

Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees
April 17, 2017

Suzanne Davis, Observer
7:30 Open Session

In attendance: Mayor Abu-Taleb; Trustees Barber, Taglia, Button Ott, Brewer, Lueck.

Non-Agenda Public Comment:

Six Oak Park residents voiced concerns about the zoning variance that would permit the proposed 18-story Albion development. The concerns were that the development was too large, that it would negatively infringe upon the Austin Gardens park space, and that it is an example of overbuilding that would be detrimental to the character of downtown Oak Park. One speaker pointed out that Albion's own shade study concluded that 11 mature trees in the park would be threatened. Another speaker suggested that development should occur closer to the Blue Line, which would help south Oak Park businesses and provide housing for the Hospital District.

Citizen Commission Appointments:

Motions to consent to the appointment of the following persons passed: Jonathan Kirk, member, Community Design Commission; Alap Shah, member, Disability Access Commission; Sandra Novack-Gottschall, Chair, Farmers Market Commission; and Roya Basirirad, member, Transportation Commission.

Regular Agenda:

On the agenda was an ordinance that would amend the Village Code to require Special Events Permits to be issued by the Police Chief. Staff recommended the issuance of permits due to public safety concerns at large events (not block parties), such as Uncork Illinois and certain races in the public right of way that require street closures or traffic re-routes. Vicki Scaman, Village Clerk-elect, stated that the Village Clerk's office could more appropriately continue to handle special-events matters of this nature. Trustee Barber suggested that the Village must decide how it wants to define the role of the Clerk. Trustee Lueck called for additional information on the scope of the special events that would be regulated. Trustee Button Ott's motion to table the matter until Trustee Tucker could be present was approved.

An amendment to a redevelopment agreement between the Village and District House LLC, which is developing the former Tastee Dog site at Lake and Euclid, was approved. The redevelopment agreement was already in effect. The amendment specified that of the total cost of approximately \$220,000, the Village would pay \$35,000 and District House would pay \$184,000.

As for the redevelopment agreement between the Village and OP South Boulevard LLC, for the property at Harlem and South Boulevard, an ordinance was approved that would amend the agreement to extend the time frame due to changes to construction methods that require submitting additional building plans. A representative of the developer stated that foundation permits would be resubmitted next week.

The Village had a sustainability manager on staff from 2009 to 2014. Many of the functions are now being handled by the Village Manager. There is now a budget for a sustainability coordinator position. The trustees approved a motion whereby this role would not be handled by a non-profit Intergovernmental Environmental Community Organization (I-ECO), but instead, to plan for the establishment of the staff position, with the position to be further defined. Trustee Barber voted against this given the state of information on what would be entailed.

A voluntary two-year pilot program was approved, whereby retailers operating in spaces greater than 5,000 square feet would be able to collect a 10 cents per bag tax, half kept by the retailer and half going to the Village.

Observer left at 9:15 p.m.