

**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 14, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- I. Village President Janine Witko convened the Regular Meeting of the Village Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Village Clerk Eileen Harford called the roll. Present were Trustees Rita Minx, Ashur Shiba, John Thill, Connie Travis, and Keith White. Trustee Saba Khan was absent with notice.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Witko asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2025 Village Board Meeting as presented. Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

**Motion passes unanimously via voice vote, with 1 absent.**

IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

NONE

V. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

NONE

VI. **PLAN COMMISSION REPORTS**

NONE

VII. **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

**Bob Burkhart** addressed Ordinance 25-27, regarding Municipal Parking Lots. He asked the Board to consider an overnight provision or a two-night provision, at least for the Commuter Parking. He said people often take the train to go into the city for theatre or other entertainment, and end up spending the night. He thought it would be a nice accommodation.

VIII.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

1. Mayor Witko had several Commission appointments to make tonight. She first sought the Board’s concurrence to appoint Rosemarie Alioto and Peggy Borg to the Community Relations Commission.

Trustee Travis so moved, seconded by Trustee Shiba.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

Tr. Khan	<u>absent</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Shiba	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. White	<u>aye</u>

2. Mayor Witko then asked the Board to approve the appointment of Wanda Robles to the Special Events Commission.

Trustee Minx so moved, seconded by Trustee Travis.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

Tr. Khan	<u>absent</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Shiba	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. White	<u>aye</u>

3. Mayor Witko said that, last month, she was joined by Community Development Administrator Brandon Nolin and Village Administrator Chuck Meyer at the grand opening of the Koenig Training Center as part of Shore Services. Shore Services provides vocational training for individuals age 16 and older who have intellectual and other developmental disabilities. This one-of-a-kind facility provides participants with the skills to obtain and maintain employment and a sense of belonging. Mayor Witko said, “The welcoming atmosphere was contagious and anyone interested in the organization should visit shoreservices.org to learn more. They do wonderful work!”
4. Mayor Witko said she recently had lunch with Representative Jan Schakowsky and her Chief of Staff, and Des Plaines Mayor Andrew Goczkwoski. She was able to discuss the needs of Morton Grove and Representative Schakowsky’s unwavering support for our community. She congratulated Representative Schakowsky on her well-deserved retirement and thanked her for her years of support to the residents of Morton Grove.

IX.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

As liaison to the Maine Township government, Clerk Harford had a brief updated from the Maine Township Clerk. The Clerk’s office offers many services for Maine Twp. Residents, including free notary public services, handicapped parking placards, hunting and fishing licenses, license plate renewal, passports, senior citizen RTA and Ventra cards, and voter registration. Any Maine Twp. resident in need of such services can contact the Clerk’s office at 847-297-2510 or stop in at the Maine Twp. government building, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge.

X.

**STAFF REPORTS**A. Village Administrator:

Mr. Meyer noted that the Traffic Safety Commission, working with the Morton Grove Police Department, has requested doing an “experimental parking restriction” for the 5800 block of Capulina at their last meeting. Parking restrictions would be for residents only on the block on school days from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Residents should be receiving a letter with these regulations and parking placards later this week or early next week. The experimental parking restriction will run from November 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026. The purpose of experimental parking is to test different parking configurations to see if an issue can be addressed and resolved. To this end, the Village will be surveying residents of the 5800 block of Capulina throughout this process, along with monitoring the area to determine if the experimental parking restriction addresses or resolves parking issues raised by residents.

B. Corporation Counsel:

Corporation Counsel Liston had no formal report this evening.

XI.

**TRUSTEES’ REPORTS**A. Trustee Khan:

Trustee Khan was absent with notice—no report.

B. Trustee Minx:

Trustee Minx had no formal report this evening, but noted that the Fire Department’s Open House, held on October 4, brought hundreds of residents to Fire Station 4. She thanked everyone who came out to see our fantastic staff and operations at the Fire Department.

C. Trustee Shiba:

Trustee Shiba reported on the Village’s Composting Diversion efforts. The compost provider for the Village, Wastenot Compost, reported that to date, the Village has collected 70,663 pound of compost, which equates to 3,136 gallons of gas offset by diverting food scraps from the landfill. Visit the Village’s website to learn how you can sign up for the composting program.

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

D. Trustee Thill:

Trustee Thill had no formal report, but announced that leaf pick-up begins this coming Monday, October 20. He has noticed some landscapers putting leaves in the streets. That is not allowed. Residents who hire landscaping services need to let them know they, the landscapers, must dispose of leaves and any other landscaping debris. That's part of what they're being paid for.

E. Trustee Travis:

- a. Trustee Travis introduced **Ordinance 25-27, An Ordinance Amending Title 5 Entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Chapter 9 Entitled "Parking Regulations," Section 9 Entitled "Municipal Parking Zones," Section 10 Entitled "Commuter Parking Lot," and Section 11 Entitled "Municipal Parking Lot" of the Municipal Code of the Village of Morton Grove.**
- b. She explained that the Village maintains a series of publicly owned municipal parking lots throughout the community. The Village has received reports from residents that a handful of electric vehicles are regularly parked at the charging station at the American Legion Civic Center parking lot for several hours, which is well beyond the time needed to charge the vehicle. This limits the ability of other, and specifically, Civic Center patrons, as intended, to use this space to charge their electric vehicles. Staff recommends the Municipal Code include a prohibition on overnight parking at the municipal parking lot at the American Legion Civic Center, similar to other publicly owned lots, and to add restrictions limiting electric vehicle parking in the charging station to no more than two hours per day per vehicle.
- c. The proposed Village Code modification would establish a two-hour limit and, if approved, the Village would subsequently install signage at the charging station to inform the public of the restriction. Additionally, the proposed Ordinance includes a limit of no overnight parking in the surface parking lots for commuters who use the train station, and updates the Village Code to refer to this as the "Commuter Parking Lot" as it serves a different function than municipal lots and caters to those using mass transit.

Trustee Travis said, as this is the first reading for this Ordinance, no action will be taken tonight.

2. Next, Trustee Travis presented for a first reading **Ordinance 25-18, An Ordinance Amending Title 6 Entitled "Police Regulations," Chapter 4 Entitled "Animal Control" of the Municipal Code of the Village of Morton Grove.**
  - a. She explained that this Ordinance will amend Title 6, Chapter 4 of the Village Code entitled "Animal Control" to add the definition of "wild animal," expand the prohibited species section, prohibit feeding wild animals, and grant the Village the authority to require the removal of bird feeders due to rodent activity.

XI. TRUSTEES' REPORTS (continued)

- E. Trustee Travis: (continued)
- b. Trustee Travis said, from time to time, the Police Department reviews ordinances to ensure they remain current, effective, and supportive of community health and safety. A recent review of the Village's Animal Control Ordinance identified several areas in need of improvement.
  - c. The current ordinance does not define "wild animals," which could allow residents to legally possess a variety of potentially dangerous species. The amended ordinance addresses this gap by expanding the list of prohibited species and establishing clear procedures for complaint handling and enforcement.
  - d. Additionally, the amended ordinance introduces new provisions prohibiting ground feeding and authorizing the Village to require the removal of bird feeders that contribute to rodent activity. These measures will strengthen the Village's ability to address and prevent rodent-related issues.
  - e. If adopted, the Village and Police Department will proactively educate the community about these changes. The Police Department will also partner with Building Inspection and Services to ensure consistent and effective application of this ordinance.

As this is the first reading of this ordinance, no action will be taken this evening.

