

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 7th, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL**

OFFICIAL RECORD:

PRESENT: Trustees Hale Hedges, Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope
ABSENT: Trustee Moore
QUORUM: President Pope called the meeting to order at 7:42 P.M. and declared that a quorum was present.

REGULAR
MEETING
7/7/2008

ANNOUNCEMENT:

President Pope announced that Trustee Moore cannot continue in the position of Trustee and will be submitting his resignation. President Pope advised that he will be looking to fill this vacancy as quickly as possible.

TRUSTEE
MOORE
STEPPING
DOWN

AGENDA:

It was moved by Trustee Hedges, seconded by Trustee Pate, that the Agenda be approved.

AGENDA FOR
THIS MEETING
APPROVED

A voice vote was taken and the Agenda was approved.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Hedges, that the draft minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 16th, 2008 be approved.

MINUTES FOR
6/16/2008
APPROVED

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Daniel E. Fore, P.O. Box 1104. Mr. Fore referred to the summarization of his own remarks in the Non-Agenda Public Comment portion of the June 16th minutes. Mr. Fore does not understand why he is barred from riding the Oak Park Shuttle.

A voice vote was taken and the minutes of June 16th were approved as written.

PROCLAMATION:

**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH
JULY 2008**

It was moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Pate, to concur in a Proclamation declaring July 2008 Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

PROCLAMATION
JULY 2008
ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS
AND
PREVENTION
MONTH

A voice vote was taken and the Proclamation was approved.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel E. Fore, P.O. Box 1104. Mr. Fore read excerpts from a letter addressed to Village Officials dated August 8, 2002 regarding seasonal heat and ventilation issues at the West Suburban YMCA.

NON-AGENDA
PUBLIC
COMMENT

Susan Swatek, 187 North Marion Street. As a Realtor and leasing agent, Ms. Swatek discussed the value of more cooperation from non-realtor residents to help lease empty commercial spaces in Oak Park.

VILLAGE MANAGER REPORTS

VILLAGE
MANAGER
REPORTS

A. Reports

Construction updates include progress on a number of projects including Carpenter Avenue, Chicago-side landscaping on North Avenue, Holley Court Parking Garage, alley improvements, the 2008 Sidewalk Program, and a pavement condition analysis.

Mr. Barwin also touched on the **Supreme Court decision on Handguns**. This decision will have ramifications for Oak Park's handgun prohibition. Attorney Heise is researching the decision and the Village's options.

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS

Citizen Involvement Commission Recommendations

CITIZEN
INVOLVEMENT
COMMISSION

B. Citizen Commission Vacancies

A Vacancy Report was distributed to the Board.

VACANCIES

C. Appointments

It was moved by Trustee Pate, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to concur in the following appointments by President Pope:

APPOINTMENTS

Community Development Citizen Advisory Committee

Appointment of Eileen Fein, as Member, with a term to expire July 7, 2009

Appointment of Zygmunt "Zyg" Sokolnicki, as Member, with a term to expire July 7, 2011

Citizen Involvement Commission

Appointment of Margarita Popova (student), as Member, with a term to expire July 7, 2009

Environment & Energy Commission

Appointment of Frank Fletcher, as Member, with a term to expire July 7, 2011

Fire and Police Commission

Appointment of Jay Fahn, as Chairman, with a term to expire July 7, 2010

Zoning Board of Appeals

Re-appointment of Robert D. Schoen, as Member, with a term to expire July 7, 2013

A voice vote was taken and the appointments were approved.

Retail Support Grant Committee Recommendation

- D. It was moved by Trustee Hale, seconded by Trustee Hedges, that Resolution 2008-R-092 entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A RETAIL SUPPORT GRANT, RET-008, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,280 FOR THE RETAIL SPACE AT 126 & 128 HARRISON STREET** be adopted, true and correct copies of said Resolution herewith being ordered filed in the Office of the Village Clerk

The roll call on the vote was as follows:
AYES: Trustees Hale, Johnson, Marsey and Pate
NAYS: Trustee Hedges and President Pope
ABSENT: Trustee Moore
The Resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING ON VACANT BUILDINGS

- E. President Pope asked Village Manager Barwin and Attorney Ray Heise to introduce this topic. Mr. Barwin offered that the Village was looking for suggestions that will help Oak Park be more pro-active about vacant buildings. Attorney Heise reported that senior staff members, citizens and business persons were ready to present on the topic.

Fire Chief Bill Bell: Chief Bell's primary concern regarding vacant buildings is safety, the safety of first responders and people trying to live or play in them. Proper board up is needed.

Housing Programs Manager Tammie Grossman: Ms. Grossman provided statistics such as foreclosures have gone up 96.3% from 2005 to 2007. Oak Park is not alone; Berwyn, Cicero, Forest Park and River Forest have had similar experiences. Not every foreclosure results in a vacant building, however if home values have decreased the owner may owe more than the property is worth. Further, a vacant home can have a disastrous effect on surrounding values of both single- and multi-family residences.

Chief Property Inspector John Ross: Mr. Ross noted that not all vacant properties represent foreclosures. Some of these buildings are former rental properties that owners do not wish to rent any more. Mr. Ross suggested that an ordinance on the subject is in order.

Community Relations Director Cedric Melton: Mr. Melton reiterated how vacant buildings depress property values, present safety hazards and put children at risk. Housing Programs Manager Tammie Grossman interjected that a program exists to provide counseling for foreclosure prevention. Residents can call 1 (888) 995-HOPE (4673) to speak to a counselor.

Gary Mancuso, 200 South Marion Street, President of the Oak Park Area Association of Realtors®: Mr. Mancuso commented that the current vacant building situation is a first in recent U.S. history. There are too many homes coming to the market in pre-foreclosure or foreclosure status. Too many are vacant, and neglected. Vacancies

RETAIL
SUPPORT
GRANT
COMMITTEE

GRANT FOR 126
& 128
HARRISON

PUBLIC
HEARING ON
VACANT
BUILDINGS

make it difficult to market good properties with the misfortune of being nearby. Mr. Mancuso suggested forcing title holders to maintain such properties, or have the Village address maintenance issues and place liens on the properties, or withhold transfer stamps as a means of enforcement.

Cliff Osborne, 1023 Gunderson Avenue, former President of the Oak Park Board of Trustees, Director of the Oak Park Area Association of Realtors®, and a Commercial and Residential Realtor®: Mr. Osborne questioned whether any new rules or legislation is necessary and observed that there are several ordinances that address derelict properties. He underlined the importance of differentiating between “abandoned” and “foreclosed” properties.

Daniel E. Fore, P.O. Box 1104: Mr. Fore stated he is a 36-year resident of the Village. He listed the names of several major Oak Park streets. Mr. Fore referred to homeless children in the United States and affordable housing.

Peter Morava, 11 West Harrison Street: Mr. Morava owns the two-flat building in which he lives on Harrison Street. He has personally seen some properties on this street remain vacant over 10 years, and suggested tax incentives be used to lessen the problem.

Ada Willer, 725 North Cuyler Avenue: Ms. Willer reported four vacant homes in her immediate neighborhood in various states of neglect. She’d been told by a Village representative that nothing can be done as long as the property is “properly maintained.” She urged the Board to provide more specific definitions of “properly maintained,” and an action list for owners not in residence, for the best interests of the neighborhood.

Jim Kelly, 1043 South Harvey Avenue: Mr. Kelly addressed how information on vacant buildings gets back to the community, and suggested the Village create a website listing vacant properties with notations on next steps.

REGULAR AGENDA

- F. It was moved by Trustee Marsey, seconded by Trustee Johnson, that Ordinance 2008-O-028 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 23 A OF THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE 8 REQUIRING A CABLE/VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER FEE AND PEG ACCESS SUPPORT** be adopted, true and correct copies of said Ordinance herewith being ordered filed in the Office of the Village Clerk.

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

The Ordinance was adopted.

REGULAR
AGENDA

ORDINANCE
FOR NEW
CABLE/VIDEO
SERVICE
PROVIDER FEE

- J. It was moved by Trustee Marsey, seconded by Trustee Pate, that Ordinance 2008-O-029 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING PARKING FEE RATES SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 15 OF THE VILLAGE CODE AS REVIEWED LAST ON JUNE 9, 2008** be adopted, true and correct copies of said Ordinance herewith being ordered filed in the Office of the Village Clerk.

ORDINANCE TO
INCREASE
PARKING FEE
RATES

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jason Smith, 949 Lake Street, representing the retailer members of Downtown Oak Park: Mr. Smith read from a letter dated June 11th and addressed to President Pope and the Board of Trustees. The members of Downtown Oak Park want to review profit and loss statements for each parking garage and lot. They strongly suggest phased changes to parking garage and meter rates, rather doing both at the same time. DTOP is pleased that meter rates will increase as this should expand garage usage, but warn that enforcement at meters should be diligent to be effective.

Pat Zubak, 324 Wisconsin Avenue, Executive Director of Downtown Oak Park Association: Ms. Zubak offered that parking rates should be based on usage data, which the Village has not received as yet from its parking consultant. The members of DTOP support rate adjustments, but not if meter spaces are empty. Is it reasonable to expect shoppers to carry twelve quarters? Will the Village actively market the garages? Will the rate changes be incremental? Ms. Zubak suggested that unintended consequences of this action could impact Village sales tax revenues.

It was moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Hale, to amend the parking meter rate in high demand areas from \$1.50 to \$1.00

The roll call on the first amendment was as follows:

AYES: Trustee Johnson

NAYS: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

The first amendment failed.

It was moved by Trustee Hedges, seconded by Trustee Hale, to amend the hours of effectiveness Monday through Saturday from **8am to 8pm** to **8am to 6pm**.

The roll call on the second amendment was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale and Hedges

NAYS: Trustees Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

The second amendment failed.

It was moved by Trustee Hale, seconded by Trustee Marsey to remove the South Town and Harrison Street business districts from the “medium” demand area as outlined in the agenda packet materials, and that all parking meters in these two areas remain in their current configurations until further study takes place.

The roll call on the third amendment was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges and Marsey

NAYS: Trustees Johnson, Pate and President Pope

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

The third amendment failed.

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hedges, Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

NAYS: Trustee Hale

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

The Ordinance was adopted.

- G.** It was moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Hedges, that a Resolution 2008-R-093 entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ELEVATOR SAFETY PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FIRE MARSHALL** be adopted, true and correct copies of said Ordinance herewith being ordered filed in the Office of the Village Clerk.

RESOLUTION
FOR ELEVATOR
SAFETY
PROGRAM

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

The Resolution was adopted

- H.** It was moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Hedges, to concur in motions 1, 2 and 3 regarding Parking Restriction Changes on Garfield Street and Euclid Avenue.

MOTIONS TO
CHANGE
PARKING
RESTRICTIONS
ON GARFIELD
STREET AND
EUCLID
AVENUE

- 1. Motion to replace the existing No Parking 8AM – 10AM Monday-Friday restriction on the east side of Clarence Avenue south of Garfield Street and adjacent to the Oak Park Conservatory with a No Parking 8AM - 10AM Monday – Friday Except Wednesday restriction.**
- 2. Motion to replace the existing No Parking 8AM-10AM Wednesday restriction on the south side of Garfield Street between Clarence and Wesley Avenues with a No Parking 8AM-10AM Tuesday restriction.**
- 3. Motion to remove the existing No Parking 8AM-10AM Friday restriction on the south side of Garfield Street between Wesley and Euclid Avenues.**

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

Motions 1, 2 and 3 were approved.

It was moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Pate, to concur in motion 4 regarding Parking Restriction Changes on Garfield Street and Euclid Avenue.

4. Motion to remove the existing Resident Permit Parking 6AM-10AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday restriction (permit zone B3) on the south side of Garfield Street between Wesley and Euclid Avenues.

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

Motion 4 was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Pope requested that the Board dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda. There was no objection.

I. Motion to Approve a Staff Recommendation to Remove the Existing No Parking 8AM-10AM Monday thru Friday Restriction on the North Side of Erie between Harvey and the Alley to the West

K. Resolution 2008-R-094 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUBLEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CASH AMERICA INC. OF ILLINOIS AND THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK FOR A POLICE SUBSTATION AT 6301 W. NORTH AVENUE

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO REMOVE NO PARKING RESTRICTION ON NORTH SIDE OF ERIE STREET

RESOLUTION FOR SUBLEASE WITH CASH AMERICAN FOR POLICE SUBSTATION

Approval of the Consent Agenda

It was moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Marsey, to approve the items under the Consent Agenda. True and correct copies of the Resolution are herewith ordered to be filed in the Office of the Village Clerk.

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Hale, Hedges, Johnson, Marsey, Pate and President Pope

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Moore

The Consent Agenda was approved.

CALL TO BOARD AND CLERK

Trustee Marsey noted that Illinois is unique with more municipal entities than any other state in the nation: 7,000 versus the next closest – Pennsylvania - with 3,000. Consolidation could ease this, and the tax burden as well.

CALL TO BOARD AND CLERK

Trustee Pate complimented the Fourth of July parade and fireworks.

Trustee Hale commented on the Supreme Court decision on handguns.

ADJOURN

Village of Oak Park Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, July 7th, 2008

It was moved by Trustee Marsey, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 P.M. Monday, July 7th, 2008.

ADJOURN

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

Sandra Sokol, Village Clerk

By: Karen Morris Muriello
Deputy Village Clerk