

**RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST, 350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS
COOK AND WILL COUNTIES**

Village Hall- Boardroom

7:00 p.m.

September 6, 2022

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

ABSENT: Trustee Candyce Herron

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Police Chief Paul Winfrey, Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok, Village Attorney Leslie Kennedy, Director of Finance Mark Pries, Director of Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Kevin Adams, Director of Community Development Larrie Kerestes, Director of Human Resources Jason Miller, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, and Mark Geising, IT Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Janet Muchnik and Mary Dankowski, Tall Grass Arts;

RECORDER: Village Clerk Sheila McGann

Roll Call

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

Mayor Vanderbilt read a resolution remembering Patricia Moore, Tall Grass Arts, noting her many roles in Park Forest regarding art, from murals to peace doves on the 2018 vehicle sticker, to 44 years at the Art Fair. The Southland and Park Forest have a great loss with Patricia Moore's passing. Sunday, September 18 will be Patricia Moore Day at the Park Forest Art Fair. Condolences are offered to her husband, family, and all members of the community.

Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any comments from the Board. Trustee Settles was saddened by her loss and added she created her own art and impacted the young and old. She was a pillar for the Arts and serving the community. Trustee Settles thanked Patricia Moore for what she had taught her. Trustee Woods said he knew her through her works and wishes her peace. Manager Mick stated that Patricia Moore was an icon in the art community, in Park Forest and the Southland. She was always involved in the community. Mayor Vanderbilt said we were lucky to have her. She always enjoyed working with students.

Ms. Muchnik asked to speak about Patricia Moore. She talked about Ms. Moore teaching so many classes at so many locations. She found "art" everywhere and was mentor and muse to so many people, old and young. Ms. Muchnik thanked the Village for appreciating and honoring Patricia Moore.

1. An Ordinance authorizing the sale of 74 Marquette Street

Manager Mick said this item is out of the Economic Development and Planning Department. This property will be put on the market but needs to be done by an ordinance. Director Zoellner added that the AmeriCorps volunteers have lived there during their term in Park Forest which will end this week. This ordinance allows for an authorization of the sale. Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Woods asked how a Park Forest realtor could participate. Director Zoellner the relator's application process and the details of the ordinance, i.e. minimum sale price and the Village's reimbursement costs for the property. Mayor Vanderbilt thanked Director Zoellner and others who partnered to bring this property up for sale. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda for first reading at the next regular meeting.

2. A Resolution authorizing the sale by Public Auction of Personal Property Owned by the Village of Park Forest

Manager Mick said this item came out of the Police Department and is housekeeping of vehicles. The old vehicles will be sold at auction and new vehicles are replacing them. Chief Winfrey said the vehicles have outlived their usefulness. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or comments. When Trustee Woods asked who determines repair value vs replacement, Chief Winfrey said when it is too costly to repair, the vehicle should be replaced. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

3. Contract extension for tree pruning and removal

Manager Mick said this item comes out of the Recreation and Parks Department regarding extension of tree pruning and removal contracts. Director Adams said both contractors will not have an increase and will keep their prices the same as last year. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or comments. When Trustee Slone asked about the volume of tree pruning, Director Adams said 80% of the pruning is done under contract. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

4. A Resolution authorizing an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant Agreement between the Village and IDOT for a portion of the Forest Boulevard Multi-Use Patch Improvement Project

Manager Mick said this item is out of the Public Works Department which would enhance the walkability of the Village. Director Ysaguirre provided background with Phase 1 and Phase 2 with Invest in Cook County grant funding. With the information provided in the packet, he believes it allows the project to be shovel ready when the funds are granted. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Woods asked for a description of a multi-use path. Director Ysaguirre said this path is ten foot wide and allows for pedestrians and bikers. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

5. A Resolution to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Cook County for participation in the 2022 Invest in Cook Program

Manager Mick said this item is out of the Public Works Department. This item adds to the previous item on the agenda to developing a multiuse path on 26th Street. The County is looking for a commitment by the communities and does not require a local match. Director Ysaguirre adds that this is Phase 1 to look at environment impact to continue the path to the bike trails, pedestrian trails, and other regional paths. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions

or comments. Trustee Slone noted the number of people walking and biking safely she has seen using the paths and would like it expanded. Trustee Woods added that there is no matching granting required from the Village. This would allow for more walkers and bikers and less cars. When asked by Trustee Woods about the \$200,000 cap from the County, Manager Mick explained that the cap allows for other communities to take advantage of the funds available. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

6. Approval of an Engineering Services Agreement for design engineering for local road Improvements

Manager Mick said this item also is out of the Public Works Department. He noted the current amount of construction being done is on the main roads where the Village has taken advantage of grant dollars. In response to the community survey, residents would like the Village to invest in infrastructure, water mains, and side streets. Having the engineering services completed allows the Village to be shovel ready as much as possible when funds become available. Director Ysaguirre explained with a visual exhibit the 4.3 miles of local roads throughout the Village would be engineered to include pavement section investigation, environmental investigations, field evaluation and surveys, complete project plans, specifications, estimates of cost, and other items related to this phase. Mayor Vanderbilt said the project would be looking at aprons and curbs and would be done as equitable as possible. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Slone said residents have talked to the Board about various issues including sewer backups and asked how this would be addressed. Director Ysaguirre said the area would be studied and, if needed, upsizing of sewers would be done at this time. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

7. Resolutions establishing Compensation paid to the Village Mayor, Liquor Commissioner and Village Trustees

Manager Mick said this item comes out of the Administration. During the last budget review, compensation for elected officials came up for discussion. A survey of neighboring communities and the Southland for elected officials' compensation as the last one completed was in 2014. The population, size, meeting schedules and commitments, Village services, and salary for each community was taken into consideration. Based on this information, he recommended an increase of the mayor's and trustees' salaries. Manager Mick added that by state law, any increase of salary voted on and approved would apply to new officials in the next election and in the 2025 election for senior officials as they cannot benefit from this directly. He also noted that Park Forest makes decisions based on data. He asked if there were any questions adding that this is always a difficult subject to discuss. Mayor Vanderbilt said the Board meets four times a month, commission meetings, and various other meetings of which they are members. Manager Mick said the financial impact for the next fiscal year would be nominal as it could be two trustees for two months of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. In the following it, the financial increase would be approximately \$26,000 which is nominal especially with the increase the Village has been receiving from State funds. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or statements from the Board. Trustee Woods thanked the Manager for the data. Trustee Hardy said she has been in public service most of her adult life and knows that public service does not pay much but everyone knows that going into the job. There is lots of time donated, away from your family, and many events to attend. When you accept a position, you know what your duties, responsibilities, and expectations are. While she appreciated the data, she felt the timing of the

increases could wait till the 2024 as the last two raises were in 2004 and 2014. She enjoys her position and likes to serve. Trustee Slone understands the desire to serve, she also wants to be mindful of the quality of people to serve considering the commitments and the time involved. Trustee Hardy would like to continue to get quality people to for the Board to enhance the quality of life in Park Forest. Trustee Slone also noted the number of shortages of teachers, first responders, and other public service employees. Trustee Woods added that he sees the love of the community and the commitment to serve them in this Board. Trustee Graham said her salary was \$5,500 when she started on the Board. She is here for the community and the public. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Vanderbilt offered his condolences to Trustee Graham on the recent passing of her grandmother.

Manager's Comments

Manager Mick offered his condolences to Trustee Graham and her family on the loss of her grandmother. The Saturday Morning Rules meeting of September 10 will be canceled due to services taking place for the passing of the grandmother of Trustee Graham. The 66th Annual Art Fair will take place September 17th and 18th. The traveling exhibit of the Tuskegee Airmen will on the west side of the Village Green on September 17th and 18th. On Monday, September 19, there will be ribbon cutting for the new rooftop and ground solar arrays at the Park Forest Water Treatment Plant. The Village Community Garage Sale is scheduled for the weekend of September 24th and 25th. More information for registration and locations are on the Village's website.

Trustee's Comments

Trustee Settles reported that the Veterans Commission will met Saturday, September 10th and they are looking for volunteers. She reminded the residents about the fundraiser t-shirts that are available for the Veterans Day Event.

Trustee Woods stated that EDAG will meet Wednesday, September and is open to public. They are looking for two new members; applications are available on the Village's website. He noted that the new water tower is exciting to watch its progress and see the new addition in Park Forest.

Trustee Hardy said the Planning and Zoning commission will meet Tuesday, September 13.

Trustee Slone said the Senior Commission met last week on Thursday, September 1st. A new resource book for seniors is now available. Contact Margaret Lewis at Village Hall or check the Village's website for more information. Trustee Slone thanked all the volunteers on the Beautification Committee and added that all awards have been distributed. The Environment Commission will meet next week.

Each of the Trustees offered their prayers and condolences to Trustee Graham and her family.

Attorney's Comments

None

Clerk Comments

Clerk McGann read information regarding petition packs requirements for the April 4, 2023 election.

Audience to Visitors

None

Adjournment

There being no further business. Mayor Vanderbilt called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Hardy, seconded by Trustee Settles and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned following a voice vote with the following results:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1

The meeting was adjourned with six (6) ayes, no (0) nays, and one (1) absent.

Mayor Vanderbilt adjourned the Rules Meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk