

**MINUTES
of the
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
Tuesday, April 17, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Northfield met in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall for the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President John Birkinbine. The Village Clerk called the roll which was as follows:

PRESENT:	President Trustees	John Birkinbine, Jr. Frank Charhut Terry Gottlieb Evan Karnes (via phone) Ruth Lucchesi Bobbie Moore
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ABSENT:	Ted Greene
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Motion to Allow Trustee Karnes to participate by telephone

By roll call vote, all members approved permitting Trustee Karnes, who was out of town on business, to attend and vote at the Board meeting via telephone. Trustee Karnes was advised that the three Trustee Elects were in attendance and three residents.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Trustee Lucchesi made a motion, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 5.

1. Approve the Minutes of the March 20, 2007 Village Board meeting.
2. Approve the Bills and Disbursements from 3/19/07 to 4/13/07 in the amount of \$304,041.70.
3. Approve the Board/Commission/Committee appointments or re-appointments as follows:
 - Franklin Morton reappointment to Police Pension Board from 5/1/07 to 5/1/09.
 - Richard Joutras reappointment as Chair to Board of Police Commissioners from 5/1/07 to 5/1/10.
 - Marshall Rake, III reappointment to the Electrical Commission from 5/1/07 to 5/1/11.
 - J. Patrick Doherty reappointment to the Traffic & Transportation Committee from 5/1/07 to 5/1/11.
 - Peter Fischer reappointment as Chair to the Traffic & Transportation Committee from 1/1/07 to 5/1/11.
4. Approve an ordinance declaring miscellaneous computer equipment as surplus and authorize staff to dispose of this property as provided by law.
5. Approve a housekeeping ordinance amending the Village Code, Ch. 2, Art. II, Sec. 2-16, Special Meetings, Notice to Board Members.

Trustee Karnes advised that one of the payees on the list of bills, Kone Inc., is a sometimes client and that he intends to vote on the complete list of bills.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES: Charhut NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: Greene
 Karnes (via phone)
 Lucchesi
 Gottlieb
 Moore

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING FY2007/08 VILLAGE BUDGET

Trustee Charhut made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lucchesi to approve an ordinance adopting FY2007/2008 Village Budget. Director Steve Noble had no comments and there were no questions or comments from the audience.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES: Charhut NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: Greene
 Karnes (via phone)
 Lucchesi
 Gottlieb
 Moore

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE GRANTING A FINAL PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF 285-287 EATON STREET

Trustee Gottlieb made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lucchesi to approve an ordinance granting a final plat of subdivision to re-subdivide two lots at 285 and 287 Eaton Street.

There being no further discussion and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES: Charhut NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: Greene
 Karnes (via phone)
 Lucchesi
 Gottlieb
 Moore

Discussion of Board Update Information

Village Manager Sigman provided an update on upcoming meetings noting the Skokie Valley Bicycle Path meeting in the Village of Northbrook on April 19 to discuss preparation of a feasibility plan for a trail on the unused Union Pacific railroad tracks running through Wilmette, Glenview, Northfield and Northbrook; Arbor Day festivities on April 27, and the upcoming Board meeting on May 15. She noted that Anne Kane would provide an update on the Village Center Task Force whose meeting was moved to April 24. Trustee Moore noted the League of Women Voters' Creative Design of Willow Road meeting to be held on May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Shore Senior Center.

Village Center Task Force

Community Development Director Anne Kane reported that there has been no Village Center Task Force meeting since the last Board meeting and thus no changes to the information previously provided. She noted that the next meeting for the Task Force has been set for next Tuesday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Charhut asked Director Kane if there have been any decisions made by the Task Force.

Ms. Kane responded that no definitive decisions have been made.

Trustee Charhut then asked if the group was making progress and noted that the Board had asked for a nine month moratorium on new construction/development in the Village Center and that time was lapsing.

Director Kane noted that time has been spent doing due diligence and in having discussions with a key property owners who may or may not have an interest in playing a key role in the redevelopment of the Village Center.

Trustee Gottlieb added that during their meetings, the Task Force has redefined the scope of what they are trying to accomplish in terms of keeping the project east of Happ Road. He commented that within a couple of months, he felt the Task Force would have a pretty firm idea of where they are heading.

Trustee Charhut asked if the group has a written "scope" of what they want to do.

Manager Sigman commented that the Task Force has been doing what a scope provides – trying to find out what the community is looking for and what the property owners in the area are interested in doing. The next step is to develop a plan.

Trustee Gottlieb responded to Mr. Charhut's question noting that if the Village owned the land, the group would do a project scope. However, the problem is a lot of decisions are not within the groups power to make and until they can determine if they can get the cooperation of the property owners to participate in the plan, it would be a waste of time to have a written scope.

Trustee Moore also commented that the Task Force has to do what the property owners are willing to buy into. She also noted that there should be a Plan B.

Trustee Charhut said that if there is no consensus among the property owners, the task force should still have some sort of plan even if it is one that will be rejected – we have to start somewhere.

Trustee Lucchesi noted that having attended the meetings, the group has accomplished a great deal and the project is well on its way.

President Birkinbine noted that Mr. Friedman, the principal land owner, plans to come up with some suggestions for the upcoming meeting; however, they are working Performa and it makes it difficult to include all their properties in the Village.

Director Kane hopes to speak with the Friedman Group and, perhaps, go back to where the task force was at in the first meeting - getting a designer on board to put forth a vision for the downtown area and then have the Village take the lead rather than a major property owner.

Manager Sigman also noted that the group has done a lot of exploring of TIF districts, trying to understand if they can work for the Village. They have also met with independent design consultants and worked with the primary property owner.

Director Kane also noted that as was discussed at the last Board meeting, she has prepared summary notes of the four previous Task Force meetings which will be made available once approved.

Willow Road

President Birkinbine provided an update on Willow Road. He noted that in December Winnetka Village President Ed Woodbury volunteered to be a mediator on Willow Road if the Village thought it would be helpful. Both Presidents got together in March and discussed the issue. They determined it would be good to get together with Senator Schoenberg to discuss some of Mr. Woodbury's thinking. Mr. Woodbury is an architect and works on developing areas in municipalities including involving roads. Presidents Birkinbine and Woodbury did meet with Senator Schoenberg at which time Mr. Woodbury suggested bringing in a planner because his experience has shown that if only engineers and politicians are involved in road planning, then no consensus can be reached with communities. He added that planners look at things and involve the community. President Birkinbine stated that he liked that approach. Mr. Woodbury suggested that he would get the name of a planning firm and asked if Senator Schoenberg could find some State money to pay for the planner and then the three would meet again.

President Birkinbine reported that the three met again this morning in Winnetka to discuss a planning firm called the Lakota Group whose chair resides in Winnetka and serves on Winnetka's Planning Commission. Manager Sigman worked with the Lakota Group when the corner of Waukegan and Willow Road was developed for the Park District, District 29 School District and New Trier School District. The Lakota Group also worked on the other side of Waukegan Road for the Heatherfield development and has done extensive work on the north shore.

The Lakota chair gave a presentation this morning after studying Northfield. He noted that the way the town is laid out Willow Road is the "main street" of our town. Both he and President Woodbury agreed that something could be done with Willow Road while still maintaining the safety of children and pedestrians crossing main intersections and maintaining the character of Northfield. He noted that a formal funding request letter would be sent to Senator Schoenberg from President Birkinbine and President Woodbury. President Birkinbine recommended that either a task force or expanded Traffic & Transportation Committee or Ad Hoc group involving the four who met this morning plus the head of the Northfield Park District Board, School District Board, Village Manager Sigman, and IDOT representative (later in the process) be included. No specific promises were made. President Birkinbine noted that he could not speak for the other taxing bodies about their concerns with regard to Willow Road.

President Birkinbine commented that he liked what he heard from the Lakota Group. He felt the Village can not go wrong by going down this path. Senator Schoenberg was generous in things he said and talked about resolving Village storm water issues which he said could be a

“phone call away.” President Birkinbine noted that he would get back to them after talking to the various Boards. He also noted that the planning group would be paid for by the State.

Trustee Moore noted she was thrilled to be moving in this direction with what she noted is the Village’s “sister city” because like Northfield, it is more residential along Willow Road than Northbrook and Glenview whose interest is more commercial and appreciates having President Woodbury offer to help. She thanked President Birkinbine for what he has accomplished.

Trustee Lucchesi agreed with the comments and approach.

President Birkinbine noted that in the past Senator Schoenberg saw Northfield as part of a larger regional transportation area. However, he is now more in favor of grouping Northfield with Winnetka. Winnetka is interested in having Willow redone east of the expressway to Provident Street and has the same concerns regarding their school along Willow Road, Crow Island, as Northfield does. It is Winnetka’s desire is to have IDOT fix up Willow Road through their community and then take it over in a jurisdictional transfer. Northfield has discussed this approach for Winnetka Road but is not interested in taking over bridges because of the sizeable future costs involved for the community in maintaining them. He also agreed that there is more commonality between Winnetka’s interests and those of Northfield unlike our neighbors to the west and northwest.

Trustee Moore noted the dangers of taking over roads that later would require huge amounts of money for maintenance particularly because of the amount of traffic (over 20,000 vehicles) passing through our community of about 5,000 residents.

Trustee Elect Joan Frazier asked what group would work on this. President Birkinbine noted that the new Traffic and Transportation Chair, Pete Fischer wears two hats since he sits on the School Board and on the Village’s T&T Committee. He again reiterated that he wants the group overseeing decisions on this to include a representative of the School and Park Boards.

Resident Cathy Estabrook asked President Birkinbine about the portion of Willow Road east of the Edens and about having a representative of Winnetka’s Park District be involved since that is the park district involved for Northfield residents on that side of the Edens.

There was a question regarding the May 1 meeting that would be held to discuss Willow Road. Trustee Moore responded that it was the League of Women Voters and the North Shore Senior Center sponsoring the meeting on May 1 at 7:00 p.m. Discussion would include the concept of Context Sensitive Solutions which deals more with quality of life and transportation solutions.

Trustee Elect Jack Chapin asked if there was any discussion with Senator Schoenberg about resurfacing of Willow Road. President Birkinbine reported that while IDOT Deputy Director of Highways Diane O’Keefe earlier noted that Willow Road was going to need to be repaved, she more recently has written the opposite, that Willow Road will not be repaired/repaved before reconstruction to widen the road. It was discussed with Senator Schoenberg that residents of both

Northfield and Winnetka feel that Willow Road is being allowed to fall into disrepair primarily to force Northfield down a road it does not want.

President Birkinbine noted that based on comments he is hearing from the Village Board, Northfield should proceed with putting a group together and see where this will lead – see if something can be designed that maintains the character of Northfield and is safe for children to cross Willow Road. He noted that the process must be on going yet not too fast as to seem to be forcing plans on residents which is why it is so important to involve various groups in the Village.

There was no further discussion or updates.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Moore made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lucchesi to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss pending litigation.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Charhut	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Greene
	Karnes (via phone)			
	Lucchesi			
	Gottlieb			
	Moore			

Note: The three Trustee Elect members were invited to attend the Closed Session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Charhut made a motion, seconded by Trustee Lucchesi to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

AYES:	Charhut	NAYS: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: Greene
	Karnes (via phone)			
	Lucchesi			
	Gottlieb			
	Moore			