



Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Monday, June 1, 2020

6:30 PM

Village Hall

I. Call to Order

Village President Abu-Taleb called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:53 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

Absent: 0

III. Agenda Approval

Village President Abu-Taleb noted that Item F has been tabled to the following meeting.

It was moved by Village Trustee Boutet, seconded by Village Trustee Andrews, to approve the Agenda as amended. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

IV. Minutes

- A.** [MOT 20-031](#) **Motion to Approve Minutes from Regular Remote Meeting of the Village Board on May 18, 2020.**

It was moved by Village Trustee Andrews, seconded by Village Trustee Moroney, to approve the Minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

V. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Kevin Barnhart and Sue Humphreys. Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Humphreys, both members of the Citizens Police Oversight Committee, urged the Board to end and prohibit use of force and response to resistance policies by the Oak Park Police Department.

Members of the Community Relations Commission. The Members discussed the lack of safety that exists for Black people in America and asked what the Village plans on doing in response to the murder of George Floyd.

Dr. Mary Ann Bender, Board President of the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Bender thanked the Oak Park Police and Fire Departments for keeping citizens and businesses safe during these trying times. She also thanked staff for their updates.

Nicole Arnolde. Ms. Arnolde asked what the Village will do to set an example for other communities to rise above hate and address racial inequity and racial profiling.

Rebecca Malinowski. Ms. Malinowski urged the Board to include language to address safe and equitable enforcement in the ordinance regarding the Declaration of a State of Emergency.

Mary Bird. Ms. Bird discussed the Village's letter in response to the death of George Floyd, as well as the Ten Shared Principles adopted by the Police Chief. She urged the Board to make public Village policies, practices and data regarding policing in Oak Park.

David Yamashita. Mr. Yamashita thanked the Board and staff for their leadership during this pandemic. However, conflict on this Board is evident. Unless there is a policy or misconduct by police or Village employees that needs to be addressed, he asked that the Board stay focused on the serious issues facing the community, regardless of how tempting it is to comment about the history of injustice and disparity in America.

John Duffy, representing the Committee for Equity and Excellence in Education. Mr. Duffy urged the Board to stop believing that Oak Park is not embedded with the same racism, bias and inequities that plague the rest of America. He gave suggestions for change.

Susanne Fairfax. Ms. Fairfax discussed how Black people have been stopped inappropriately at barricades recently put in place.

Gail Gallivan. Ms. Gallivan asked the Board and Police Department to attend an event on Tuesday at the CPD Headquarters as an act of unity..

Jameel Abdur-Rafia. Mr. Abdur-Rafia asked the Board about the existence of police policies regarding racism. He asked that a Reparations Committee be developed.

Ryan Smith. Mr. Smith discussed how Minneapolis failed George Floyd and asked the Board to explain how Oak Park will now be different from Minneapolis.

Village President Abu-Taleb referred to Mr. Yamashita's comments and acknowledged that the Board does tend to talk at one another. Talking to one another and listening to one another is important. He stated that they are lucky to have a staff that is professional and committed and that the Board owes it to each other and the community not to be accusatory to one another or use social media to throw each other under the bus. If has been difficult for this Board to work together at times and he is not surprised that residents pick up on that. In order to have trust within the community, it needs to start within this Board. The Board table is not a place to campaign, it is to address the issues in the Village. He asked that they take a moment to reflect on feeling the pain of the community, those who have been compromised and who feel they have not been treated well. Oak Park is a great place, but like anywhere else in the country, there are racists. The Board cannot solve these problems by creating more enemies, but by building bridges and relationships. He asked the Board to come together to heal the community and be an example to other Boards.

Village Trustee Boutet commented that the Board needs to discuss how the Village is going to deal with racism.

VI. Village Manager Reports

Village President Abu-Taleb asked Village Manager Pavlicek to look into body cameras for the Police Department. This would be a good way to help restore faith and trust.

Village Manager Pavlicek stated that things have been changing rapidly in terms of an internal organizational standpoint. She had anticipated that they would be able to talk about the conclusion of the public health emergency. Of course, over the weekend COVID-19 became one of the least important issues that they are dealing with internally. There are a number of study sessions that will be scheduled once staff has the opportunity to prepare. She also stated that the Farmers Market opened this past weekend.

VII. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

It was moved by Village Trustee Boutet and seconded by Village Trustee Andrews to approve the items under the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

- B.** [ORD 20-022](#) **An Ordinance Granting an Extension of Time to Complete Construction of the Planned Development at 715-717 South Boulevard (Residences of South Boulevard) and Waiving and Suspending the Right-of-way Obstruction Permit Fee and Parking Meter Obstruction Fee for the Planned Development**

This Ordinance was adopted.

- C.** [ORD 20-038](#) **An Ordinance Temporarily Waiving and Suspending a Portion of the Fees Charged by the Village for Parking Permits to Provide Emergency Assistance Due to the Outbreak of COVID-19 Disease**

This Ordinance was adopted.

- D.** [RES 20-139](#) **A Resolution Authorizing the Release of Certain Executive Session Minutes**

This Resolution was adopted.

VIII. Regular Agenda

- E.** [ID 20-140](#) **Building Code Update**

Director of Development Services Tammie Grossman gave an update regarding the Building Code review. The Building Code Advisory Commission is recommending that the Village adopt the 2018 edition of the International Code Council Building Codes. They are currently using the 2009 edition. Staff and the commission have been working with developers and a number of meetings were held. Training sessions with contractors and architects are scheduled in June to provide them with the updates. The new edition simplifies and streamlines the building process. Several developers are waiting for the

Village to adopt the new Codes before submitting their applications. The updated Codes will be brought to the Board for their review and adoption in July. She answered questions from the Board. Chief Building Official Steve Cutaia will be available when this is brought back in order to answer additional questions.

F. [ID 20-141](#) Discussion to Reduce FY20 Expenses in Order to Address the Fiscal Side of the Emergency Affecting Public Health Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic with an Amended Budget to be Considered at the June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting

This Presentation was tabled.

G. [ORD 20-042](#) An Ordinance Extending Certain Village Business Licenses Issued Pursuant to Chapter 8 ("Business Licensing") of the Oak Park Village Code and Waiving and Suspending Business License Fees to Provide Emergency Assistance Due to the Outbreak of COVID-19 Disease

Village Manager Pavlicek stated that the May 18 Board Meeting included recommendations from the Business Recovery Task Force and staff has returned this ordinance related to business licensing that they believe is in accordance with direction from that meeting.

Village Trustee Buchanan asked for clarification of what the ordinance will establish. Village Attorney Stephanides stated that the intent of the ordinance is to waive the business license fees for any business that was closed due to COVID-19.

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

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

IX. Regular Agenda for Items Pursuant to Village Code Chapter 3 Alcoholic Liquor Dealers or Related (President Pro-Tem)

Village President Abu-Taleb recused himself from the meeting and the following Item was resided over by Village President Pro Tem Boutet.

H. [ORD 20-045](#) An Ordinance Waiving and Suspending a Portion of the Alcoholic Liquor License Fee for any Non-Package Class C Liquor License Issued Pursuant to Chapter 3 ("Alcoholic Liquor Dealers") of the Oak Park Village Code to Provide Emergency Assistance due to the Outbreak of COVID-19 Disease

Village Attorney Stephanides stated that this ordinance waives 50% of the license fee for any non-packaged licensee for the period that the Village's Declaration of Emergency was in effect. Because the licenses are renewed on a rolling basis, it will include any license that was in effect during this time but does not affect new licenses.

Village Manager Pavlicek stated that staff felt this was important so as not to impact

businesses that are returning with a cash flow issue. Packaged liquor was excluded as those businesses have been consistently open during the Governor's Stay at Home Order and did not suffer the same impact.

Village President Pro Tem Boutet considers this a revenue issue, not a liquor issue.

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

AYES: 6 - Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

RECUSED: 1 - Village President Abu-Taleb

X. Call to Board and Clerk

Village Clerk Scaman stated that her heart goes out to everyone in our nation and all communities are hurting right now.

Village Trustee Buchanan hopes that all this anger and strife leads to systemic change and supports the idea of a study session to look at the practices in Oak Park to make sure nothing like this happens again.

Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla stated that these are issues that she has consistently brought up at the Board table and was told that she was being unreasonable. She had asked that the Citizen Police Oversight Committee review the Police General Orders and no one else agreed with her. Those General Orders contain the use of force. She discussed Black lives lost at the hands of police and the Freedom to Thrive report. It is disappointing that it has taken another Black person being murdered for people to wake up. The recent protests are not just about George Floyd but about systemic inequities across the entire governmental system. She hopes the Board does what is right rather than consistently blocking requests to review transparently and listen to the community.

Village Trustee Moroney supports looking into police body cameras. What happened in Minneapolis was horrific. He believes Oak Park police are horrified as well and that cameras on the officers will hold them accountable. He acknowledged that all police officers are not perfect but not all of Oak Park's officers are guilty of a crime that was committed by another officer in another part of the county. He discussed the premise of mutual respect regarding police officers and people of color. He spoke in praise of Police Chief Reynolds and asked that the Board stop grandstanding and painting with such a broad brush and indicting good people.

Village Trustee Boutet commented that these have been difficult times in which to be a leader because of the pain in the world. These issues need to be taken up in a way and place in which people can be heard. Based on her experience as a former Village Attorney, there has been a structure of accountability in the Police Department. She is not sure that the Board is doing all they can do right now. In addition, despite believing that Oak Park has the best police force, they need to listen to the people who disagree with that. She wants to do a thorough review of the Police Department and systems of accountability including the Citizens Police Oversight Committee. They are not being used to their full potential and she was unsure whether they have meaningful input. She

wants to ensure that they support the right way of policing in Oak Park. She discussed the Village's role regarding dealing with racism.

Village Trustee Taglia is angered and outraged over the death of George Floyd. He referred to the protests around the country and believes it is important to state firmly that Oak Park condemns racism in all forms and is standing in solidarity with all their colleagues, neighbors and friends in this situation. It is their job as trustees to set policies that protect everyone in Oak Park regardless of race, gender, creed, age or any other demography.

Village President Abu-Taleb acknowledged that the Board has had their differences but it is time to come together to heal the community and restore trust. He looks forward to a day when a person of color gets stopped by the police and it is not a fearful experience. However, there are two sides to this, as people want to live in cities that are safe. Everyone has the responsibility to recognize that racism exists. As representatives of the community, they have to be careful of what they say and how they say it. Being a police officer is a hard and dangerous job and they are also being profiled just for being a police officer. It is assumed that because they are in that uniform, they will not treat persons of color fairly. He acknowledged that racism exists and if the Board truly wants to help people, they need to come together and help the people who need it the most. They cannot do it alone, they must do it together and focus on the community.

XI. Adjourn

It was moved by Village Trustee Boutet, seconded by Village Trustee Andrews, to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M., Monday, June 1, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

**MaryAnn Schoenneman
Deputy Village Clerk**