

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
350 VICTORY DRIVE
PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS**

Village Hall - Board Room

7:00 p.m.

August 15, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Trustee Theresa Settles, Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Joseph Woods, Trustee Candyce Herron, Trustee Maya Hardy, and Trustee Erin Slone

ABSENT: none

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Police Chief Paul Winfrey, Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok, Village Attorney Leslie Kennedy, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Health Rob Gunther, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Health Kevin Adams, Community Enforcement Manager Jerry Martin, Director of Finance Mark Pries, Director of Human Resources Jason Miller, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, Cultural Arts Supervisor Chuck Sabey, and Mark Geising, IT Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Many family, friends, and coworkers of retiring Rob Gunther; Bonita Parker, External Affairs Manager of ComEd

Roll Call

Mayor Vanderbilt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll was called by Clerk McGann

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Vanderbilt led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Vanderbilt read the proclamation thanking Rob Gunther for his dedicated service to Park Forest. From 1986 when he began working in Park Forest, he used his skills and expertise in many areas of the Village. As Superintendent, the Recreations and Parks system grew and was well maintained. As Director, he oversaw the Aqua Center, Freedom Hall, and the Tennis and Health Club. He added much to other operations and projects including the Wetlands and Somonauk Nature Adventure Park. He mentored many employees and he will leave his mark in Park Forest. The Village Trustees and residents thank Rob Gunther for his 35 years of dedicated service to Park Forest.

The Mayor presented the proclamation to Mr. Gunther. When Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any comments, each of the Trustees and Manager Mick congratulated Mr. Gunther on his retirement, thanked him for his dedicated service and great leadership, and wished him the best for his future.

Mr. Gunther thanked his wife and extended family for their support over the years. He noted the groups of people he worked with over the years included many trustees and staff members. He was confident that he was leaving it in good and capable hands. He added that Park Forest has a

special place in his heart. He was glad to a part of Park Forest both as a resident and an employee.

Mayor Vanderbilt introduced Bonita Parker of ComEd who was at the meeting to give a presentation on electric system reliability. Ms. Parker had a thorough presentation which included maps and charts showing where circuits are located, average number of interruptions, and systems and with correction improvements. The presentation also included storm tree debris information and how and when routine maintenance is determined regarding tree trimming. She also discussion energy efficiency programs and the savings produced. Ms. Parker also reminded residents of the many scams and encouraged them to call ComEd at 1-800-EDISON1 with questions. Also residents can text for power outage updates and/or contact ComEd when there is a need for hardships and payment programs.

Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Trustees if there were any comments. Each offered their thanks for the presentation adding that communication has improved and effective communication is key to being informed especially with the restoration of service. Mayor Vanderbilt thanked Ms. Parker for her presentation and for ComEd's contribution to sponsoring events in Park Forest.

Reports of Village Officers

Mayor

Mayor Vanderbilt attended the South Suburban Mayors and Managers meeting with U.S. Senator Durbin and U.S. Representative Kelly where jobs, the airport, and the career and tech center were discussed. The Cop on a Roof Top event will take place Friday, August 19 at Dunkin Donuts to support Special Olympics. There will be a candle light vigil Wednesday evening remembering two women still missing from Park Forest, Jerrica Laws and Brenda Jackson.

Village Attorney

No report

Village Manager

Manager Mick noted a number of events taking place this month including Main Street Music Fest, Saturday morning Rules Meeting (always open to the public), the Park Forest Business Breakfast, the Candlelight Vigil, and information regarding solar power for homes will be at the Library Wednesday, August 17.

Village Clerk

No report

Reports of Commission Liaisons and Committee Chairpersons

Trustee Settles asked residents to save the date of November 10 for the Veterans Day Program. T-shirts are available as part of the fundraiser to offset some of the program's costs.

Trustee Graham said the Commission on Human Relations met last week and are working on the hat and glove drive scheduled for December. The Youth Commission has a new meeting date, second Thursday of each month. She thanked the Youth Commission and District 163 for the back to school event which included backpacks, haircuts, and other back to school necessities.

Trustee Graham added that a tribute to Patricia Moore will take place on Sunday, September 18, at the 66th Annual Park Forest Art Fair. There is a holiday dinner scheduled for November 10 for all Park Forest Commissioners.

Trustee Woods commended the well-attended collaboration between the Youth Commission and District 163 for providing resources for parents at the Back to School Event.

Trustee Herron reported that Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Commission will meet Tuesday, August 16. The Library Board will meet Thursday, August 18.

Trustee Hardy said the Rotary Club of Chicago Heights-Park Forest will sponsor their annual corn roast on August 19. There will be raffles and prizes as well.

Trustee Slone thanked the Park Forest Police Department for their participation in the unification ceremony to include St. Irenaeus, St. Laurence O'Toole, and Infant Jesus of Prague.

Citizens Comments, Observations, Petitions

None

Motion: Approval of Consent

MOVED that the Consent Agenda and each item contained therein be hereby approved:

CONSENT:

1. Motion: A Motion to approve the minutes of the Rules meeting of July 11, 2022, the Regular meeting of July 11, 2022 and the Saturday Rules meeting of August 6, 2022

2. Resolution: A Resolution Recognizing Rob Gunther and thanking him for his Dedicated Service to the Village of Park Forest

3. Motion: Purchase of a 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 Pick Up Truck

4. Motion: Acquisition of One 2022 Ford Utility SUV Police Interceptor

Approval of the consent agenda was moved by Trustee Woods and seconded by Trustee Slone. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if anyone wished any items be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, a roll call vote was called by Mayor Vanderbilt on the motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved with the following results:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

The consent agenda was adopted with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays and no (0) absent.

DEBATABLE:

5. Ordinance: An Ordinance Endorsing the 2022 Park Forest Urban Forestry Management Plan (Final Reading)

Move for adoption of the ordinance was motioned by Trustee Hardy and seconded by Trustee Slone. The ordinance was moved and seconded to adopt this ordinance at final reading. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, the Mayor called for a roll call vote by Clerk McGann. The ordinance was approved following a roll call vote with the following results:

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

The ordinance was adopted with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays, and no (0) absent.

Adjournment

This concluded the Regular Board meeting.

There being no further business. Mayor Vanderbilt called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Herron, seconded by Trustee Graham and passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned with a voice vote with the following results:

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays, and no (0) absent.

Mayor Vanderbilt adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk