

**Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525
MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES/TOWN HALL MEETING**

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken.”

Thursday, October 30, 2014

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS

The Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees held a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Rich Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Tom Hinshaw
Trustee Norman L. Schnauffer
Trustee Amy Jo Wittenberg
Trustee Brenda O’Laughlin

ALSO PRESENT:

Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
John Brooks, Chief of Police/Village Administrator

NOT PRESENT:

Trustee Matthew Walsh

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all”*.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Andrews

Mayor Andrews requested a Moment of Silence in memory of Kelly O’Laughlin, the anniversary of her murder was on October 27. After the Moment of Silence, he reminded the audience of the Run for Kelli Event being held on November 16, 2014. Mayor Andrews announced that the Village along with the Wilshire Green Association is sponsoring A Super Senior Mobile Event. The Secretary of State’s Office, Division of Motor Vehicle department will set up their equipment in the Wilshire Clubhouse on Thursday December 11, 2014 from 9:30am till 2:00 pm. It will be open for driver’s license renewals, and identification cards. Specifically for the seniors whom are required to take a written test, there will be a class at the Clubhouse at 9:30am. They will go over the Rules of the Road. The test will not be administered there, but you may go the following day to the Secretary of State’s facility of your choice, and take the written test.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR THE NON-BINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON THE NOVEMBER 4, 2014 BALLOT, REGARDING THE HERITAGE CENTER.

Mayor Andrews explained that the voters of Indian Head Park will have the opportunity to cast a yes or no vote with regard to the proposition: Should the Village of Indian Head Park sell the Heritage Center? The Mayor noted that he in conjunction with David Brink in the Finance Department prepared a hand out. The first page consisted of answers to anticipated questions, second page lists the reoccurring expenses, third page is extraordinary expenses, and the final page lists the receipts, including book sales, except the receipt from the current Book Sale. It was noted by a docent in the audience that the amount of the October Book sale was \$171.00. Mayor Andrews asked the audience to limit the first round of questions and or comments to about two minutes, and once everyone had gotten a chance to speak, then they could entertain some additional comments and or questions.

The discussion began with Chris Metz from 6403 Arrowhead Court, asked what the average expenses are, and what is anticipated to be coming up. Mayor Andrews answered that there is not an average figure calculated, but you can see the recurring bills vary. As for the extraordinary expenses, we do not know exactly what may come up, since this is a house, unexpected maintenance issues occur. As of now, there are no large extraordinary expenses, since a lot of the structural maintenance, like the siding, the windows, have been done already, and the parking lot is in good condition. The next question by the audience was from Mr. Tim Kyzivat of 1 Stonehearth Lane. He noted that there seems to have been sufficient work done on the building, and free of any significant work to be needed. Mr.Kyzivat’s opinion would be that unless the Village would receive a minimal amount of money for this property, it would not seem sensible to sell it after all the work that has been done. Mr. Kyzivat also mentioned that if the property sold, we would not have the cross walk, which starts on the Heritage Center property, and crosses over Wolf Road so how and where would the kids cross over safely. Mayor Andrews answered; that is a good point, and that if the residents vote in favor of selling the Heritage Center that they would look into possible options of an alternative cross walk. Mr. Kyzivat

added that it is his opinion that unless the property would sell for a fair amount of money, it would not seem worth selling for the small amount of tax revenue the Village would be earning each year on the property.

Mr. Al Krisciunas of 59 Briarwood Square addressed the audience and the Board. He spoke in favor of keeping the Heritage Center open, if possible. He talked about all the many years he had lived here, and that in the past they had a roaming library bus visit the Village, and then they were invited to join neighboring libraries for a non-resident fee. Then the Village acquired the Heritage Center and opened the library. Unfortunately it is not open enough so that more residents would be able to utilize the library. Mr. Krisciunas suggested that perhaps the Villagers would be able to raise funds for the cost of staying open, instead of the Village having to do so. Mr. Krisciunas concluded that he hopes the Village Board makes the right decision regardless of the election results.

Mayor Andrews answered that he could not speak for all of the trustees, as to what they will take away from the vote. It is strictly advisory, and if there is a large yes vote that does not mean the Board will suddenly put the Heritage Center on the market, before an analysis. No matter the outcome the Board has to ultimately make a decision. Mayor Andrews expressed that it once was mentioned to him that Historical sites are maintained by Governments, and if you do a pure economic analysis on cost versus income, we would not have any Historical sites left. So through the Board of Trustees, it is determined whether or not it has value to the Village residents. We know it is a cost to the Village, but we have to realize once we sell, it is gone for good. As for the hours, Mayor Andrews noted that the Heritage Center did extend hours of operation to Wednesday evenings in the summer. Winter time is limited since there is no lighting in the parking lot, and we do not know how the neighbors would feel about installing lights.

Ms. Anne Bermeir of 21 Stonehearth Square agreed with Mr. Krisciunas that the history of the Heritage Center is so important. Ms. Bermeir explained that the Center is in sense our Town Center, with the Village's sign. When the Village received the grant money for the Center, it was intended to be for a gathering place for residents, not only a library. There once were Boy Scouts, and a book club meeting at the Center.

