

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE
RICHARD T. FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 11, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Village President Dan DiMaria convened the Regular Meeting of the Village Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall and led the Board and assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Village Clerk Eileen Harford called the roll. Present were Trustees Bill Grear, Saba Khan, Rita Minx, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Janine Witko.

III.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Minx moved to accept the Minutes of the September 27, 2021 Village Board meeting as presented, seconded by Trustee Grear. **Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.**

IV.

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. **Outstanding Neighbor Recognition**
 - a. Mayor DiMaria introduced Community Relations Commissioner Kristey Chalabi to present the Commission's Outstanding Neighbor Award tonight to Aaliya Rana.
 - b. Commissioner Chalabi explained that the mission of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) is to foster, encourage, and improve our sense of community through positive interactions among all Morton Grove residents regardless of age, gender, religion, national origin, or economic status. She said she was pleased to represent the Commission this evening in acknowledging another extraordinary neighbor through the Outstanding Neighbor Recognition Program. This program gives all Morton Grove residents the opportunity to acknowledge an outstanding neighbor for doing special things that make your neighborhood a better place.
 - c. Ms. Chalabi invited Aaliya, her family and friends, and her nominator, Ruhenna Mohammed, along with Mayor DiMaria, Trustee liaison Travis, and any other Community Relations Commissioners, to come to the podium to present Aaliya with this recognition.
 - d. Ms. Chalabi noted that Ruhenna, in her nomination of Aaliya, said "Aaliya is a very kind and helpful neighbor who lets the community know about any events taking place that benefit her neighbors. She spreads smiles and goes the extra mile to be helpful. She is active when it comes to donations and participates in packaging donations. She is a neighbor you can count on." Ruhenna also said Aaliya is the neighborhood's "Morton Grove yellow pages."

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS (continued)

- e. Mayor DiMaria thanked everyone for being here this evening and said that it's nice to see neighbors being neighbors. It proves that the Village is, as its tagline states, "Amazingly Close. Incredibly Open." He then presented Aaliya with a pen, an Outstanding Neighbor certificate, a \$25 gift card for any Morton Grove restaurant, and a special pin as tokens of appreciation from the Village Board and the CRC. He noted that the pin is never given to just anyone—only to those who are assets to the Village. Mayor DiMaria also gave out a shout-out to all MEC residents and said he was humbled and honored to present these to Aaliya.
- f. Aaliya thanked her friends, family, neighbors, and the Village Board as the MEC President presented her with flowers. The Board and assemblage congratulated Aaliya, her family, friends, neighbors, and nominator as photos were taken of the group.
- g. Ms. Chalabi commented that the Commission is always looking for new members. She invited anyone who is interested in serving the Village to join the Commission. The CRC meets the second Tuesday every month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at Village Hall in the second floor conference room. The meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled due to the Budget Workshop, so the next meeting is November 9, 2021. All are welcome!

Mayor DiMaria thanked Kristey and the other members of the CRC for doing a great job.

2. Presentation of 2020 Traffic Safety Award and Railroad Crossing Safety Specialty Award

- a. Mayor DiMaria introduced Morton Grove Police Chief Mike Simo, who in turn introduced Scott Christiansen from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP). Scott is the project manager for the Traffic Safety Challenge. Chief Simo invited Mayor DiMaria and Trustee liaison Gear to the podium, and also introduced several MGPD personnel, in attendance this evening to help accept this award: Officers Tim Walsh, Matt Mayberry, Dan Dahm, and Mike Schram. Chief Simo said these officers and others have worked hard to accomplish the things the department is being recognized for this evening.
- b. Scott said this is the best part of the program. He explained that the Traffic Safety Challenge is a friendly state-wide competition between similar size and type agencies throughout Illinois. The program is coordinated by the ILCAP Traffic Committee and supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- c. The program honors agencies that have successfully implemented comprehensive traffic safety programs. Scott noted there are many components that go into winning this recognition; it's not simply who writes the most tickets or makes the most arrests. This is a *comprehensive* traffic safety program recognition.
- d. The elements include sound policy, officer training, recognition programs, public safety information and education, and targeted traffic data-driven enforcement.
- e. Scott said the IL Traffic Safety Challenge encourages agencies to set and meet comprehensive goals, and to develop positive programs that help reduce the number and severity of crashes that occur in the community.

IV.

SPECIAL REPORTS (continued)

- f. The program targets four specific areas: occupant protection, distracted driving, impaired driving, and speeding.
- g. Scott said the Challenge provides law enforcement with an opportunity to make a significant difference in their community. This year, Morton Grove won 1st Place in the State in the "Municipal: 36 to 50 sworn officers" category. Morton Grove was also selected for a Specialty Award for Rail Safety. This award has the same kind of comprehensive aspect of making the public aware of rail safety, helping people understand the importance of it, and the enforcement of rail initiatives in the Village.
- h. Scott said that, while the inscription on the awards says "Morton Grove Police Department," he felt he was presenting the award to the Village, because the program itself wouldn't be successful without the support of the Village Board and the community at large. It's the support of the business community, clubs, etc. Scott said he could see from the previous presentation (the Outstanding Neighbor recognition) that Morton Grove is a tight, involved community. It's the community that is being recognized tonight. He then presented two plaques to Chief Simo and Mayor DiMaria, who gave the plaque to the officers present who had worked so hard for this recognition.
- i. After photos were taken, Mayor DiMaria commented that he wasn't surprised; there's a very good group of men and women in the Morton Grove Police Department.

V.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

VI.

PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS

NONE

VII.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

- a. **Pete Friedman, 6143 Lincoln Avenue**, spoke about the TIF ordinances on tonight's Agenda. He said he had been at the Public Hearing two weeks ago. He supports creating a TIF for the development of that area, but the testimony regarding residential development had him concerned. He felt the testimony was compelling, especially regarding the potential impact and burden it would place on the schools if the residential development ended up being fairly high density. He felt that would be a burden that should not be placed on the schools without giving them an adequate chance—and funding—to actually expand their capacity. Mr. Friedman said that overcrowded classrooms are not effective classrooms.
- b. Additionally, he said one of the speakers had suggested that there would be no provision for an environmental impact study. He hoped that wasn't the case, and that the Village does have such

VII.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only) (continued)

a provision, and if it does not, he hoped the Village would make it a priority to always have environmental impact studies on any development near sensitive land. He noted that this TIF area is very close to the forest preserve and "dangerously close" to a moving body of water.

- c. Lastly, Mr. Friedman said that he spent the length of the public hearing on his smart phone trying to find the public hearing documents on the Village's website, to no avail. He said it's one thing for the Board and staff to find things on the website; they're likely on it more often. He said he recognized that the Village upgraded the website several years ago, and felt it's been greatly improved, but, if a resident can't find documents related to a public hearing or a Board Meeting, that's a problem. He asked the Board to make it another priority to update the website to make it much more user-friendly, so these types of documents can be more easily found by interested residents.

Mr. Friedman thanked the Board for their attention and consideration.

VIII.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Mayor DiMaria proclaimed October 24, 2021 as "World Polio Day" in the Village. He noted that this also celebrates the 82nd anniversary of the Skokie Valley Rotary Club. Mayor DiMaria said that Rotary launched Polio Plus in 1985 and helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. The Initiative includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Initiative's goal is to immunize the children of the world against polio, thereby eradicating the disease. Polio cases have dropped by 99.9% since 1988, and the world stands on the threshold of fully eradicating the disease.
- a. Mayor DiMaria said it was interesting that polio was once thought of as a pandemic, but since 1988, cases of polio have 99.9% disappeared. With COVID, he said we should all realize that this, too, will pass. He acknowledged it doesn't always happen quickly, but he was confident that we'll get through COVID, too. He said, "It's always good to look to the future."
2. Mayor DiMaria encouraged non-vaccinated individuals to get vaccinated, and reminded everyone that all people are required to wear a face covering when in Village facilities.
3. Mayor DiMaria said he gets more calls on this than almost anything else: Village vehicle stickers. He reminded everyone that the 2021-2022 Village vehicle sticker was required to be displayed on your vehicle(s) as of Wednesday, September 1, 2021. He said that currently, about 1,500 Morton Grove residents have not gotten their stickers, and said he knows they will call and complain, especially if they have to pay the double fine. Mayor DiMaria said, rather than call, "Just get the sticker." The Village would like to see 100% compliance with this regulation.

IX.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Harford had no report this evening.

X.

STAFF REPORTSA. Village Administrator:

Mr. Czerwinski said he had several TIF-related Ordinances to present this evening. These are all first readings only.

1. **Ordinance 21-8, Amending the Redevelopment Project Area and the Redevelopment Plan and Projects of the Ferris Avenue/Lehigh Avenue Redevelopment Project Area to Remove Certain Parcels of Property From the Redevelopment Project Area.**

- a. Mr. Czerwinski explained that this Ordinance will remove certain non-performing parcels from the original Ferris/Lehigh TIF District, so that they may then be incorporated in a newly-created TIF District.

2. **Ordinance 21-09, Approving the Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Lincoln/Lehigh Redevelopment Project Area.**

- a. Mr. Czerwinski said this Ordinance will approve a redevelopment plan and project area for the Lincoln/Lehigh TIF District within the municipal boundaries of the Village.

3. **Ordinance 21-10, An Ordinance Designating the Lincoln/Lehigh Redevelopment Project Area.**

- a. This Ordinance formally designates the Lincoln/Lehigh Redevelopment Project area.

4. **Ordinance 21-11, Adopting Tax Increment Allocation Financing for the Lincoln/Lehigh Redevelopment Project Area.**

- a. This Ordinance allows the Village to adopt tax increment allocation financing for the new Lincoln/Lehigh Redevelopment Project Area.

Mr. Czerwinski said the second reading and a vote on these ordinances will take place at the Village Board meeting on October 25, 2021.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no report this evening.

XI.

TRUSTEES' REPORTSA. Trustee Grear:

Trustee Grear had no report this evening.

B. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan had no report this evening.

C. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no report this evening.

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had no report this evening.

E. Trustee Travis:

1. Trustee Travis reminded everyone that the Community Relations Commission is sponsoring a "Student Photo Contest" for students to share their experiences about going back to school or life around town. Winners will be announced at the Village Board meeting on December 13, 2021.
2. Trustee Travis noted that the 11th annual Community Relations Commission-sponsored Community Artists Performance is scheduled for Saturday, October 30 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. She encouraged everyone to watch performances by area high school students and area residents showing their talents. You can watch in-person or via livestream. Please see the Village's website or the recently mailed Village postcard for a link to this event.
3. Lastly, Trustee Travis invited all residents and businesses to participate in the Village's 2021 Winter Adopt-a-Planter Program. The Public Works Department will plant 4-foot evergreen trees in planters throughout the Village. Participants will be assigned a tree to decorate and care for this winter, with the option to plant it in their yard for free when the program ends. If interested, you must sign up before November 15, 2021. Program information is available at Village Hall or on the Village website.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

F. Trustee Witko:

1. Trustee Witko presented **Resolution 21-62, Guaranteeing Municipal Work Performed on State of Illinois Right-of-Ways Within the Village of Morton Grove.**
 - a. She explained that this Resolution provides a routine guarantee to the State that all work performed by the Village within the State's right-of-ways in 2022 and 2023 will conform to the conditions on the permit granted by the Illinois Department of Transportation.
 - b. Trustee Witko said that municipalities have the option of either providing the financial security for each repair or may opt to provide a written guarantee that all work performed by the Village within State right-of-ways will conform to their requirements of the performance for the work. Providing this guarantee eliminates the time and cost of procuring a bond for each permit. The guarantee must also hold harmless the State of Illinois while performing permitted work. There is no fiscal impact related to this Resolution.

Trustee Witko moved to approve Resolution 21-62, seconded by Trustee Minx.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

2. Next, Trustee Witko presented **Resolution 21-63, Authorizing Contract Change Orders with Bolder Contractors, Inc. For Main Street Improvements Project.**
 - a. She explained that Resolution 21-48, approved in July 2021, authorized a contract with Bolder Contractors, Inc. for Main Street Improvements Project in the amount of \$1,108,832.76. Construction began in September, and the contractor has encountered unforeseen utility work during water main construction, totaling approximately \$20,000 in extra costs. The construction team assessed the condition of the soil in the excavation and considers it possible that the structural capacity of the subgrade may need to be increased beyond the extent included in the contract. Public Works staff anticipates other unforeseen challenges of a similar scale to those already encountered may need to be addressed, which would increase the contract cost.
 - b. Trustee Witko said that Public Works staff feels it would be practical to authorize the Village Administrator to issue contract change orders not to exceed 10 percent of the contract amount, which is \$110,883.28.

