

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK, ILLINOIS
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, Illinois 60525

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2022

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hinshaw

The regular meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Hinshaw.

ROLL CALL: Sharon Allison, Village Clerk

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum):

- Mayor Tom Hinshaw
- Trustee Eileen Donnersberger
- Trustee Charles Eck
- Trustee Rita Farrell-Mayer
- Trustee Shawn Kennedy
- Trustee Christian Metz
- Brenda O’Laughlin

ALSO PRESENT:

- John DuRocher, Village Administrator
- Andy Ferrini, Assistant Village Administrator
- Patrick Brankin, General Counsel, Schain, Banks, Kenny & Schwartz
- Maureen Garcia, Village Treasurer
- Lisa Bujak, Administrative Clerk
- Justin Fuller, Public Works Water Superintendent
- David Karaffa, Cable Station Manager

VISITORS:

16 Residents and Guests

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Wolf Road Update: On April 7th, 2022, there was a public meeting for community members to see alternatives and ask questions concerning the Wolf Road project. The details are now posted on our website; comments will be accepted until April 28. Comments are accepted on-line with a link on our website or a paper form that can be picked up in the office or can be downloaded.

The overall objective to the Village's Master Sidewalk plan for the Wolf Road Project is Safe Routes to School for our residents and improvement of pedestrian safety for all. This includes a sidewalk and a pedestrian/bike path on each side of Wolf Road. Pedestrian paths along Wolf Road have been an objective of the Village since the 1990's when the Plan Commission approved the Pathway Study.

To support this, the Village's Master Sidewalk plan was discussed over a several month period of time in 2019 prior to the adoption of the policy. The Planning and Zoning Commission endorsed the Master Sidewalk Plan at their July 2019 meeting. The Village Board adopted the plan unanimously at the July 2019 meeting. The Economic Development Committee agreed that sidewalks on Wolf Road would be good for the economic development at their September 2019 meeting.

In our recent community survey, 71% of the residents would like the Village to support efforts by Cook County to build bicycle infrastructure and sidewalks along Wolf Road.

Both CMAP, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways gave recently-released multi-year plans with sidewalks and bike paths being emphasized.

Pedestrian fatalities in Illinois during the first six months of 2019, 2020, and 2021 have increased more than 11% since 2019 as per the Governors Highway Safety Association.

It is our continuing goal to be transparent. This is why that at every meeting since June of 2019, the Master Sidewalk plan has been discussed, or I have provided an update in the Mayor's Report.

It is important to remember that the entirety of Wolf Road is within the jurisdiction of Cook County. Cook County is including the Village as a partner in their decision-making process, along with the other communities and residents in the project area.

As part of any engineering study, options have to be addressed that follow Illinois Department of Transportation guidelines. Peak traffic counts on Wolf Road do meet the criteria for five lanes, but at the lowest possible threshold. Based on the fact that the project area of Wolf Road is essentially built out, I do not see the need for Wolf Road to be five lanes ever. What I do see is the for better turn lanes, improved pedestrian safety on both sides of Wolf Road, and stormwater management.

There are options available to complete our objective of Safe Routes to School and overall pedestrian safety. Over the next few months, we will be addressing these options to determine a community-based process. We will work with the County to achieve this goal.

Lastly, we have scheduled an Open House with the Village's engineer for Tuesday, April 26, at 6:00 P.M. We will have a short presentation, a question-and-answer segment, and an opportunity to address your comments.

Sidewalks: 4 Main Areas in the Village’s Sidewalk Master Plan:

Acacia Drive: The northern half of the Acacia Drive sidewalk project will be starting soon and will be completed this year. There will be a new sidewalk connecting Acacia Drive to Blackhawk Park added this summer.

Plainfield Road and Wolf Road: Both are in Phase I study at this time. Both are County roads. As stated earlier, residents have an opportunity to make comments until April 28, 2022.

Joliet Road: The Board approved a task order at the March Board Meeting to start the Phase 1 Study of Joliet Road. We will need state approval to begin Phase 1.

Acacia Drive Update: The northern section of Acacia Drive has started on the stormwater culverts. The landscaping and finishing touches will be completed after all the road work is completed. This Board has committed to make sure Acacia Drive looks good when completed.

