

Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees
February 21, 2017

Suzanne Davis, Observer
7:30 Open Session

In attendance: Trustees Barber, Brewer, Button Ott, Salzman, Tucker and Mayor Abu-Taleb

Non-Agenda Public Comment:

Chris Donovan voiced concerns on the subject of the Madison Street Coalition and called for the disclosure of an engineering report. The Mayor provided the dates of recent public meetings and commented that there was a delay due to the developer.

Mac Robinet announced that on February 25 at Ridgeland Commons there would be a celebration of the solar power system installed on the ice rink roof.

A resident on behalf of the Southeast Oak Park Neighbors coalition spoke in support of the "alley vacation" on Harrison Street, which would benefit local businesses, as by allowing dining space.

Proclamation:

A motion to approve February 21, 2017 as Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day was approved, and the Mayor signed a pledge in support of favorable habitats for and education about this butterfly species with declining numbers. Planting milkweed and nectar plants was encouraged.

Citizen Commission Appointments:

The following persons were appointed as members of Citizen Commissions: James Downing and Robert Pickrell (Police Oversight), Amy O'Rourke (Disability Access), Scott Friesen (Environment and Energy), Laura Lencioni (Farmers Market), and Derrick Gurski (Historic Preservation).

Regular Agenda:

A resolution to amend the Village Manager's employment agreement to provide a salary increase of \$10,000, pursuant to the agreement was approved. Trustees spoke favorably of the performance of the Village Manager.

A resolution to provide a right of entry agreement with District 97 to conduct soil testing on a Village right-of-way near Holmes School was approved. This is a preliminary measure in the event a property expansion is contemplated.

Trustee Salzman, the trustee who serves as Local Liquor Control Commissioner, was resigning effective February 22, 2017. The post must be filled by an attorney, and there is a tradition of appointing a trustee. Trustee Button Ott was approved to replace Salzman.

A resolution was approved that would support the repeal of the existing state pre-emption of Home Rule Authority that would permit a restriction of the use of pesticides within local jurisdictions such as Oak Park. Two persons associated with Go Green Oak Park spoke in support of the resolution.

A developer sought a special use permit for a major planned development containing a mixed-use, multiple-story building with residential, commercial and parking uses at 715-17 South Boulevard, which has been a

vacant lot for some years. The Village Planner indicated that the applicant sought relief from a zoning requirement in order to build to a height of 60' rather than 45', with the upper 15' to be set back, and to have more units but less parking than generally permitted. A representative of the project appeared and stated that "high-caliber" building materials would be used. The Mayor stated that in the past, developers, including "some of the same players" as in the current project, had obtained approvals and then flipped the project before construction, with negative consequences. The "Oasis" project was mentioned. The Mayor would not support a contract that applied to "successors or assignees." The Village Attorney spoke of an ordinance that renders permits null and void if a sale or transfer is not approved within 45 days, and requires new owners to assume the obligations of special use permits. This ordinance was not approved. The Trustees wanted more detailed information on the pros and cons of the proposed transfer restrictions. The issue was continued to the next board meeting in two weeks.

A resolution in appreciation of resigning Village Trustee Adam Salzman, who has served as Trustee since 2011, was approved. The Trustees and Mayor all spoke warmly of Salzman and favorably of his service as Trustee.

Observer left at 9:15 p.m.