

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING
April 13, 2015**

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (COW) in the Village Hall Board Room (40 East Center Avenue) on Monday, April 13, 2015. Village President O’Hara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Village Clerk Barbara Ankenman called the roll and announced the following were present:

Village President: Kathleen O’Hara

Trustees: Steve Christensen
Mark Dewart
Eric Grenier (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
John Josephitis
William Meyer
Brian Renner

Also Present: Barbara Ankenman, Village Clerk
Drew Irvin, Village Administrator
Peter Friedman, Village Attorney
David Belmonte, Police Chief
Michael Croak, Building Codes Supervisor
Brandon Stanick, Assistant to the Village Administrator (A to VA)

Non-Agenda Items and Visitors

President O’Hara stated the COW allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the Village Board on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the COW.

Trustee Grenier arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Consideration of the Minutes from the February 23, 2015 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

Trustee Josephitis moved to approve the January 26, 2015 COW Meeting Minutes as presented. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Christensen, Dewart, Grenier, Josephitis, Meyer and Renner
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)

A Discussion Regarding Electronic Cigarette and Village Smoking Regulations

Police Chief David Belmonte reported many communities around the country are considering amending their ordinances to regulate the use and sale of electronic cigarettes. Electronic or e-cigarettes are devices designed to mimic cigarettes. The metal tubes are designed to look like real cigarettes and contain a cartridge filled with a nicotine laced liquid that is vaporized by a battery powered heating element. The nicotine vapor is inhaled by smokers when they draw on the device as they would a regular cigarette and it is believed that when the vapor is exhaled nonsmokers would be exposed to second hand smoke. He further noted most e-cigarettes claim to contain nicotine and also claim to be a less dangerous alternative to smoke cigarettes.

Police Chief Belmonte stated the City of Highland Park recently amended its smoking regulations to include e-cigarette regulations within their existing smoking regulations. He further stated the Villages of Deerfield and Mundelein recently amended their ordinances to prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and noted the Village of Vernon Hills and Lake County are considering the same actions.

In a response to a question from Trustee Grenier, Police Chief Belmonte stated the e-cigarette bans are consistent with the existing smoking regulations as e-cigarette use in workplaces and public places is a significant public health concern.

Village Attorney Peter Friedman added that currently there are no legal challenges in the State of Illinois with respect to e-cigarette regulations.

Trustee Dewart inquired if the City of Highland Park and the Village of Deerfield were looking at any other concerns regarding this matter. Police Chief Belmonte stated it would be easier for law enforcement to use the existing smoking ordinance. A discussion ensued regarding the sale of e-cigarettes.

Police Chief Belmonte stated a valid State license is required to purchase regular cigarettes but it is currently not a requirement for the purchase of e-cigarettes.

Trustee Christensen asked if there have been any issues encountered at the High School. President O'Hara stated there have been no reported incidents as of this date.

Following a discussion regarding e-cigarette usage, Trustee Grenier expressed a concern regarding the type of message this manner might send to minors should the Village chose to not regulate e-cigarettes and similar products.

It was the consensus of the COW to direct Staff and Legal Counsel to prepare a draft ordinance regulating the use of e-cigarettes.

A Discussion Regarding the (i) Construction, Renovation, and Preservation of Residences and (ii) Historic Preservation, Bulk Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, and Design Review

Village Administrator Irvin reported as a result of the recent demolition petitions for the properties located at 400 E. Center Avenue and 925 N. Sheridan Road the Village Board expressed a desire to evaluate the following:

- If the Village's historic preservation regulations are truly achieving the purpose of promoting historic and architectural preservation in the Village;
- If the Village's bulk and massing regulations are effectively managing the massing of new single-family homes;
- If the Village's subdivision regulations are protecting the character of Lake Bluff; and
- If there is a desire to implement architectural review requirements for new single-family homes.

President O'Hara stated that, given the recent historic preservation petitions, consideration should be given to opening up community dialogue regarding these complex issues.

President O'Hara stated there are several parcels within the Village that could be subdivided and dramatically change the streetscape and community character. Village Administrator Irvin provided information regarding the City of Highland Park's lakefront overlay solution to this subdivision issue.

Trustee Christensen commented that he and his neighbors along E. Witchwood Lane were so concerned with the possibility of a changing streetscape and character due to this very issue that almost 100% of them agreed to voluntarily rezone their properties to prevent future subdivision. He also acknowledged the economic hardship associated with this issue. A discussion ensued regarding restricting future subdivisions and issues associated with that possible action.

In response to a question from Trustee Rener, Building Codes Supervisor Michael Croak stated the City of Highland Park had limited further subdivisions in their lakefront zoning district by adapting an overlay district that changed lot area requirements for new subdivisions from 20,000 sq. ft. to 40,000 sq. ft. A discussion regarding single-family design ensued.

Trustee Grenier expressed his preference, should single-family design review move forward, to establish single-family home design standards that would define the Lake Bluff's objectives regarding future the mixing of lots sizes and maintain the character of Lake Bluff.

Trustee Dewart recommended a workshop be conducted by the Village's Advisory Committees and review the recommendations from each respective committee.

Trustee Rener suggested that the Village may be able to achieve certain goals if the regulations could be combined in terms of incentives and penalties.

Trustee Meyer asked that impervious surfaces be considered and how it may impact the Village as it get denser.

Trustee Grenier expressed a concern regarding downtown zoning use regulations and how they might too be controlled or tightened to ensure that small boutiques rather than large national tenants be the norm in the CBD.

Village Attorney Peter Friedman stated the State does authorize municipalities to conduct design reviews. He also noted the Village does have existing similar and dissimilar review regulations.

It was the consensus of the COW to refer the review and evaluation of the Village's: preservation regulations to the HPC, a subdivision and bulk review to the Joint Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, and residential design review to the Architectural Board of Review.

Adjournment

As no further business came before the COW, Trustee Dewart moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Trustee Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator