

**JOINT VILLAGE-ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021 8:30 A.M.**

VILLAGE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees: Baldino, Canty, LaBedz Padovani, Rosenberg, Scaletta, Schwingbeck,

VILLAGE BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Tinaglia

VILLAGE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager; Scott Shirley, Public Works Director; Cris Papierniak, Assistant Director Public Works and Jim Zaharopoulos, Civil Engineer

PARK DISTRICT BOARD PRESENT: Maryfran Leno, President; Rob Nesvacil, Commissioner; Brian Owen, Commissioner; and Tim Gelinas, Vice President (late arrival)

PARK COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Will Ploger

PARK DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT: Carrie Fullerton, Executive Director; Ben Rea, Director of Parks and Planning; Jason Myers, Director of Finance & Personnel; Brian Meyers, Director of Recreation & Facilities; and Maddie McCormick, Intern

OTHERS PRESENT: Joel Koenig, Consultant Crawford, Murphy & Tilly; Melissa Cayer and Keith Moen

**I. Call to Order**

Village President Hayes called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. President Hayes stated that the meeting was being held virtually due to COVID19.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call taken.

President Hayes and Park District President Leno made opening comments. President Hayes stated that there is a good relationship between the Park District and Village. The past 12 months have been challenging and President Hayes thanked everyone for their efforts in navigating the many challenges of the past year.

Mayor Hayes congratulated the Park District for awards received. Commissioner Owen recently received the Rising Star Award from the IL Association of Park Districts (IAPD). Lindsey Robertson, District Aquatic Manager received the IPRA Young Professional Award.

President Leno echoed President Hayes on how challenging the past year has been and is looking forward to working together going forward and thanked all the governmental bodies that work together in the Village.

## **II. Citizens to Be Heard**

President Hayes asked if any members of the public had comments. There were no comments.

## **III. Village Topics of Interest**

Village Manager Recklaus stated the Greenbrier Roanoke Project discussed last year is moving forward. The Village appreciates the Park District working so well with the Village on this. It is hoped that the project will be an asset to the neighborhood.

Raven Park/ Berkley Hintz Project was updated by Joel Koenig and Scott Shirley. The different approaches and retaining walls in reference to the basketball court were reviewed. Fencing, retaining walls, and vegetation are just a few options. Mr. Koenig stated the problem is that in a short duration, high intensity rain events water ponds on streets and flows into several homes. The Village cannot store adequate water within the right-of-way. It is being proposed that the excess flow will be brought into the Raven Park area. A variety of solutions were highlighted and discussed. President Leno stated that the Park wants to work with the Village but, also wants to hear from residents as the use is changing. Hopefully, it will be a win-win situation for all. The Village looks forward to continuing the discussion with the Park District about potential storm water control at Raven Park.

Manger Recklaus reviewed the impact of COVID 19 on the Village and the vaccination status was discussed. The Village has registered to be a local vaccine site.

The Village's response to the economic downturn was seen with the suspension of late fees, delay and reduced payments for liquor licenses, grant funds for emergency assistance for residents, and creation of zero interest loans for small businesses. Arlington Alfresco was discussed.

The Village Emergency Assistance Fund was presented. This fund is to help local folks in need, funded partially by the Village and by the Arlington Care program. In a typical year about 80 families are assisted, in 2020 a total of 251 families were assisted.

The Village's role in COVID19 enforcement was reviewed. If a complaint is received the Village confirms its validity. Violations are reported to Cook County for enforcement. Major revenue reductions due to COVID19 were also reviewed. The operational impact of COVID19 was highlighted, with a decrease in Fire calls while Police saw an uptick in nuisance calls. Building Inspections were up this year as was Code Enforcement.

The Village's Finances were reviewed. 2020 General fund revenues were \$4 million below budget while 2020 General fund expenditures were 1.7 million under budget.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is a major focus of the Village. A consultant has been hired, focus groups have been held, as well as a Town Hall Meeting. The focus of the Village's DEI efforts is on the Village as an employer and as a service provider. There will be a regional law enforcement minority recruitment event in March. An exhibit on Frank White as one of the first African American residents is being coordinated with the Historical Museum.

There is currently a re-evaluation of the Senior Center. There was a recent AARP Age Friendly Community Process and the needs of the senior center and services are being reviewed. The Village will be working with the library and park district on needs too.

A new Solid Waste Contract was presented. This contract will begin in spring. Groot is being retained. The twice weekly collection is being reduced to one time a week for all.

Village Manager Recklaus called for questions. Trustee Canty asked about an Interagency DEI effort. Manager Recklaus said there have been preliminary conversations and it is on the radar and will be part of a recommendation. Commissioner Owen asked about the Green Aggregation Program and Village Manager Recklaus explained the energy credits and benefits to the community

#### **IV. Park District Topics of Interest**

Executive Director Carrie Fullerton thanked the Village Board and Staff for how welcoming the team has been during this year of transition. Fullerton thanked them for all of their help and service.

Executive Director Fullerton updated the status of the Proposed Recreation Park Project. After much consideration and looking at things that really need work such as infrastructure and equipment, the OSLAD Grant was declined and resources will be reallocated to items that need immediate attention.

Grant Shell Station purchase was reviewed. Tanks will be removed, and the Park District hopes to budget in the future to remove the building.

Awards Received were highlighted. The Park District was a NRPA National Gold Medal Award Finalist. The Park District was one of four in the country and is proud to be a finalist as one of the Best of the Best. Fullerton also thanked the Village for the awards received by the Park this past year – 2020 Alan F. Bombick Award for Excellence in Design and 2021 Hearts of Gold Award – Kenneth M. Bonder Beautification. The Park District received the Daily Herald's Best of the Best, chosen by readers.

Park Projects were reviewed. Ranging from new floor at ALGC Service Center to Installing ADA Garden Plots at Forest View. In response to COVID, new air filtration systems at the ARC and Administration were installed.

The Park District has a 50/50 budget, relying on taxes and fees. All has been managed through strong expense control. The Park District has been laser focused on what can be offered, versus closing facilities and services. There was a large number of virtual programs and many other programs had to be re-engineered.

Service Statistics were presented. Golf had the most amazing year. Arlington Ridge Center was open by reservations and 44,000 reservations were made in 2020. Outdoor swim reservations were offered at three pools and many thank you notes from residents were received.

Other uses of the parks were highlighted. The virtual holiday Tree Lighting was made possible with a collaboration of the Park District and Village. Peaceful demonstrations were also held in the parks this past year.

Ongoing initiatives include the Senior Center, Park Counselor Programs and CAP program. Collaborative projects between the Village and the Park District include the Holiday tree Lighting, Arbor Day Celebration, Assistance with fallen tree removal in parks, televising storm sewer lines, using fuel and salt.

Future potential collaborative projects include storm water projects at Raven and Klehm Parks, community wide paving projects, tub grinder shared rental, potential storm water project at Arlington Lakes Golf Club, potential ice rink chiller and potential performance pavilion. Discussion included the future project ideas.

Trustee Scaletta asked what the reservation system is on property. Recklaus reviewed the land cash donation program and how subdivision of properties happens. President Leno appreciated the explanation and stated the Park District appreciates the continued relationship with village and other taxing groups. President Hayes stated that he agrees.

President Hayes recognized two retiring Trustees and thanked them for their contributions to the Village, Trustee Padovani and Trustee Rosenberg. Trustee Rosenberg stated he truly has enjoyed the relationships and will miss the job he has been doing. He thanked everyone for the job they do.

The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn by Trustee Scaletta and seconded by Trustee Rosenberg. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.