3. Trustee Travis reported that, this past Friday, the Morton Grove Police Department served as the guest baristas for regional staple Will's Place in Skokie. Will's Place is a non-profit coffee store in Skokie that provides jobs for adults with disabilities. She thanked Chief Weitzel and MGPD staff who supported this worthwhile cause and organization.
4. Trustee Travis, as liaison to Niles Township, shared information for Morton Grove residents who reside in Niles Township. Niles Township now offers three newly remodeled rental spaces tailored to a variety of needs. The Lee Tamraz Community Room accommodates up to 40 people in a presentation-style setting. It includes a full kitchen, Wi-Fi, a projector and screen (available upon request) and accessible parking. It's ideal for community events and presentations.
  - a. For smaller gatherings, the Conference Room seats about 20 and comes equipped with a beverage counter, flexible seating options, and Wi-Fi. If you're looking for a quiet workspace, the Hotel Office offers a secluded space perfect for remote work on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. All rooms are available by reservation, with evening or weekend requests considered for an additional fee.
5. Lastly, Trustee Travis noted that Niles Township also offers free notary public services for residents during regular business hours. A valid photo ID and unsigned documents (they must be signed in front of the notary) are required.

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

F. Trustee White:

Trustee White presented **Resolution 25-75, A Resolution in Support of the Safe Routes to School Project and Application for Funding to Improve Safety and Accessibility in the Area Surrounding Edison Elementary School.**

He explained that the Public Works Department is seeking a grant opportunity to fund bike and pedestrian infrastructure improvements in the area surrounding Edison Elementary School. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) administers the Illinois Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program to improve conditions for students who walk or bike to school. Public Works desires to apply to the SRTS Program for up to \$250,000 to fund a variety of proposed improvements including: sidewalk removal and replacement throughout the surrounding neighborhood, the installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps and crosswalk pavement markings, and pavement improvements on Central Avenue, Monroe Street, and Reba Street to improve pedestrian safety and facilitate safe bus movements. Pending the results of an evaluation study, Public Works also proposed the installation of a hand-activated pedestrian crossing signal at Cleveland Street and Gross Point Road to improve student and pedestrian crossing safety. There is no local match for the SRTS Program. School District 69 adopted a similar resolution of support in September 2025.

Trustee White moved to approve Resolution 25-75, seconded by Trustee Thill.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

Tr. Khan	<u>absent</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Shiba	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. White	<u>aye</u>

XII. **WARRANTS**

In Trustee Khan’s absence, Trustee Travis presented the Warrant Register for October 14, 2025 in the amount of \$2,267,059.51. She moved to approve the Warrants as presented, seconded by Trustee Minx.

**Motion passes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.**

Tr. Khan	<u>absent</u>	Tr. Minx	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Shiba	<u>aye</u>
Tr. Thill	<u>aye</u>	Tr. Travis	<u>aye</u>	Tr. White	<u>aye</u>

XIII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

NONE

XIV.

**RESIDENTS' COMMENTS**

1. **Devesh Pandit** wished the Board “Happy Diwali,” noting that this is a week-long fest. He said the celebration of Diwali begins on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and October is also Hindu Heritage Month. Their new year begins on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Pandit said annually, his and several other households collect non-perishable foods which are then donated to the Township Food Panty.
  - a. They also go and visit the Fire Department and the Police Department to thank them for their service and to wish them well. His wife Dina and some of the other ladies had an idea; they would like to use the Fire Station’s kitchen to teach the firefighters and police officers how to cook some of the easier and quicker Hindu/vegan foods—also, possibly Kosher foods as well. He wanted to invite the Board and others to a “taste test.” He asked if this could also be posted on the Village’s website or included in the Village’s email blast. He wanted to get the word out to the broader Morton Grove community. Mayor Witko said she’d certainly be up for taste testing and encouraged Mr. Pandit to speak with Mr. Meyer about the best way to get the information out.

XV.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

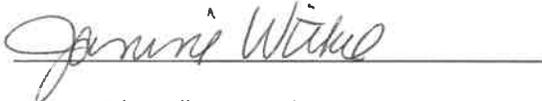
**Motion passes unanimously via voice vote, with 1 absent.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

PASSED this 28th day of October 2025.

Trustee Khan	<u>Abstain</u>
Trustee Minx	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Shiba	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Thill	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee Travis	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee White	<u>Aye</u>

APPROVED by me this 28th day of October 2025.



Janine Witko, Village President  
Board of Trustees, Morton Grove, Illinois

APPROVED and FILED in my office this 29th day of October 2025.



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

Minutes by Teresa Cousar