Trustee Witko moved, seconded by Trustee Minx, to approve Resolution 21-63.

Trustee Grear asked where these funds would come from. Mr. Czerwinski said they'd come out of the Ferris/Lehigh TIF Fund.

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote on Resolution 21-63.

XI. **TRUSTEES' REPORTS** (continued)

F. Trustee Witko: (continued)

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

3. Trustee Witko then presented **Resolution 21-64, Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Amendment With Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. For Preliminary and Design Engineering Services for Oakton Street Pedestrian Facility Improvements Project.**

- a. She explained that the Village is cooperatively developing a project for a pedestrian facility along Oakton Street and Caldwell Avenue with Cook County, the Village of Niles, and the Village of Skokie. Resolutions 18-56 and 19-40 authorized two agreements for sharing costs for preliminary and design engineering.
- b. Resolutions 19-12 and 20-40 authorized the Village Administrator to execute a contract and contract amendment for a professional services agreement in the total amount of \$189,088.15 to complete preliminary and design engineering for this project. However, additional engineering work is needed to meet the project's needs. Structural engineering work is needed to design a stable slope for a sidewalk on the edges of a steep earthen slope along the banks of the North Branch Chicago River. Also, additional surveying was required for the area where the structural engineering is required, as well as at intersections. Oakton Street requires permitting by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). IDOT required extra traffic analyses and coordination that was not expected to be required. The contract amendment, therefore, would be \$49,937. The authorization to execute this contract amendment would be contingent upon agreement by the Villages of Niles and Skokie to pay a fair share of the additional cost.

Trustee Witko moved to approve Resolution 21-64, seconded by Trustee Travis.

- c. Trustee Grear asked Mr. Czerwinski if any "hiccups" have been encountered with the three municipalities working together. Mr. Czerwinski responded no, and reiterated that no action would be taken on this contract amendment until the other two Villages approve it as well.

Mayor DiMaria called for the vote on Resolution 21-64.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

4. Trustee Witko announced that there are only three more French Market dates left. The Market is open on Saturdays between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Civic Center parking lot.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

F. Trustee Witko: (continued)

5. Trustee Witko reminded everyone to save the date for the Village's first Pumpkin Smash! It will be held on Saturday, November 6, at the north end of Harrer Park. A Pumpkin Smash is an effort communities are making to divert pumpkins from landfills by providing residents a location to drop off jack-o-lanterns to be composted. She hoped everyone will take advantage of this event.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mayor DiMaria noted that Budget Workshops for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, October 12, at 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall. Another Budget Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, and a third, if needed, is scheduled for October 14th. Budget Workshops are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.
2. Mayor DiMaria also reminded the assemblage that the Village will hold its first Neighborhood Outreach since 2019 on Thursday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. He encouraged residents to come out and meet their elected officials, offer suggestions, talk to Village staff and department heads, and learn more about what's happening in Morton Grove.

XIII. WARRANTS

Trustee Minx presented the Warrant Register for October 11, 2021 in the amount of \$643,673.45. She moved to approve this evening's Warrant Register as presented, seconded by Trustee Khan.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

XIV. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

NONE

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Trustee Minx moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Witko.

Motion passed: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

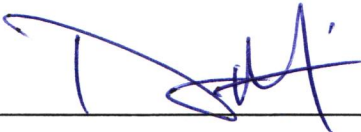
Tr. Grear	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Khan	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Witko	<u>aye</u>

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVED this 25th day of October 2021.

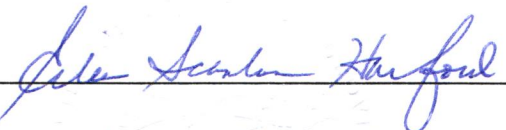
Trustee Grear	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Khan	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Minx	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Thill	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Travis	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Witko	<u>Aye</u>

APPROVED by me this 25th day of October, 2021.



Daniel P. DiMaria, Village President
Board of Trustees, Morton Grove, Illinois

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 26th day of October, 2021.



Eileen Scanlon Harford, Village Clerk
Village of Morton Grove, Cook County, Illinois



Minutes by Teresa Cousar