Head docent, Jean Southerland, from 11217 Tecumseh Lane, commented on the great collection of books at the Center, thanks to our residents, and it would be sad to see the collection disbursed. Ms. Southerland stated that they have advertised for groups to use the facility, for free. For the first time a family utilized the center for a birthday party the past weekend. The Center is run by around 25 volunteers most of who are here in the audience. It is the only library that a lot of us have since the cost of joining neighboring libraries is exuberant. Those who utilize it would miss it. Ms. Southerland's fear is that the people, who are not present, have never been to the Center, and do not know anything about it. It would be a shame if it was closed.

Mayor Andrews noted that the meeting is being videotaped, and audio recorded by the Village, and may be video or audio recorded by others also.

Mr. Chris Metz of 6403 Arrowhead Court asked why put this question to the residents after all of the investments have already been made into the center, when the residents were not asked if

they were in favor of the investment prior to it happening. Mr. Metz also asked if an advisory referendum is the only way to do this. Mayor Andrews answered a referendum is the way to find out how the residents feel about the Center.

A discussion between Mayor Andrews, and Planning/Zoning Commissioner Tim Kyzivat ensued in regard to how buildable the lot may be, would you be able to divide it, and would variances be necessary.

Mayor Andrews stated, he supported the Center throughout his term as Mayor, and received many inquiries into the expenditures, now it is time to find out what the residents prefer.

Mr. Tom Rice, Library Docent, of 11315 Plainfield asked if we were to sell the center, what would we do with the money. Mayor Andrews answered that it is not determined yet.

Ms. Diane Barnes, a new resident at 11245 Hiawatha Lane stated that she feels the Heritage Center sign does signify that you are entering Indian Head Park, and that along with the wooded street, it did give a nice impression. She would hope that there will be a Volunteer Committee to find the best options.

Ms. Marcia Aalbrecht from 8 Deercreech Lane stated that she believes the Historical value of the Center is so important to keep, so valuable. She would like to see benches, and children's play equipment to encourage children's parties.

Rich Jenkins inquired into the possibility of the center becoming landmark status to gain grant money. Mayor Andrews answered that it has not been determined yet.

Mr. Metz asked why the Heritage Center Foundation's rental payments were not listed on the income list, and Mayor Andrews answered that the Heritage Center Foundation is no longer renting at the Center, so it was not included.

Mr. Rice asked for the Village Board to give their opinion on the referendum, Trustee Tom Hinshaw began with his outlook of the Heritage Center. He informed the audience that he is a docent although a very part time one. He believes that the Heritage Center is a good resource for some of the residents. In the past he had a lot of questions about the expense, and how it was obtained. Trustee Hinshaw said that he would have liked to hear more information on the buildings overall condition, for example the moisture in the basement, the furnace and foundation. Trustee Hinshaw concluded the he has changed from not seeing, to seeing the value in the center.

Trustee Amy Wittenberg noted that she personally feels that it is their duty as Trustees to talk about the issues that the Village residents feel strongly about. She has advocated that there be short and long term goals for the Village. There are a lot of needs in the Village, and it is up to the Village Board, to listen to the Residents opinions, gather data and information then evaluate what is best for the Village, and that is what they will do after receiving the input of the residents from the referendum. Trustee Wittenberg concluded that she herself cannot make a decision without seeing all the data involving the Center.

Trustee Brain Bailey spoke about the fact that as Trustees they have a dual role. They have their own personal opinion, but also have to represent the community as a whole. Trustee Bailey noted that he has served on the board for 8 years, and explained that in the past when people, some of whom are here, asked why the Village was repairing the center he would explain that the Village owned the building, and had a responsibility to maintain it. Trustee Bailey concluded that the referendum is so that the Village Board who represents the residents can receive their input on this issue.

Trustee Brenda O’Laughlin, noted that she will have an opinion on the center once she reviews all the data that will be gathered, and will also take into consideration the results of the referendum. Trustee OLaughlin did add that she is still concerned about the safety of the patrons and the docents because of the mold situation that she believes may not have been rectified.

Anne Bermeir noted that she is concerned that the residents whom were not present at the meeting, and those who do not read the Smoke Signal newsletters will not be informed voters. Trustee Norman Schnauffer added that people who are not here tonight may not read the notifications, or newsletters. Trustee Schnauffer informed the audience that he lives in Wilshire where several notices were posted about the meeting, but he did not receive any questions pertaining to the Heritage Center referendum.

Mr. Chris Metz agreed with Trustee Wittenberg that data should be retrieved, and that it is up to the Board to take enough time, form a committee, and make a decision.

Mr. Tom Rice concluded the audience participation with the fact that he has seen twice as many patrons from last year to this year visiting the Library.

Mayor Andrews concluded with his personal perspective stating that as record shows, he has and does support the center. He is very fond of History, and values the building’s historical value. He regrets the down turn in the economy which created difficult financial times, but we had to repair the building, since we owned it, and if the Village keeps possession of the building, there may be unforeseen maintenance or repairs. Mayor Andrews added that as Anne Bermeir mentioned it would be a good idea for groups to utilize the center more, there is value in the property. Mayor Andrews agreed with Trustees Wittenberg and O’Laughlin that the referendum will give the Village Board the opinion of the residents, to use along with gathered data to make the best decision.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion, Trustee Bailey moved , seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin to adjourn the Village Board Town Hall meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote. (5-0-1)

Submitted by,
Joe Consolo, Village Clerk
Mary Crowley, Acting Recording Secretary

