

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

**Village Hall - Board Room**

**7:00 p.m.**

**September 19, 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 Priscilla Centeno, Director of Finance Mark Pries, Director of Human Resources Jason Miller, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Health Margaret Lewis, Director of Community Development Larrie Kerestes, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, and Mark Geising, IT Coordinator

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Donna Miller, Cook County Commissioner; Diana Cruz, Tall Grass Arts Association President; Renatte Johnson Armfield, resident; and one guest of Commissioner Miller

**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 a proclamation recognizing National Hispanic Month. Our country has benefited from the talents and contributions from the Hispanic population. Park Forest salutes the many Hispanic heritage residents who have participated in many roles on commissions, boards, school boards, clubs and community organizations. The Village encourages residents to learn more about Hispanic culture and participate in various educational events throughout the month.

Mayor Vanderbilt introduced Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller who thanked the Village for inviting her. As Commission, she has worked together with President Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board focusing on programs available in the Southland. The Invest in Cook is a program that covers transportation improvements. She noted that Park Forest is one of the recipients of a \$2000,000 grant that will be used for the 26<sup>th</sup> Street Path to encourage foot and bike traffic from the other paths to Downtown Park Forest. She said it is important to her that the County is responsive to the infrastructure needs of the Southland. She encouraged the Board to reach out to her. Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. Each of the Board Members thanked Commissioner Miller for keeping Park Forest updated and her continuing to be accessible for her advocacy for the Southland especially for assistance and

testing needs during Covid. When asked about the dispersal of Invest in Cook funds by Trustee Woods, Commissioner Miller explained that application is made and decision are ranked and categorized through the Transportation Department. As other Park Forest projects have been completed, this one will enhance the Village's sustainability plan. When more funds are received from the Federal Government, then there will be more funds to access. Commissioner Miller noted that Cook County has over 130 municipalities; Chicago is only one of them. Mayor Vanderbilt thanked Commissioner Miller for attending the Board Meeting for participating in the ribbon cutting of the Solar Field Grand Opening.

### **Reports of Village Officers**

#### **Mayor**

Mayor Vanderbilt reported that he and the Board attended the Illinois Municipal League Conference and attending various trainings and classes. He attended Chicago CRED that focuses on anti-violence with a cluster of police departments: Park Forest, Chicago Heights, and Sauk Village. They will work together for funding at help in stopping violence in the community. He and the Board attended a program at Prairie State College honoring the Tuskegee Red Trail Airmen for their service. Sunday was the Patricia Moore day at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Fair. Congratulations to Nasir Bailey from District 227 who was named "Best Wrestler in the Nation." The Mayor also wished Trustee Hardy and Clerk McGann happy birthdays.

#### **Village Attorney**

No report

#### **Village Manager**

Manager Mick offering his condolences to the family of Chuck Sabey on the passing of his mother. He commended the Tall Grass Art Association for another successful art fair. There is always months of planning and so much work done by volunteers and staff throughout the weekend. Thanks to Chuck Sabey for emceeding the music program. There will be a Fathers' Rights Workshop next weekend sponsored by the Commission on Human Relations. A community wide garage sale is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday with more information on the Village's website. The Saturday Morning Rules Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 in conjunction with Coffee with a Cop at 7-Eleven on Sauk Trail from 7-11. Refreshments after the meeting.

#### **Village Clerk**

Clerk McGann read information regarding petition packets for the upcoming April 2023 election.

### **Reports of Commission Liaisons and Committee Chairpersons**

Trustee Settles enjoyed the Art Fair and the Tuskegee Airmen Red Tail Squadron and the WASP videos. The latter was about women pilots in World War II. She encouraged everyone and our children to learn more about these two groups and their impact during World War II. The Veterans Commission will have the Veterans Day Event on November 10. Commemorative T-shirts are available to offset the costs of the event.

Trustee Graham said the Commission on Human Relations is sponsoring a workshop on Fathers' Rights this Saturday at Village Hall. The Youth Commission met last to plan the Trunk or Treat

event. She thanked staff, volunteers, and food vendors for their work at the Art Fair. While it was bittersweet without Pat Moore, Trustee Graham thought Pat would have appreciated the tribute to her. Trustee Graham thanked the Board, the Manager, staff, and residents for their love and support during this time.

Trustee Woods noted EDAG news that Park Forest received Federal CARES Funds for economic development and established commercial loan programs for a variety of purposes. Contact Sandra Zoellner for more information. There are more opportunities for grants through ComEd and NiCor. Nominations for Business person of the Year are being accepted. Nominate business owners who makes a difference in the Village. Contact Sandra Zoellner for nomination forms.

