

**APPROVED MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 12TH, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN ROOM 101 OF OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL**

OFFICIAL RECORD

PRESENT: Trustees Brewer, Hale, Hedges, Johnson and Lueck; President Pope
ABSENT: Trustee Pate
QUORUM: President Pope called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. and declared that a quorum was present.

AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the agenda was approved as presented.

CITIZEN COMMISSION VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS

President Pope referred to the Board and Commission vacancy report, and urged residents to volunteer for commissions and boards.

It was moved and seconded to concur in the following appointments by President Pope:

Citizen Involvement Commission

Appointment of Rob Breymaier, as Member, with a term to expire July 12, 2013

Forestry Commission

Appointment of Michele Wheeler, as Member, with a term to expire July 12, 2013

FIRST READING

3. First Reading of Ordinance Amending Article 4 of the Village Code Relating to “Alarm Business Regulations and Permit Fees”

Village Manager Tom Barwin stressed the need for alarm registration. This ordinance would streamline and modernize the alarm process.

Trustee Hedges asked what they hoped to achieve. Village Fire Chief Tom Ebsen stated that it would ensure a more efficient system; the current one was time intensive and the costs exceeded the revenue. The new system would include a 3rd party contractor to automate most of the administrative work and would increase fines for false alarms.

Chief Ebsen noted that the current fine structure allows for 3 false alarms without penalty each quarter, with penalties issued for the additional false alarms in a 90-day period. This time frame would be changed to a one-year period, with a substantial increase in fines, which may motivate alarm owners to be maintain their systems and avoid unnecessary alarms.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Report from the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education

Eric Gershonson and Carolyn Newberry-Schwartz from the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education (CECCE) presented their report to the Board. The program's goal was to provide every child in Oak Park access to high quality early care and education and to educate and support parents in their role as a child's first teacher. Not every child who needs these programs has access, and the most needy tend to have parents who are not aware of available services. They pointed out how many local agencies are now coordinating services in new ways. A new standard screening form and additional resources to help teachers learn to do screening will help to identify those children who need assistance. They also noted that childcare is one of the larger employee groups in Oak Park, with over 400 people employed in this area.

Diana Rosenbrock, Professor of Early Childhood Education of Triton College answered questions from the Board.

Trustee Brewer asked what was meant by "high quality" early learning. Professor Rosenbrock stated that this included developmentally appropriate methods of teaching, environment, curriculum, etc., prior to entering kindergarten.

Trustee Lueck discussed at-risk children. Mr. Gershonson stated that education and information for parents are essential for children. Trustee Lueck commented that at-risk children may be removed from preschool if they are difficult for teachers to handle. Professor Rosenbrock stated that programs with well-trained personnel generally find ways to help such students, and it was important to provide teacher training for all programs.

Trustee Hedges spoke about the high cost of daycare services. This program seeks to provide State/Federal funded preschool coordination, which would offer free preschool slots for 3 and 4-year old at-risk children.

Presenters concluded with an appeal to invest in early childhood programs to minimize need for at-risk services for older children. Trustees noted the value of coordination among many local groups. President Pope pointed out the benefits of financial support by all local governing bodies to their own programs. More information is available at info@collabforkids.org, and Early Childhood Directories are available throughout Oak Park.

2. Review and Discussion of Potential Capital Improvement Projects in TIF Districts

President Pope announced that this would be an overview of the Downtown Oak Park and Madison Street TIF Districts' overall direction.

Village Planner Craig Failor gave a summary of plans for each district, which included a focus on streetscape improvement. Village Engineer Jim Budrick noted that other than resurfacing, no improvements had been made on Lake Street since 1988.

Trustee Johnson noted that streetscape improvements have dramatically increased local private investments on Marion Street, from \$75,000 to \$1 million annually. He also suggested collaborating with the Park District for projects such as the Scoville Park development; Mr. Failor commented that Park District coordination is under discussion.

Trustee Hale commented that streetscapes alone may not be key to development in every location.

President Pope pointed out that Oak Park contributes \$900 per person to development, but does not get back the \$47 million those contributions represent. He noted the new Federal and state emphasis on urban development and sustainable communities and noted that Oak Park is well-situated to take advantage of funding for these programs which would focus dollars on where people are located.

Mr. Failor explained that improvements on Madison Street will improve the pedestrian experience on this auto-focused street in the same way as new Roosevelt Road improvements.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:49 P.M. Monday, July 12th, 2010.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

Teresa Powell, Village Clerk

By: MaryAnn Schoenneman
Executive Secretary