

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

May 12, 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, May 12, 2022 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Hinshaw.

ROLL CALL: Lisa Bujak, Deputy Clerk

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum):

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

ABSENT:

- Trustee Christian Metz

ALSO PRESENT:

- John DuRocher, Village Administrator
- Andy Ferrini, Assistant Village Administrator
- Patrick Brankin, General Counsel, Schain, Banks, Kenny & Schwartz
- Michael Kurinec, Chief of Police
- David Karaffa, Cable Station Manager
- Don Lorenzen, Public Works Superintendent
- Lisa Bujak, Deputy Village Clerk

VISITORS

Approximately 50-60 Residents and Guests

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Wolf Road update: The village has hosted a couple events to hear resident comments and to answer questions on the 2 Wolf Road alternatives. The project information is posted on our village website. Today, 5/12/22 is the last day to submit comments via the website, email to wolf.road.study@strand.com or comments on paper at village hall.

The overall objective to the village's master sidewalk plan for Wolf Road is to **improve pedestrian safety for all, including the Safe Routes to School for our residents.** This objective includes a sidewalk or multi-use path/bike path on each side of Wolf Road. Pedestrian paths along Wolf Road have been an objective of the village since the 1990s when the Plan Commission and village staff approved the Wolf Road Pathway Study, which is so old it was written with a type writer.

In 2018 the **village board unanimously approved an "Invest In Cook" grant to explore a sidewalk and multi-use path/bike path** on each side of Wolf Road. In 2019 and 2020 the **village board also unanimously approved two Intergovernmental Agreements to begin the phase 1 study for Wolf Road, which included a sidewalk and/or multi-use path/bike path** on each side of Wolf Road.

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.**

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 the decision-making process, along with the other communities, park districts, school districts, residents and businesses 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 personally do not see the need for Wolf Road to be five lanes ever. What I do see is the need for better turn lanes, improved pedestrian safety on both sides of Wolf Road and stormwater management.

Village Sidewalk Master Plan: 4 main areas in the Village:

Acacia Drive: The northern half of the Acacia Drive sidewalk will be completed this year. There will be a new sidewalk connection from Acacia Drive to Blackhawk Park added next summer,

Plainfield Road & Wolf Road: Both are County roads and both are in a phase 1 study. A second community update for the Plainfield Road phase 1 project should be scheduled soon by the County. The County has stated that they will not be pursuing a 5-lane alternative for Plainfield Road.

Joliet Road: We are waiting for state approval to begin phase 1.

Acacia Drive update: The landscaping will be done at the end of the project, we will be hearing later in the meeting about a retaining wall alongside a portion of the sidewalk by Wilshire Green. **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.

Lastly please download and sign up for the Simplicity app to get village updates and information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Approximately 15 residents submitted comments regarding the Wolf Road Alternatives. Many commented their concerns with the project, specifically; truck traffic, drainage issues, signage along the path, loss of mature trees, negative impact on businesses, negative impact on home values, loss of privacy and loss of property. There were three comments submitted online, one was in favor of the proposed sidewalks along Wolf Road, one against the proposed Shed Special Use Criteria without authorization of affected neighbors and the one asking why the senior discount for vehicle stickers went away.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- A. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2022
- B. Approval of Payables for the Period Ending April 30, 2022 in the amount of \$513,272.93
- C. Approval of Preliminary Financial Report – Month Ending April 30, 2022

Financial Report was presented by Trustee O’Laughlin in the absence of Treasurer Garcia:

Cash on Hand on March 31, 2022 was \$3,413,018.98

Payables for April 2022 amounted to \$513,272.93

Total Revenues for April 2022 amounted to \$300,676.34

Ending Balance on April 30, 2022 \$3,200,422.39

Motion carried by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Metz was absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE 2022-21 SHED SPECIAL USE CRITERIA

A motion to pass, based on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Ordinance 2022-21, an ordinance amending paragraph 42-219-6-G (regarding special uses for sheds), of the code of ordinances, of the Village of Indian Head Park was moved by Trustee Farrell-Mayer, seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

Assistant Village Administrator Ferrini relayed the Planning and Zoning Commission voted 4-2 with one abstention to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the Ordinance allowing sheds to be placed at least 10 feet from a rear or side property line and that sheds must not be placed in a position that would disturb the effective flow and drainage of stormwater.

Motion passed by a roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Metz was absent.

B. ORDINANCE 2022-22 SPECIAL USE FOR A FENCE AT 6537 HOWARD AVE.

A motion to pass, based on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Ordinance 2022-22, an ordinance allowing for a special use for a fence at 6537 Howard Avenue was moved by Trustee Farrell-Mayer, seconded by Trustee Eck.

Motion passed by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Metz was absent.

C. ORDINANCE 2022-23 SPECIAL USE FOR A SHED AT 6537 HOWARD AVE.

A motion to pass, based on the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Ordinance 2022-23, an ordinance allowing for a special use for construction of a shed at 6537 Howard Avenue was moved by Trustee Farrell-Mayer, seconded by Trustee Eck.

Motion passed by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Metz was absent.

D. ORDINANCE 2022-24 GARDEN BARRIERS – FIRST READING

Assistant Village Administrator explained that at the March and April meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission, a public hearing was held regarding modifications to the zoning code related to garden barriers/mesh. The Village received complaints from residents who have had wildlife damage their crops because they are not allowed to build fencing around their gardens. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted 6-0 to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees approve an ordinance modifying the Village Zoning Code to allow for garden barriers 3 feet in height or less. These barriers must contain apertures, must be abutting a garden and must be intended for the protection of a garden from wildlife.

