



Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes President and Board of Trustees

Monday, June 15, 2015

7:00 PM

Village Hall

I. Call to Order

Village President Abu-Taleb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Present: 4 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Salzman, and Village President Abu-Taleb

Absent: 3 - Village Trustee Brewer, Village Trustee Ott, and Village Trustee Tucker

III. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation

It was moved by Village Trustee Barber, seconded by Village Trustee Salzman, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) - discussion of pending litigation. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 4 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Salzman, and Village President Abu-Taleb

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 3 - Village Trustee Brewer, Village Trustee Ott, and Village Trustee Tucker

V. Reconvene to Regular Meeting in Council Chambers and Call to Order

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:30 P.M.

VI. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, Village Trustee Salzman, and Village President Abu-Taleb

Absent: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

VII. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Village Trustee Ott, seconded by Village Trustee Barber, to approve the Agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

VIII. Minutes

A. [MOT 15-076](#) Motion to Approve Minutes for May 18, 2015 Regular Meeting of the

**Village Board, June 1, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Village Board and
Minutes for June 8, 2015 Special Meeting of the Board.**

It was moved by Village Trustee Lueck, seconded by Village Trustee Salzman, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015, June 1, 2015 and June 8, 2015. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

IX. Non-Agenda Public Comment

There was no non-agenda public comment.

X. Village Manager Reports

Deputy Village Manager Lisa Shelley stated that she had nothing to report.

XI. Village Board Committees

There was nothing to report.

XII. Citizen Commission Vacancies

B. [ID 15-195](#) Board and Commission Vacancy Report for June 15, 2015.

There were no comments.

XIII. Citizen Commission Appointments, Reappointments and Chair Appointments

C. [MOT 15-079](#) Motion to consent to the Village President's Appointment of:

Building Codes Advisory Commission - Frank Heitzman, Appoint as Member
Citizen Police Oversight Committee - Albert Berry, Reappoint as Member
Citizen Police Oversight Committee - Todd Moore, Appoint as Member
Community Design Commission - Lloyd Natof, Reappoint as Member
Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee - Adam Hirsch, Appoint as Member
Police Pension Board - Dennis J. Marani, Reappoint as Member
Police Pension Board - Robert Planek, Reappoint as Member

It was moved by Village Trustee Ott, seconded by Village Trustee Barber, that this Motion be approved. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 5 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, Village Trustee Salzman, and Village President Abu-Taleb

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

XIV. Regular Agenda

D. [ID 15-181](#) Presentation of the Public Health Awards

Board of Health Chair Florence Miller presented the Fitzsimmons Awards, which recognize community members who contribute to the health and well-being of Oak Park. This year's recipients are:

Rene "Kip" Adrian, Director of Emergency Medicine, West Suburban Hospital
Dr. Marge Epstein, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Kris Raino-Ogden and the coalition of IMPACT, Community Group dedicated to the prevention of drinking and drug use by youths
Tony McCormick, Certified Athletic Trainer
Lynda Schueler, Executive Director of Housing Forward (formerly PADS)

Environmental Health Supervisor Mike Charley presented the Johnson Restaurant Awards, which recognize sanitation excellence in Oak Park food service establishments. This year's recipients are:

Boss Burrito, 1110 W. Westgate St.
Aripo's Venezuelan Arepa House, 118 N. Marion St.
King & I, 105 N. Marion St.
Cucina Paradiso, 814 North Blvd.
Happiness Restaurant, 6222 Roosevelt Rd.
Jerusalem Cafe, 1030 W. Lake St.
Buzz Cafe, 905 S. Lombard Ave.
Penny's Noodle Shop, 1130 Chicago Ave.
TGI Friday's, 401 N. Harlem Ave.
Sagano Sushi, 731 Lake St.

Village President Abu-Taleb thanked the recipients for their contributions.

E. [RES 15-304](#) **A Resolution in Support of Federal Legislation Requiring Universal Background Checks for All Gun Sales**

Robert V. Williams. Mr. Williams, a Vietnam Veteran, stated that this type of legislation criminalize honest, law abiding citizens.

Joel Lowrie. Mr. Lowrie discussed some of the negative effects that a universal background check will have on Federal Firearms License dealers. He added that databases generating this type of information are often not up to date.

Ray Heise. Mr. Heise, representing "Gun Responsibility Advocates", stated that 92.33% of Oak Park voters voted in favor of a recent referendum supporting universal background checks. This will protect the rights of individuals who are legally entitled to possess guns while seeking to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, the seriously mentally ill and minors.

Village Trustee Salzman discussed Mr. Heise's comment regarding rights coming with responsibilities. He also noted that there have been over 1,000 people shot in Chicago this year.

Village Trustee Ott stated that this country has a serious gun problem. Parents have a responsibility to do everything they can to protect their children.

Village Trustee Lueck commented that those who provide mental health services would take offense at the thought that those who have received mental health treatment puts them at risk to own a gun. There are particular types of mental illness that would put someone at a greater risk than others; however, the law does not make that distinction.

Nonetheless, she is supporting this Resolution.

Village Trustee Barber stated that he does not consider a wait period to own a gun a hindrance or a restriction to anyone's rights.

Village President Abu-Taleb thanked all who served this country.

It was moved by Village Trustee Ott, seconded by Village Trustee Lueck, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 5 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, Village Trustee Salzman, and Village President Abu-Taleb

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

F. [ID 15-196](#)

Presentation Related to the Oak Park Arts District and Harrison Street from Austin to Ridgeland.

Director of Development Customer Services Tammie Grossman discussed past improvements made to the Arts District and Harrison Street. Lighting improvements, which have been budgeted for the last couple of years, are currently in the design phase. A contract for the project, which will cost a little over \$1 million, will be brought to the Board in August. Ms. Grossman described the current Oak Park Vacant Building Ordinance, the criteria of a vacant building and the process within the Ordinance. Staff has discussed strengthening the Ordinance by decreasing the unoccupied period requirement from two years to one year, adding language that clarifies what percentage of a building has to be unoccupied to be considered vacant, and enhancing enforcement activity of the Ordinance. Harrison Street is currently being monitored. However, the properties in foreclosure have not been actively pursued in terms of the Vacant Building Ordinance process, as they are not considered vacant buildings. She discussed plans for marketing the Business Districts and noted that there will be a request for \$50,000 in the 2016 budget for support of the Business Districts, excluding Downtown.

Village Trustee Lueck commented that the Board has a fiduciary responsibility for taxpayer dollars. The Village is investing much more money in Harrison Street than in any other business district and their return is lower than almost any other business district. It is not reasonable to continue investing that amount of money based on the return from those dollars. In order to create the necessary infrastructure that would make it a thriving business district, the charm, the streets, trees and quiet walkability would be destroyed. What is within the district's control to turn this around is perhaps having common business hours and to be open during the publicized hours of business, which some businesses are not. The Village has said they believe in Harrison Street and are willing to invest in it. However, they need to meet halfway with their plan for what they are going to do.

Village Trustee Salzman agreed and noted that effective marketing of the district needs to be done in order to increase traffic.

Village Trustee Ott stated that she and Village Trustee Salzman requested that this be put on the agenda due to the feedback she receives from residents and business owners on Harrison Street. She wanted to give them an opportunity to be heard, get some information and contemplate ways that the Village can address some of the problems. This is an important conversation and if there are some things that the Board can direct

staff to do tonight then perhaps some progress can be made moving forward.

Village Engineer Bill McKenna stated that streetlighting was identified in the 2008 Arts District Plan as one of the desired improvements and funds were budgeted for in 2015. The design process started with selecting a consultant this winter. Village President Abu-Taleb asked if the residents have been involved in the process. Mr. McKenna stated that it has primarily been people in the business community.

Janice Elkins. Ms. Elkins, a Harrison Street property owner, spoke about her experience in economic development. She noted that while it's nice to beautify the Arts District, what it really needs is more businesses in the area.

Bill Quick. Mr. Quick, owner of Trattoria 225 on Harrison, stated that he has seen a dramatic decrease in business activity since he bought his restaurant five and a half years ago.

Bruce Samuels. Mr. Samuels stated that the Board should have used eminent domain long ago in regards to a property on Harrison Street.

Patrick Dailey. Mr. Dailey, owner of Eastgate Cafe on Harrison Street, suggested that the former La Majada building be torn down and the site made into a parking lot.

Laura Maychruk. Ms. Maychruk, a business owner, asked the Board not to give up on the district. The sidewalks are in disrepair and there is a lack of lighting, which discourages pedestrian traffic at night. Beautifying the area may also help bring in developers. As a realtor, she stated that there is a demand for space; if the buildings in foreclosure were available they would be occupied.

Mark Finger. Mr. Finger has been a business owner and resident on Harrison for 28 years. He spoke about how the Arts District began and how that designation has made it a desirable place to live and do business.

Village President Abu-Taleb and Village Trustee Salzman expressed concern regarding the Village's lack of leverage regarding the properties on Harrison that are in foreclosure. Village Attorney Paul Stephanides explained the process necessary to exercise eminent domain. Village Trustees Salzman and Ott expressed interest in exploring that option. Mr. Stephanides stated that the properties have to be used for a public purpose. There was discussion regarding strengthening the Vacant Building Ordinance and the eminent domain process. Village Trustee Salzman requested that staff provide the projected cost to do that.

