

Village of Peoria Heights
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence and the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Diane Mariscal, Beth Khazzam, Jeff Goett, Brandon Wisenburg, and Sarah DeVore. Trustee Sherryl Carter was absent. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton, and Fire Chief Greg Walters.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the minutes from the Departmental Meeting on January 21, 2020, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed 5-0.

Mayor Phelan asked residents to please participate in the Village's comprehensive study which would begin soon. He stressed that the Board wanted to hear from residents in planning for the future.

Clerk Turner read a letter from Shirley and Mel Eide expressing their appreciation for the services of Fire Chief Greg Walters and the Peoria Heights Fire Department during a recent service call.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Hugh Higgins read a letter from Mr. Robbie Mathesin, owner of Slow Hand BBQ and Pour Bros, regarding street closures in Peoria Heights. Mr. Mathesin wrote that businesses and events are bringing new people into the Village. He stated that tourism is the Village's future, and the Village maintains top notch public services through sales tax and growth. He stated street closures were minimal and respectful, and the dissenters were in the minority.

Mr. Higgins, owner of Hearth, spoke in agreement with Mr. Mathesin and shared how much he appreciates being in Peoria Heights. He noted the Fine Arts Fair, despite being bad weather in 2019, still increased his business 15% in comparison to the previous year. He stated he has gotten new customers from the event that still travel from as far as Malcolm, Illinois to visit his restaurant. He urged the Board of Trustees to approve the street closure for the event.

Ms. Barb Milaccio, of Exhibit A Gallery, first thanked Chief Sutton for the Police Department's quick action reacting to the recent commercial theft in the Village. Ms. Milaccio noted the need to close the street for the Fine Arts Fair was a life safety issue. She noted the event is free, family-friendly, and supports arts and arts education in Peoria Heights.

Ms. Teresa McDade, 3828 N Harvard Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, came forward to speak as an artist. She noted that she had started working to paint survivors of breast cancer and started the Paint the Heights Pink event in 2018. That event grew in collaboration with Ms. Milaccio into the 2019 Fine Arts Fair. She noted closing the street allowed for the feel of a small town street fair while keeping the event safe.

Ms. Melissa Metternich, 4008 N Harvard Avenue, Peoria, Illinois, spoke as a volunteer for the Art Fair and owner of a commercial business. She noted that she would lose tenants if they didn't have sales,

and she believes it is the goal of the Board of Trustees and the Chamber of Commerce to encourage businesses in the Village. She stated the fair generated sales taxes which in turn benefited the community. She commended Ms. Milaccio and Ms. McDade for their commitment to the event and the safety of the attendees. She shared the committee for the event had stressed during planning the necessity of free, family fun for all attendees of the event.

Mr. Jody Summers, 1932 W Teton, Peoria, Illinois, invited the Board of Trustees attend to his pedal bus's inaugural ride on March 17, 2020.

Ms. Julie Bielfieldt, 4737 N Grandview Dr, read a letter for Ms. Sarah O'Shea who is the owner of So Chic. Ms. O'Shea wrote to support the Fine Arts Fair. Ms. O'Shea noted in her letter the event was unique in that it drew repeat customers to Peoria Heights. Ms. O'Shea wrote of the importance of such events for the business community.

Ms. Bielfieldt next shared her own support for the event. She noted the committee was originally created by the Village of Peoria Heights and spoke about the growth of the committee. She spoke of the planners, artists, volunteers, and attendees who were dedicated to the event and seeing it grow.

Mr. Billy Blassik, owner of WE Sullivan's, spoke in favor of the Fine Arts Fair. He noted his business had had a similar increase in sales on the day of the event. He stated that he appreciated the event and believes it has the opportunity to grow into one of the premier events in the state. He said it highlights the community and showcases what the Village has to offer.

Ms. Susan Cranford, 1108 E Sciota, noted she could provide perspective as a resident in favor of the Fine Arts Fair. She explained her grandson lives in the neighborhood that would see increased traffic from the diversion and said she's not concerned about safety. She encouraged the Board of Trustees to close the Prospect for the Fine Arts Fair.