The Board discussed what limitations should be incorporated in the ordinance including size and height restrictions. The Board agreed to send the ordinance back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their recommendation on what criteria should be included.

E. DISCUSSION RESOLUTION OPPOSING 5-LANES ON WOLF ROAD

Village Administrator DuRocher led the Board through the resolution opposing the potential expansion of Wolf Road to five lanes. Public Comments are allowed to be submitted through May 12th (today) and will be compiled and presented to the Board at the next meeting. Trustee Donnersberger would like to put together an ordinance stating that the Village opposed the 3-lane option as presented and the Village should put together a steering committee made up of residents, trustees and Cook County representatives. Trustee Eck questioned if the Board votes against the 5-lane option, does it mean that the 3-lane option is automatically accepted? Trustee Eck also mentioned that a letter was turned in yesterday that was signed by the Presidents of the Associations that border Wolf Road that another

option is requested. Trustee O'Laughlin would like to have a new design drawn up by next month that would take into consideration the comments from the residents of Indian Head Park and include only sidewalks and not 5 lanes or 3 lanes. Trustee Farrell-Mayer agreed with Trustees Donnersberger, Eck and O'Laughlin. She also addressed the statements of the residents losing faith in the Board. She insisted that the comments are being taken into consideration and that the residents and Trustees need to work together on this.

F. HERITAGE CENTER DISCUSSION

Trustee Farrell-Mayer explained how the Heritage Center was acquired by the Village 15 years ago and in that time the Village has spent \$130,000 in maintenance and repairs. Recently, there was an inspection of the building conducted by the Village Building Inspector. There were multiple issues indicated including standing water in the basement and not being ADA compliant. The Board discussed possible options to make the Heritage Center more usable but would like to obtain quotes to determine exactly how much repairs will cost to bring it up to code.

REPORTS

Trustees:

Trustee Eck: He reiterated that we are not through with the Wolf Road conversation.

Trustee Farrell Mayer: No Report

Trustee O'Laughlin: She agrees with Trustee Eck and feels that another design needs to be presented to the Community. Also, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place last Saturday for the Community Garden and Eagle Scout Egan Payne who was responsible for building the plots. The Easter Egg Hunt went well, over 3,000 eggs were gone in less than 2 minutes. August 20 and September 17 there will be a movie shown in Blackhawk Park. SEASPAR is once again sponsoring the events. More information to follow.

Trustee Kennedy: There are three examples of street signs in the back of the board room, he encouraged residents to submit their feedback on which design they prefer.

Trustee Donnersberger: Thank you to Trustee O'Laughlin for putting together the Easter Egg Hunt.

Village Attorney: No report.

Village Administrator: The Board promised to beautify Acacia Drive along with the road construction that is ongoing. The Wilshire Green building reached out regarding concerns of headlights affecting the tenants. The Village has modified the plans near the Wilshire Buildings and will be installing a 75' long retaining wall to reduce the light pollution for the residents of Wilshire. Vehicle stickers are on sale, 770 have been sold so far. Please remember to display your vehicle sticker by June 30. The draft resolution for Wolf Road will be modified by the next meeting and will have a vote and then send it off to the County. The next series of public meetings related to Wolf Road will take place in or around February of 2023. If all goes well, construction would begin in 2026-27. The Village is currently in Phase I which is being funded by the County. Phase II which is the physical design is yet to be funded or initiated by the County. Phase III is construction phase.

Assistant Village Administrator Ferrini: The Village recently asked residents where the number one source is of where information is obtained from the Village. The overwhelming answer was Smoke Signals with 64% of residents choosing that as their number one source. Simplicity came in second place with about 16%. The Village Spring Clean Up Day is tomorrow May 13th was May 10th depending on the pick-up day. Residents can put out the equivalent of 10 large totes worth of garbage for a total of three SBC stickers. The second annual Paint/Electronics Recycling and Shredding event will take place Saturday, May 21st at the Public Works Facility from 9am-1pm. This is a free event open to all Indian Head Park residents.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police: Chief Kurinec reported that the department has started using Quicket, the electronic ticket system, in mid-April. This speeds up the ticket process for the officers and the offenders. Camera update: There are two license plate reading cameras up on Wolf Road, Plainfield Road and on 72nd Street. The Village is still awaiting the updated cameras from both companies. These are stationary cameras and only read license plates. The Department has done several presentations on safety for the Homeowners Associations. The IHPPD is a member of two different task forces, MCAT which is a local task force as well as South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force. A kidnapping case that was worked on by IHP officers back in 2021 was just successfully prosecuted and the offender received 22 years.

Public Works: Public Works Superintendent Don Lorenzen reported that they are working on implementing a F.O.G. (fats, oils and grease) program as related to the sewer system to be compliant with MWRD. The Village received some sample street signs from TCP and are going to reach out to other vendors to get more signs/quotes. Thomas Engineering is working on a stormwater study in 45 acres and should have their findings ready by mid-June. Some minor repairs were done to the Heritage Center. The Village received a 50/50 grant from the Morton Arboretum amounting in about 35 trees. ComEd is working on replacing the bulbs with LEDs in Acacia.

Public Comments: There were several more comments and questions from residents regarding Wolf Road, the recycling event, Lyonsville Church, and the Heritage Center.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45pm, Trustee Donnersberger motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Eck. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa Bujak
Deputy Village Clerk**