Village Trustee Lueck commented that it has been suggested that the Arts Council, the Public Art Commission and Harrison Street work together to create a unified arts plan for the Village. That has been on the table for at least four years and needs to move forward.

**G. [RES 15-327](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Contract with GA Paving, LLC,
for Project 15-15, Resurfacing of Various Streets, in an Amount Not to
Exceed \$778,169.00**

It was moved by Village Trustee Lueck, seconded by Village Trustee Ott, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 5 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, Village Trustee Salzman, and Village President Abu-Taleb

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

XV. Regular Agenda for Items Pursuant to Village Code Chapter 2 Alcoholic Liquor Dealers or Related (President Pro-Tem Ott)

Village President Abu-Taleb recused himself from the meeting and President Pro Tem Ott presided over the following Items.

- H.** [MOT 15-078](#) **Motion to Consent to Local Liquor Control Commissioner Adam Salzman's Appointment of:
Liquor Control Review Board - Phillip Keeku, Appoint as Member**

It was moved by Village Trustee Lueck, seconded by Village Trustee Barber, that this Motion be approved. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 4 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, and Village Trustee Salzman

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

ABSTAINED: 1 - Village President Abu-Taleb

- I.** [ORD 15-110](#) **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 ("Alcoholic Liquor Dealers"), Article 4 ("Term and Classification"), Section 3-4-2 ("Classification and Number of Liquor Licensees and Fees") of the Oak Park Village Code to Allow for Tastings or Samplings by Class C-7 Liquor Licensees**

Mr. Stephanides stated that there was a request from C-7 License holder Careful Peach to have the ability to conduct tastings and samplings for special events. The Liquor Control Review Board recommended it be approved but limited to four times per year.

It was moved by Village Trustee Lueck, seconded by Village Trustee Barber, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 4 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, and Village Trustee Salzman

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

ABSTAINED: 1 - Village President Abu-Taleb

- J.** [ORD 15-111](#) **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3 ("Alcoholic Liquor Dealers"), Article 8 ("List of Licenses for Each License Class"), Section 3-8-1 ("Number of Licenses Permitted to be Issued Per License Class"), and Section 3-8-2**

**("Licenses by Names and Address Per License") of the Oak Park Village Code
to Remove a Certain Licensee**

**It was moved by Village Trustee Lueck, seconded by Village Trustee Barber, that
this Ordinance be adopted. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote
was as follows:**

AYES: 4 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, and Village
Trustee Salzman

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

ABSTAINED: 1 - Village President Abu-Taleb

XVI. Consent Agenda

Village President Abu-Taleb rejoined the meeting.

**It was moved by Village Trustee Barber, seconded by Village Trustee Ott, to
waive the reading of the Consent Agenda. A voice vote was taken and the
motion was approved.**

- K.** [ORD 15-105](#) **An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property (Bicycles) Owned by
the Village of Oak Park**

This Ordinance was adopted.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

AYES: 5 - Village Trustee Barber, Village Trustee Lueck, Village Trustee Ott, Village Trustee
Salzman, and Village President Abu-Taleb

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Brewer, and Village Trustee Tucker

- L.** [ORD 15-107](#) **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 ("Public Health"), Article 9 ("Village
Indoor Clean Air Policy"), Section 20-9-5 ("Designation of Other No
Smoking Areas") and Section 20-9-6 ("Sign Requirements") of the Oak Park
Village Code to Designate Village Facilities as No Tobacco Areas**

This Ordinance was adopted.

- M.** [ORD 15-108](#) **An Ordinance Establishing Prevailing Wages for Public Works in the Village
of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois**

This Ordinance was adopted.

- N. [ORD 15-113](#) An Ordinance Approving the First Amendment to the Redevelopment Agreement between the Village of Oak Park and Sugar Beet Food Store Cooperative Dated February 2, 2015 and Authorizing its Execution

This Ordinance was adopted.

- O. [RES 15-324](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Illinois for the Municipal Maintenance of State Highways

This Resolution was adopted.

- P. [RES 15-325](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One 2015 John Deere 310SL HL, Combination Backhoe/Loader from West Side Tractor Sales Co. in an amount not to exceed \$89,914.00

This Resolution was adopted.

- Q. [RES 15-326](#) A Resolution Authorizing a Three Month Extension of the Employee Lease Agreement for a Temporary Civil Engineer with GovTemps USA, LLC

This Resolution was adopted.

- R. [RES 15-318](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Release of the PY 2015 CDCAC Funding Recommendations, the Draft PY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the Draft PY 2015 Action Plan for Public Comment

This Resolution was adopted.

XVII. Call to Board and Clerk

Village Clerk Powell spoke in favor of revitalizing the Arts District.

XVIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Village Trustee Barber, seconded by Village Trustee Lueck, to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 P.M., Monday, June 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryAnn Schoenneman
Deputy Village Clerk