Hearing no other public comment, Mayor Phelan moved on to reports from the Trustees.

Chief Sutton invited Superintendent of Water, Mr. David Marfell, forward to provide an update on Public Works. Mr. Marfell explained that the Village had had several incidents of unauthorized use of fire hydrants in the last year. He stated only Peoria Heights Fire Dept and Village employees may use the hydrants. He asked residents to contact the water office if they see anyone else using a fire hydrant.

Trustee Mariscal had nothing to report. Chief Sutton noted that the Board would be considering elevator maintenance contracts for Tower Park later in the meeting.

Trustee Khazzam noted that almost 100 people had attended Coffee with the Mayor the previous day and praised the event. She then invited the Village's consultant, Mr. Mike Bailey, to come forward and provide more information on the progress of the Village's comprehensive plan. Mr. Bailey shared that the process would begin on March 4 and March 5 with interviews of community members, businesses, and stakeholders. He invited the community to meet at the Peoria Heights Grade School Gym at 6:30 pm on March 5 to participate in the first community meeting. Mr. Bailey shared that over the next 12 – 15 months Houseal-Lavigne would be gathering information in order to formulate a plan for Village for the next 20 years. The plan will address ideas for the business corridors and needs of the neighborhoods. Mayor Phelan noted the plans will be blueprints for the future of the community. Mayor Phelan asked Mr. Bailey to speak about the improvement of Galena Road as well. Mr. Bailey

explained that the Village had requested funds be released for engineering studies so the process of construction can begin as quickly as possible. Mr. Bailey noted that IDOT agrees the road is dangerous, and, as such, will be doing some of the engineering in house rather than requiring the Village to pay for the engineering studies necessary to begin construction. Mayor Phelan thanked Senator Koehler and Representative Jehan-Gordan for their help. He also highlighted the assistance of retired Senator Reislier, former engineer with IDOT, in getting funds released.

Trustee Goett had nothing to report. Chief Sutton noted the first presentation of the budget for the next fiscal year would be at the next Departmental meeting.

Trustee Wisenburg stated that there had been a fire on Paris Avenue last week, and Fire Chief Walters was present to speak about the incident. Fire Chief Walters reported he had activated mutual aid based on initial reports of heavy smoke and fire out the back of the house. He commended the Peoria Heights Police Department for their work with the residents and help in securing the scene. He stated help had arrived very quickly, and they were able to get water on the fire within 10 minutes of the call. He stated that the fire had been put out within 16 minutes of dispatch. He praised the excellent help received from Peoria, Chillicothe, and West Peoria. Trustee Mariscal commended the Fire Department on their work. Trustee Wisenburg stated that Ms. Hendrix at the high school was collecting funds for the family. Fire Chief Walters noted that the Fire Dept had contact Red Cross which would provide housing and food for the family for a time. Mayor Phelan noted that Richwoods Township could also provide emergency assistance and resources as well.

Trustee DeVore praised and thanked the Police Department on their speedy and hard work solving the recent armed robbery at Oliver's. She thanked the residents who provided information which assisted in the arrest. She also thanked residents for contacting the Police Department regarding panhandlers which lead to another arrest of an individual with warrants. She reminded residents the Police Department provides a vacation check service where they will keep an eye on houses while residents are gone. Chief Sutton thanked the community for their input stating community involvement is very important to solving cases.

Mayor Phelan asked for old business. Hearing none, he moved onto new business.

