

There were no comments.

## X. Citizen Commission Appointments, Reappointments and Chair Appointments

- H. [MOT 24-168](#) A Motion to Consent to the Village President's Appointment of:  
**Building Codes Advisory Commission** - Derek W Eder, Appoint as Member
- President Scaman read the name into the record.
- It was moved by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Buchanan, that this Motion be approved. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

## XI. Consent Agenda

### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Straw to approve the items under the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

**AYES:** 6 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, Village Trustee Robinson, and Village Trustee Straw

**NAYS:** 0

**ABSENT:** 1 - Village Trustee Wesley

- I. [RES 24-183](#) A Resolution Approving a Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc, for the Phase I Preliminary Engineering Design of the Home Avenue Bridge in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,812,191 and Authorizing its Execution
- J. [RES 24-185](#) A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Sam Schwartz Consulting, D.P.C. for an Addendum to the Oak Park Bike Plan in an Amount Not to Exceed \$92,800, Authorizing Its Execution, and Directing Staff to Prepare the Necessary Budget Amendment
- This Resolution was adopted.
- K. [RES 24-194](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Driving a Cleaner Illinois - Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Grant Application with a Requested Funding Amount of \$100,000 and Approval of Any Subsequent Agreements and Authorizing Their Execution
- This Resolution was adopted.
- L. [RES 24-199](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Application with the United States Department of Transportation for a Planning and Demonstration Project Grant to Implement Recommendations from the Vision Zero Plan
- This Resolution was adopted.

## XII. Regular Agenda

### M. [ID 24-193](#) Public Safety Annual Report

Chief Johnson presented the Item.

Trustee Straw referenced the five-year crime data and inquired about the year-over-year differences stemming from motor vehicle theft and retail theft. Chief Johnson said OPPD classifies a burglary as entering a structure, which includes vehicles whereas NIBRS classifies that as a theft. He asked if the Kia and Hyundai thefts are big drivers of the changes we see. Chief Johnson said OPPD did a huge initiative last year by handing out wheel locks and educating the public. She said it is a trend but she doesn't see it continuing throughout 2024.

Trustee Straw referenced the five-year staffing trend data and shortage and inquired where she sees that hiring number ending up for 2024. Chief Johnson said OPPD started this year with 87 officers and she believes OPPD will be closer to 95 by year end. He asked if OPPD will do three rounds of testing. Chief Johnson said it depends on how often there will be police academies.

Trustee Straw inquired how many traffic enforcement citations have been issued thus far in 2024. Chief Johnson said she doesn't have that information in front of her though it is more than OPPD ended with in 2023. He said it would be helpful to see that data broken out geographically across the village to see where traffic enforcement is occurring. Chief Johnson said OPPD enforces traffic based on the complaints they receive, based on where traffic crashes are occurring, and based on where our schools and parks are located. He said he would like to see more data on the parking enforcement and where it is occurring.

Trustee Buchanan requested clarification on whether the 2023 numbers include trespassing and disorderly conduct. Chief Johnson confirmed they do not. OPPD staff removed them from all years. Trustee Buchanan inquired about an investigative search. Chief Johnson said that is where detectives may run a partial plate through Flock to see if we have any vehicles matching that partial plate in the area where the offense may have occurred. Trustee Buchanan inquired about the 33 significant incidents in patrol. Chief Johnson said that is where the patrol division received alerts and were able to stop a vehicle.

President Scaman noted that each time an officer uses Flock, it is logged and reviewed by our Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC). Chief Johnson confirmed all Flock alerts are reviewed by CPOC. CPOC has not

disagreed with a decision to use Flock, nor has OPPD received any complaints from anyone who has been stopped as a result of a Flock alert.

Trustee Robinson said we are hearing more and more about reckless driving throughout the village. She inquired how that folds up into the citations officers are writing. Chief Johnson said she can send her that information. Trustee Robinson read a question from a resident asking whether the recorder used at WestComm was replaced and if the public will have access to dispatch communications with the new system. Chief Johnson said Oak Park is part of a three-town community that uses WestComm and Oak Park was outvoted so we went for full encryption. Manager Jackson said the Village does not have the authority to change the equipment because the organization voted to move forward with encryption as planned.

Trustee Robinson inquired about the three ways in which OPPD is currently using Flock. Chief Johnson responded that it is violent offenses, missing persons, and stolen motor vehicles. Any request to use Flock beyond those reasons has to be submitted in a written form to Chief Johnson for approval. Trustee Robinson inquired about stolen vehicles not being removed from the Flock system and vehicles being pulled over in error. Chief Johnson said OPPD officers have every right to stop the vehicle. The issue is that they were not removed from the system and officers have not received any complaints regarding our officers' interaction with that. OPPD can do community engagement to encourage people to report their recovered vehicles to the police. Trustee Robinson said this is where the Flock conversation should be centered to enhance the positive results, mitigate this issue of vehicles that should not be in the system, and if there are other ways OPPD would like to utilize Flock.

Trustee Parakkat asked if there are specific things we can do to help us keep the uptick in armed robberies in check. Chief Johnson said it begins with looking at the data to see where those crimes are happening and then using our various police strategies to deploy resources to those areas and collaborating with other police departments. Trustee Parakkat said it would be good to see a breakdown on the kinds of stops. Chief Johnson said that information can be provided.

Manager Jackson said staff hear the Board's interest in data and are doing everything we can with our current systems to be able to produce the data we are looking for. The new CAD RMS system will allow us to do that more systematically and efficiently. He said he will provide some additional information and follow-up regarding the StarCom radio transition.

President Scaman expressed her condolences on the passing of George

Thompson. She was co-chair with him on the Law Review Committee that led to youth adjudication and removing punitive consequences.

Manager Jackson noted the needs assessment on the RMS CAD project is a collaboration internally as well as with WestComm. It is a big project with alignment with two other districts and it will pay dividends for us when we start implementation.

### **XIII. Call to Board and Clerk**

Village Clerk Christina Waters said voter registration is underway. October 8 is the last day to vote by paper or in-person registration. October 20 is the last day to register to vote by online application. Please feel free to reach out to the Clerk's Office at 708-358-5672 or email [clerk@oak-park.us](mailto:clerk@oak-park.us).

Trustee Buchanan referenced the Walk the Walk Oak Park report sent to the Board on February 29 entitled *Historical Harms to the Black Community of Oak Park, Illinois and Suggested Repairs*. She recommends her colleagues read the in-depth and thoughtful report. She said she looks forward to the discussions on reparations.

Trustee Robinson noted the Historic Preservation Commission is continuing its speaker series on May 11 at Village Hall featuring PlaceEconomics Director of Research and Data Analytics Alyssa Frystak.

Trustee Straw noted he was sworn in a year ago this week. He encouraged the community to consider whether they want to serve on this body or another body in Oak Park. Our democracy is always healthier when there is a healthy exchange of ideas.

President Scaman announced the national Move with the Mayor initiative, this year focusing on mental health. Our public health department has helped plan a family-friendly event where we will give out free bike helmets on May 14 from 5:00-6:30 P.M. in the Village Hall parking lot.

### **XIV. Adjourn**

**It was moved by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Robinson, to Adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M., Tuesday, May 7, 2024.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Deputy Clerk Hansen**