Trustee Woods was honored to meet the Tuskegee Airmen and appreciated their contribution. He congratulated Tall Grass Arts Association on their the weekend's

Trustee Herron reported that the Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Commission will met Tuesday, September 20.

Trustee Slone congratulated Tall Grass Art Association for another beautiful art fair. She also congratulated the Veterans Commission for bring the Tuskegee Airmen Red Tails and the WASPS to Park Forest. She hope more people learned about these groups.

Each of the Trustees offered their condolences to Chuck Sabey on the loss of his mother. Each wished Trustee Hardy and Clerk McGann a happy birthday.

### **Citizens Comments, Observations, Petitions**

President Cruz wished to publicly thank the Village for your support of Tall Grass. She thanked Manager Mick for all his tasks, big and small. She thanked Chief Winfrey, Chuck Sabey, Heather Jones, and Kevin Adams and all their respective staff for all they did to make the Art Fair possible. Art adds to the quality of our life in Park Forest.

Renate Johnson Armfield, on Tamarack, said she, as a busy school bus driver, had been issued a ticket after she parked the bus in front of her home for a short time. She wished to talk to someone about it. Mayor Vanderbilt noted there is no direct dialog with the Board during the meeting and suggested that she speak to Chief Winfrey regarding this matter.

### **Motion: Approval of Consent**

Mayor Vanderbilt asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. He asked if anyone wished any items be removed for further discussion.

Trustee Settles asked that the appointments be removed from the consent agenda until the October 17 Regular Meeting (until the appointees are able to sign the code of conduct). Mayor Vanderbilt asked for a second. Trustee Slone seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called by Mayor Vanderbilt on the motion to remove the appointments from the consent agenda. The motion to postpone the appointments was approved with the following results:

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0

The motion to postpone the appointments was adopted with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays and no (0) absent.

Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there was any other discussion related to the Consent Agenda. Trustee Hardy asked to have items #2 and #3 moved to the debatable agenda.

Mayor Vanderbilt read the amended consent agenda, which includes the following items:

**1. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve A Motion approving the minutes of the Rules meeting of August 8, 2022, and the Regular meeting of August 8, 2022.**

**4. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a Resolution to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cook County to participate 2022 in Invest in Cook Program.**

**5. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a Resolution to Dispose of Personal Property owned by the Village of Park Forest.**

**6. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a Resolution to submit an ITEP grant application for Forest Boulevard Multi-Use Path Improvements project and commit to a local match of \$854,480.**

**7. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a 2022/2023 contract renewal with Homer Tree Service, Inc., for tree removal services and a contract with Winkler's Tree and Landscape for tree pruning and all other work, for the same costs as 2021/2022.**

**8. MOVED, that the Village Manager is authorized to enter into a Design Engineering Services Agreement with Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers in the amount not to exceed \$270,842.00 for design work associated with road improvements.**

A roll call vote was called by Mayor Vanderbilt on the motion of the consent agenda without items #2 and #3 and the appointments. The motion to approve the consent agenda with items #1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 was approved with the following results:

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0

The motion to postpone the appointments was adopted with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays and no (0) absent.

**DEBATABLE:**

**9. Ordinance: An Ordinance authorizing the Sale of Real Estate commonly known as 74 Marquette Street in the Village of Park Forest, Cook and Will Counties, Illinois (First Reading)**

This item will be on the agenda for discussion at the next Rules Meeting.

**10. A Resolution increasing compensation for the Mayor and Liquor Commissioner to \$28,000, to go into effect after the April 2023 election. (Formerly item #2 on the Consent Agenda)**

Mayor Vanderbilt called for a motion for approval of the resolution. Item was moved by Trustee Graham and seconded by Trustee Slone. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there was any discussion. Trustee Hardy said her comments regarding items #10 and #11 reflect her opinion that this is a service position. Hearing the data presented, she feels that the new salaries are too high and hoped there would be a compromise. She does not think this is the time to consider raises for elected officials. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, a roll call vote was called by Mayor Vanderbilt. The motion was approved with the following results:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1 (Trustee Hardy)

Absent: 0

**11. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustee approve a Resolution increasing compensation for the Village Trustee to \$12,500, to go into effect after the April 2023 election. (Formally item #3)**

Mayor Vanderbilt called for a motion for approval of this resolution. Item was moved by Trustee Slone and seconded by Trustee Settles. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there was any discussion and noted for the record that Trustee Hardy had stated her comments on the previous item. Hearing no additional discussion, a roll call vote was called by Mayor Vanderbilt. The motion was approved with the following results:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1 (Trustee Hardy)

Absent: 0

The motion to increase compensation for the Village Trustee was adopted with six (6) ayes, one (1) nay 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 7:47 p.m.

Mayor Vanderbilt wished his son, Mason, a happy birthday.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila McGann  
Village Clerk