Trustee Mariscal made a motion to approve the publication of the request for proposals for elevator maintenance. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee Mariscal noted that all the requirements for proposals were available in the notice and asked when the proposals were due. Attorney Walton recommended 3 – 4 weeks and suggested March 17, 2020. Mayor Phelan shared the topic of the Tower had come up at the Mayor's Breakfast and stressed the importance of keeping the elevator running. The motion to publish the request for proposals for elevator maintenance passed 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to close Prospect Road for Peoria Heights Fine Art Fair on May 9, 2020. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Mayor Phelan noted the situation was unique, and Attorney Walton explained the motion had previously failed. He noted he considered this to be a renewal of the discussion of the issue rather than a reconsideration. Trustee Khazzam spoke in support of the event noting the importance of the arts for both the Village and the surrounding community. She stated arts encouraged self-directed learning, and the event would help educate younger residents. She stated it was important to support the arts in the community. Trustee Wisenburg stated he was the dissenter who spoke as a trustee and a parent. He noted that he had concerns detouring 4 lanes of traffic through 2 lanes of narrower street. He expressed surprise that there was disappointment in his vote. He stated

his goal was to represent residents who lived in the area that had reached out to him with concerns. Trustee Wisenburg requested that the speed limit along the detour be lowered first and that the residents receive prior notification. Trustee Goett responded that the event was pretty well known, and that Chief Sutton and the Police Department had worked very hard to enforce speed limits. He stated he didn't believe there was a big concern. Trustee Mariscal asked if there could be temporary speed limits placed on the street, and Chief Sutton stated that was a possibility. Chief Sutton stated the last year had been the first year for the event. He noted that after speaking to his officers about the previous year he was recommending the closure of Prospect for the Fine Arts Fair. He suggested using the same template as the St. Patrick's Day event. He noted that enforcement was necessary to ensure compliance, and that it was his job was to ensure safety for all of the Village as opposed to just portions. Chief Sutton acknowledged the inconvenience to residents while emphasizing that he would make sure the event was safe for everyone. Trustee Wisenburg offered an amendment to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph permanently on Columbus Avenue. Attorney Walton noted that would not be allowed as an amendment, but the speed limit could be lowered temporarily during the hours of the event. Trustee Wisenburg revised his amendment to reducing the speed limit on Columbus to 25 mph during the Fine Arts Fair event. Trustee Goett seconded the amendment. Trustee DeVore questioned how it would be posted and what the cost would be. Superintendent of Streets, Mr. Michael Casey, stated Public Works had signs that could be posted on each of the detour signs. Mayor Phelan asked about enforcement. Chief Sutton stated he would have officers on the street. The Board voted 5-0 to amend the motion to close Prospect Road to temporarily lower the speed limit on Columbus to 25 mph. The motion to close Prospect Road, with the amendment to reduce speed limit on Columbus to 25 mph, passed 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to close Prospect Road for the St. Patrick's Day event, and Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. She stated the request was similar to the previous event. Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to amend the street closure for the event to reduce the speed limit on Columbus to 25 mph for the duration of the event. Trustee Goett seconded the amendment. The amendment to reduce the speed to 25 mph passed 5-0. The motion as amended passed 5-0.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the Great Strides Event on October 3, 2020, and Trustee Goett seconded. Ms. Kelli Freeman came forward to say it was the sixteenth annual event. She noted they coordinated with the Police Department for walkers to cross the street but there were no street closures necessary. She stated she worked with the Park District for the portion of the walk on Grandview. The motion to approve the use of Tower Park for Great Strides passed 5-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1620: an Ordinance Amending Video Gaming Regulations, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee Goett explained the ordinance mirrors state language and will increase the allowed number of video gaming machines from five to six. He stated businesses are still required to get a permit for the machine from the Village, and he recommended passing the ordinance. Ordinance 2020-1620 passed 5-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to ratify and confirm approval of Ordinance 2019-1605: an Ordinance Adopting Certain Regulations and Public Records by Reference as Criteria for the Issuance of Construction, Reconstruction, Alteration, and Installation Permits within the Village of Peoria Heights. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Attorney Walton explained that there was a recent statutory change which required 30 day notification prior to the adoption of the building code. As such, he was recommending the Board ratify the ordinance now that notification had been satisfied. The Board voted 5-0 to ratify 2019-1605.

Clerk Turner stated at the end of January 2020 there was \$2,630,021.43 in the Village controlled accounts, and \$1,075,967.15 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 to accept the Treasurer's report.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. The Board voted 5-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk