

Meeting Minutes

Oak Park Board of Health Tuesday February 23, 2016 - 7 PM Village Hall – Room 102

Present: Chair Florence Miller; Commissioners Jassen Strokosch, Jonathan Mizgala, Bob Danstrom, Edgar Vesga

Also Present: Staff Liaison: Mike Charley, Interim Health Director:

Guests: Tony Ambrose, Deputy Chief of Police, Amy Kosinski, Deputy Director WSCDC
Potential Commissioners: Dr. Ganesan, DR. Sobia Sarmast Ali;
UIC Students: Dr. Jerry Benzl, Nayila Mulati, Wondwassen Zenebe, Mohamed Farris, Nathan Stackhouse, Alias Olore-Pichon, Bruce Tyler
Oak Park River Forest High School: Orya Ganeson

Excused: Commissioner: Edward Pont

- I. Call to Order @ 7:00 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved; First by Commissioner Danstrom, second by Commissioner Vesga
- III. Approval of the Minutes of January 25, 2016: Minutes approved; First by Commissioner Danstrom, second by Commissioner Strokosch
- IV. Public Comment: Dr. Ganesan and Dr. Sobia Sarmast Ali both communicated that they are Oak Park residents interested in joining the Board of Health. Both guests are attending the Board of Health meeting as a prerequisite to being considered to join the Board of Health. All other guests introduced themselves by name and that which school they are attending.
- V. Police Department Presentation (Amy Kosinsky, WSCDC & Tony Ambrose, Police Department)
 - a. Bike helmet update: Ambrose presented information on bike helmets including:
 - i. Education is primary goal of the bike helmet program, goal is to get compliance with education.
 - ii. The Village currently has a PSA on VOP TV 6 and the Village Youtube page. A new PSA is planned and could be completed by the spring of 2016.
 - iii. The Police have promoted awareness using the Community Policing Unit.
 - iv. At last year's A Day in our Village the Police distributed over 100 bike helmet flyers. The Police will distribute the flyers at community events, at schools and at block parties.
 - v. There are Police Officers at the different Oak Park schools including the Resident Beat Officers. Police Officers will speak to children about bike helmet safety at the schools.
 - vi. Prior to December 2015 the Police Department didn't have a good database system to track bike Police interaction with youth on bike helmets. Ambrose introduced Amy Kosinsky, Deputy Director of WSCDC. Kosinsky communicate that there is a new dispatch system that started in December 2015 where

bike helmet calls can be tracked. Ambrose communicated that this data can be tracked and used to determine such things as when and where bike helmet calls are observed. Ambrose communicated that the new data system will help the Police track bike helmet statistics at block parties and other events.

- vii. The communicated that the River Forest the Police give out ice cream cone certificates to children wearing helmets.
 - viii. Ambrose communicated that the Police are drafting a new General Order regarding bike helmets. Education is the primary goal with the Bike Helmet General Order. Getting parents involved is the key to education and enforcement. Community Policing Officers will have helmets in their trunks and deliver helmets to those families that cannot afford helmets. The General Order will be revised and distributed by April 1, 2016.
 - ix. Commissioner Vesga communicated that in 2015 the Board of Health distributed the bike helmet flyers and then asked if bike helmet educational magnets can be made. Ambrose stated that he can research the cost of bike helmet magnets and will provide that information back to the BOH.
 - x. Commissioner Vesga asked how many bike helmets does the Police have. Ambrose stated that currently the Police have approximately 90 helmets. Vesga communicated that parents are concerned that their children outgrow helmets quickly. Vesga wanted to know if there were any programs that would help with this. Ambrose responded that he would research this and provide feedback to the BOH.
 - xi. Chair Miller asked what happens when the 90 helmets are given out. Ambrose responded that there is nothing currently budgeted, but he would work to find the monies to fund extra helmets.
 - xii. Commissioner Danstrom asked when viable statistics will be available for the Board of Health to review. Ambrose responded that by mid-summer in July there should be viable statistics.
 - xiii. Ambrose provided that the Police Department has a bike rodeo annually. The Police partner with YMCA on a Saturday morning. Police interact with kids at event and talk about bike safety. At the event there are representatives from local bike store that provide information about proper bike tire pressure and other bike safety issues.
 - xiv. Commissioner Vesga communicated that the Board of Health can give out bike helmet flyers at The Day in Our Village.
- b. Current issues regarding Public Health: Ambrose provided some information about the Police Department's Junior Police Academy. Officers provide information on child safety, being alert and not talking to strangers. A commissioner recommended that maybe someone from the Health Department can participate in this event and take about the smoking. Ambrose communicated that the Police Department is looking to have the Academy in the summer, no date set yet. Ambrose communicated that the Police Department has basketball camps annually. The Police have approximately 60 kids participate in the two camps (boys and girls). This event provides the Police an opportunity to talk to kids about competing and being good winners and good losers.