I-294 Tollway Update: The southern half of the sound wall between Joliet Road and Plainfield Road will be removed and reconstructed this summer. Overall, the I-294 project will continue until 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A resident addressed the Board about the Heritage Center (built in 1888) and its potential future use. She has come to love the Center primarily as a library. She also sees its use as a historical museum. However, in spite of the beautification of the outside of the building over the years, the inside is in need of repair. She requested that the Board consider preserving this building and budgeting an amount of money to do so in the future.

The owner of a small business in Indian Head Park for the past 6 ½ years requested consideration of the license fee that she pays to the Village. Her cost is \$900 which is 9 times higher than a similar fee in other local municipalities.

Another resident expressed concern about tobacco usages at a new business, Smoke and Talk Tobacco, that has recently opened in the Village.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda as Established moved by Trustee O’Laughlin; seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

- A. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2022
- B. Approval of Payables for the Period Ending March 31, 2022, in the amount of \$537,122.99
- C. Approval of Preliminary Financial Report for Month Ending March 31, 2022

Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Garcia:
Cash on Hand on February 28, 2022, was \$3,019,687.47
Payables for March 2022 amounted to \$537,122.99
Total Revenues for March 2022 amounted to \$930,454.50
Ending Balance on March 31, 2022, was \$3,413,018.98

D. Agreement with McCook Library: Trustee O’Laughlin announced that the Village and the McCook Library are renewing their agreement with IHP residents. For \$100 per year the Library allows membership to any resident of IHP. This allows use in any library of the suburban system. It is a great opportunity for our residents.

Motion carried by roll call vote (6-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. TOWN HALL MEETING DISCUSSION

A Town Hall Meeting was held on April 7, 2022, to discuss Phase 1 of the Wolf Road Project. Members of the engineering firm were present at the Village Hall to discuss the possibilities of how the ultimate project might look. At tonight’s meeting Trustees had a healthy discussion about the issues involved. Another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, at 6:00 P.M.

B. ORDINANCE 2022-17—SPECIAL USE AND VARIANCE—FENCE AT 6546 HOWARD

A motion to pass, based on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Ordinance 2022-17, an ordinance allowing a special use and a variance for a fence at 6506 Howard subject to the following change: that the fence that is on the property which backs up to Wilshire Green at the back of the lot (west end) will not be required to be removed when the property is sold was moved by Trustee Farrell-Mayer; seconded by Trustee Eck.

After considerable discussion and clarification, Trustees felt that this one property should not be treated differently than the properties adjacent to this property.

Motion failed by roll call vote (3-4). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, and Farrell-Mayer voted Yay. Trustees Kennedy, Metz, O’Laughlin, and Mayor Hinshaw voted Nay.

At the end of the vote, a motion to reconsider Ordinance 2022-17 was moved by Trustee Kennedy; seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin.

The motion to reconsider Ordinance 2022-17 passed by voice vote.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2022-17 as it is written was moved by Trustee Kennedy; seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin.

Motion was approved by roll call vote (5-1). Trustees Donnersberger, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz, and O’Laughlin voted Yay. Trustee Eck voted Nay.

C. ORDINANCE 2022-18—PATIO RAILINGS IN ACACIA

Motion to pass, based on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Ordinance 2022-18, an ordinance allowing patio railings in Acacia was moved by Trustee Farrell Mayer; seconded

by Trustee Eck.

Assistant Village Administrator Ferrini met with the President of the Acacia Association about the specifics of railings in Acacia. It must be 4 feet or under; it must be wood or manufactured material; it must be attached to the patio, not in the ground; it must be brown in color; it must not resemble a privacy fence.

Motion passed by roll call vote (6-0)). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes.

D. ORDINANCE 2022-19—FEE SCHEDULE

Motion to pass, based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Ordinance 2022-19, an ordinance establishing fees for the new fiscal year was moved by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin.

Assistant Administrator Ferrini relayed the recommendations from the Finance Committee to the Board. One of the recommended issues was to reduce some residential fees in order to keep taxes more affordable; another

was to remove some of the redundant fees. It also considered a sliding scale of late fees for vehicle stickers.

Administrator DuRocher spoke to the water increases. The rise of water prices from Chicago and then Countryside will be increased from \$11.60 to \$11.97 per thousand gallons. The water and sewer monthly fixed fee, on a resident that uses 3500 gallons per residence per year, will increase \$52.50 over the present rate. The

goal of any additional money to the Village will be to continue to perform capital projects.

