



**Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees  
November 2, 2009**

*Cathy Sweitzer, Observer*

The meeting convened at 7:45 with all members of the Board present with the exception of Trustee Colette Lueck. The Village Clerk, Manager and Attorney also attended.

Public Health Director Margaret Provost-Fyfe updated the Board on H1N1 vaccinations. So far, approximately 2,000 residents have been vaccinated during four clinic sessions. Another 1,760 are booked for inoculation before November 11. Booking appointments through the flu hotline (708-358-5601) seems to be working efficiently, preventing the long lines and frustration experienced by other communities. Time between leaving a message on the hotline and response is 2-3 days. Time between booking and inoculation is a week or less. Total time in the clinic is between 30-45 minutes from entrance to exit. Parents are being advised that the second inoculation recommended for children under 10-years of age will be administered only after all eligible youngsters get their first dose. Although swine flu is on the rise in Illinois, schools in Oak Park are not reporting an unusual amount of flu activity. More information on swine flu can be found on the Village Website by clicking the H1N1 icon.

The second reading of an ordinance to amend vehicle license sales prompted discussion. The amendment would hold the fee at \$45 for online purchase, but increase it to \$50 for in-person or mail transactions. Noting that the fee had not increased in over 20 years, Trustee John Hedges asked whether it might not still be too low. Trustee Ray Johnson suggested that online vehicle applications might be a good place to solicit email addresses from citizens who would like to receive “email blasts” from Village Hall. Attorney Ray Heise noted that the new ordinance spells out the meaning of “circumstances beyond one’s control,” in other words, acceptable reasons for late payment. They include: new residency, new vehicle, and death or serious injury. Lack of funds is not considered an extenuating circumstance.

Deputy Village Manager Craig Tailor and Plan Commission Chairperson Linda Bolte provided an overview of the “Roosevelt Road Overlay Plan.” Bolte reported the Commission’s unanimous approval of a proposed “form-based” plan for this stretch of roadway encompassing stretches of Oak Park, Berwyn, and Cicero. She described a form-based plan as one that focuses on what the street will look like, in contrast to a “use-based plan” that concentrates on types of businesses desired. The form-based plan encourages a more pedestrian friendly corridor with convenient, plentiful and unobtrusive parking. The commission particularly liked the fact that it emphasized shared parking by multiple merchants, encouraged property owners to work together, respected existing ordinances regarding building height, curb cuts, set backs, and signage, and amicably coordinated efforts among the three communities. This corridor is considered a “transitional auto-to-pedestrian zone,” and could become a model for other thoroughfares in the Village.

An ordinance will change the legal status of bed and breakfast businesses from “home occupations” to “special use” establishments. The ordinance seeks to insure that B&B’s are not overly concentrated in one block, changing the character of the neighborhood from residential to commercial.

Throughout the meeting, Board members and personnel took the opportunity to express their sadness at the closing of Park National Bank, which all regarded as a pillar of the community. Park National Owner Mike Kelly, whom trustees described as “top drawer,” “ethical” and “honest,” was recognized for his generous support of local organizations like Hephzibah House, the Hemingway Foundation, Dominican University, the Children’s Clinic and Head Start (for which the bank provided free space). Kelly was also applauded for his willingness to extend loans and banking services to underserved communities like Maywood, Englewood and Austin. President Pope characterized the decision to close the bank as “ill-advised” by the FDIC, and expressed the hope that U.S. Bank, the new owner, will “carry forth the mantel.”

The meeting concluded with two pieces of encouraging financial news: nine Village vehicles were sold at auction and real estate transactions in Oak Park were up 37% from last October.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

<http://www.oak-park.us/Agendas/index.htm>