VI. Commissioner Updates

- a. Day in Our Village Activities: Commissioner Vesga handed out a draft A Day in Our Village fun educational one page double sided handout. Charley provided feedback that the handout should be vetted by the Communications Department prior to finalizing for distribution. Vesga stated that he would be able to print 300 color

copies free of charge. Vesga communicated that this handout can be handed out to convince people to come to the Board of Health booth at a Day in Our Village. Vesga stated that he reached out to past food vendors and asked them if they would consider selling healthy choices. The vendors that he reached out to communicated that healthy choices don't sell well at special events such as A Day in Our Village.

VII. Old Business:

- a. Mental Health: Commissioner Strokosch provided an update from his attendance at the Township's Community Mental Health Board meeting. Strokosch provided an overview of the Township's Mental Health Board, handed out a Community Mental Health Board/Oak Park Township summary that he drafted summarizing their mission, vision statement, strategic planning and objectives, mental health needs and youth substance use in Oak Park and River Forest. Commissioner Danstrom asked what the primary mental health concern is that the Board of Health can assist with. Strokosch stated that he could ask the mental health board, however from his perspective there is just a lack of public awareness that the different Township mental health services exist. Commissioner Vesga recommended inviting David Powers to an upcoming meeting to answer questions on how the Village can collaborate with other Village social service agencies to promote them.
- b. Environment and Energy Commission update. Commissioner Danstrom stated that the Environmental and Energy Commission are putting the finishing touches on their pesticide brochure. Hopefully there will be copies of this brochure ready for distribution at A Day in Our Village.
- c. Tobacco 21 Update: Chair Miller communicated that Mike Charley and her presented information at a Business Association Council (BAC) meeting in February. Charley followed-up that presentation by emailing a summary of Tobacco 21 and literature to Loretta Daly, Business Services Manager and she then emailed the documents to members of the BAC. Responses to the presentation and subsequent literature were received from three of the business organizations: Pleasant District, Hemingway District and North Avenue Business District. All three supported raising the age from 18 to 21. Charley provided a timeline with bringing Tobacco 21 to the Village Board, which could be as early as a March.

VIII. New Business:

- a. Commissioner Appreciation Event – April 28: Chair Miller provided information on this event. The event will be at Cheney Mansion from 7pm to 8:30 pm on April 28.
- b. Approval and posting of BOH Work Plan: Chair Miller stated that the work plans have been approved and posted on the Village website.
- c. Petition to Village Trustees regarding pesticide use: Chair Miller communicated an FYI that an Interfaith Green Committee is submitting a petition to the Village about decreasing or not using pesticides.
- d. Summary of Commissioners Chair meeting. Chair Miler communicated that the following items were discussed:
 - i. Farmers' Market Committee – prepared foods are being considered
 - ii. Community Relations Committee – Valparaiso invited them to discuss inclusion and diversity within the Village
 - iii. Plan Commission: Madison Mixed use Development is ongoing, focus on retail, traffic, parking, walkability and future development
 - iv. Public Arts Commission: have been instrumental in ensuring any building that gets put up fits in architecturally with rest of areas; also discussed sculpture walk.

- v. Disability Access Commission: Updating their current resource guide
- vi. Environment and Entergy Commission: Community based solar energy development
- vii. Citizens Involvement Commission: Talked about recruitment. Miller asked question about adding a youth commission member to the BOH. The CIC responded that they will add blurb in Oak Park FYI inviting youth to attend the BOH meetings
- viii. Liquor Control Board: Residents ask why are there no bars or liquor stores in Oak Park?
- ix. Citizens police Oversight Commission: Deal with formal complaints regarding Police Officers.
- x. Community Development Commission: Not for profits can submit grants for funding. CDBG grant monies.
- e. Board Members: Chair Miller communicated that after the last BOH meeting Commissioner Joel Lowrie resigned, there is now a vacancy. Teresa Powell, Village Clerk has contacted residents on BOH waiting list.

IX. Adjourn at 8:25 pm, First by Commissioner Vesga, second by Commissioner Danstrom

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 22, 2016