Motion approved by roll call vote (6-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes.

E. ORDINANCE 2022-20—ANNUAL BUDGET/CAPITAL PLAN

Motion to pass, based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Ordinance 2022-20, the annual budget and capital plan for the Village was moved by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

Administrator DuRocher presented the third and final reading of the budget for the new fiscal year. He stated

that we are beginning a new year on a very positive note by doing great things, but keeping within budget. As well, we will carry over \$480,000 into the new year.

The following activities are good signs:

- Eight police cameras activated in the Village
- Body cameras for Police Department
- Police Department doing outreach to residents
- Acacia Drive
- Mapping infrastructure in Village

- A new water pump system
- Sidewalk on the north side of Joliet Road
- Increased community events
- 2 union contracts upcoming
- A facilities study: Village Hall, Public Works, Heritage Center

Motion approved by roll call vote (6-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz, and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes.

F. FIRST READING—ORDINANCE 2022-21—SHED SPECIAL USE CRITERIA

At the last Board meeting, the Board requested that the staff begin the process of evaluating building sheds for special uses outside of the buildable area of the property. Regarding this Ordinance, Assistant Administrator Ferrini explained that at the last Planning and Zoning meeting, the following recommendations were made: remove requirement that sheds be placed in the buildable area; add the requirement that sheds must be at least 10 feet from the side or back of lot line; and that the shed must not be placed in an area that would block drainable storm water. A second reading of the Ordinance will be forthcoming.

REPORTS

Trustee Donnersberger: The Economic Development Committee continues to work with the owner of the Indian Head Park Plaza to improve the façade of the building.

Trustee O’Laughlin: On Saturday, April 16, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place in Blackhawk Park. There will be a petting zoo, pony rides, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Easter Bunny making a visit. Trustee Donnersberger thanked Trustee O’Laughlin for her hard work on preparing fun events for our community.

The Garden Committee, along with Eagle Scout candidate Egan Payne, is organizing garden beds for use of our residents. The beds will be located near the water pump building and the tennis courts. A charge of \$100 per bed will be applied. First-come, first-served. Any donation toward Egan’s project will be gladly accepted. See Lisa Bujak in the Village Hall if you want to plant a box this summer. The ribbon-cutting will take place on May 7.

Trustee Farrell-Mayer: Trustee Farrell-Mayer will be addressing the Board at the May meeting regarding the present condition and future prospects of the Heritage Center.

Village Clerk: No Report

Village Attorney: No Report

Village Treasurer: No Present

Village Administrator: Administrator DuRocher reminded all about the upcoming meeting on April 26 regarding the Wolf Road project. He will list it as a Special Meeting so as to acknowledge the Open Meetings

Act.

Village Assistant Administrator:

SBC customers can participate in Clean-Up Day on May 13. Up to 5 cubic yards of trash can be picked up for 3 stickers.

The date set for the Electronics and Shredding Day has been set for May 21 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Public Works Building at 11308 70th Place. Bring your paint, electronics, and paper to be shredded.

Simplicity now has over 500 residents subscribed on the App to receive info from the Village.

Public Works Water Superintendent: Justin Fuller discussed new signage for the roads in the Village. The current signs are not in compliance with the law due to the reflective qualities of the letters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Five residents publicly commented on the issue of the Wolf Road Project. One resident criticized the procedure of the April 7 meeting which was advertised as a meeting, but, he felt, was more of a show-and-tell from the standpoint of Strand Engineering and Cook County. A prior trustee stated that since the project started in 2019, the Village asked for plans for a sidewalk on both sides of Wolf Road, not a 5-lane road with a bike path included. Others encouraged residents to express their concerns as a community, irregardless of where one lives in IHP. Mayor Hinshaw again reminded residents about the upcoming meeting regarding this issue on Tuesday, April 26, at 6:00 P.M.

Another resident requested help from the Village regarding contact with Nicor for clean-up after last year's construction at the south entrance to Acacia.

A comment was also made about the Board strongly considering the future of the Heritage Center.

At 9:10 P.M. Trustee Kennedy moved to adjourn to Closed Session for purposes of Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)2 with no intention to return to Open Session; seconded by Trustee Farrell-Mayer.

Motion carried by roll call vote (6-0). Trustees, Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell Mayer, Kennedy, Metz and O'Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes.

Meeting Adjourned

**Sharon Allison
Village Clerk**

APPROVED