

APPROVED MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Antioch Senior Center: 817 Holbek, Antioch, IL 60002
Virtual Meeting – Call In (312)626-6799 Access Code: 592-598-564
May 26, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gartner called the May 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:07 pm in the Antioch Senior Center: 817 Holbek, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Pierce, Macek, Pedersen, Bluthardt, Burman and Dominiak. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Keim and Clerk Romine.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Approval of the March 24, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented

Trustee Dominiak moved, seconded by Trustee Pedersen, to approve the March 24, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Pierce, Macek, Pedersen, Bluthardt, Burman and Dominiak.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VI. Acknowledgements

Mayor Gartner recognized Betty Ann Ralston for her 15 years of service on the Planning and Zoning Board. Betty Ann was originally appointed to PZB by Mayor Dorothy Larson in 2006, and later became Chair of the Board in 2016.

Mayor Gartner congratulated Athan Kaliakmanis on being named the Gatorade Illinois Football Player of the Year. Athan is now a finalist for the National title.

VII. Regular Business

1. Antioch Community Library 100th Anniversary Downtown Displays – Ms. Becky Jacobsen, head of marketing and communications for the Antioch Library, discussed the concept for downtown displays, the history of the library, and its various locations throughout town. The Library would like to install a little free library somewhere in the downtown or one of the parks. Maintenance would be taken care of by the library, and is a give-and-take program.

She presented a storywalk idea as a part of the summer reading program and the possibility to include some local authors and artists. Ms. Jacobsen discussed the possibility of a storywalk along a biking/hiking trail as well. She suggested it could be an eagle scout project. Finally, she presented the idea to do a series of historical snapshot videos as well as an idea similar to the PBS red chair program.

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Trustee Pierce thinks this is an exciting idea as we move forward. He recommended allowing schools and other agencies to place decorative paneling on the property at the corner of Main and Orchard.

Trustee Macek asked who would be responsible for repair and maintenance of the displays on the hiking/biking trails. Ms. Jacobsen replied that the alleyway displays would be replaced if damaged.

Trustee Pedersen said she is excited about this program.

Trustee Bluthardt asked if the Village has any authority or rights to place signs on walkways. Director Garrigan said staff would work with the building owners to allow the library to place art. Trustee Bluthardt expressed about someone disliking the story that is placed and/or becomes offended. Ms. Jacobsen said that they will chose a variety of stories.

Trustee Burman is very excited and thinks anytime we provide opportunities for children with reading is good. She also thinks it's something a lot of families will enjoy doing.

Trustee Dominiak agreed and loves the creativity and collaboration for the project and hopes it helps to generate foot traffic in the downtown and Village.

Ms. Jacobsen added that they are hoping to bring a welcome change to the downtown community. She hopes the little free library would be at the northeast corner at the old State Bank of the Lakes, or one of the other historical library locations, and added that it could be moved if the business owner wished. The storywalks would involve choosing the story and village board approval of those stories.

2. Façade grant request for 896 Main Street – Director Garrigan discussed the request from the property owner for a façade grant at the former JJ Blinkers building located at 896 Main Street. The program provides money for business owners to restore their buildings to a more historic appearance. The applicant was required to remove the original windows due to their condition, and their request includes a proposal to repaint the building. They have already removed the canopies, and intend to remove some electrical components. Staff has requested that if the applicant must replace the windows, they replace with wood so the metal doesn't show, and to incorporate white with black trim. Staff recommends painting a neutral color, and does not recommend the building be painted black.

Trustee Pedersen is in favor of this if the property owner goes along with the six points outlined by staff in their memo.

Director Garrigan said these programs are not typically retroactive, and applicants cannot proceed with work until approved, but in this case the applicant is asking for relief to allow them to proceed with some installation and construction before it may be approved by the Village Board in June.

Mr. Andy Alijoski, applicant and business owner, said he supports the library request for storywalks, and they have his permission to use their property for the library project. He would love to restore the brick, but it's been painted over numerous times and painting is not possible. He further discussed the doors and trim, and said the building across the street has the same concept of the red flowers across the steel beam.

Trustee Pierce believes the white is too bright and would like to neutralize it somehow.

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Trustee Macek commended Mr. Alijoski on his previous work.

Trustee Pedersen asked the applicant if he was going to comply with the six points. Mr. Alijoski discussed the left side window, and explained that they must do aluminum casing, but added that there is trim around the aluminum.

Trustee Bluthardt asked about the remaining parts of the building. Mr. Alijoski said they are starting from the front and he wants to renovate the rest of the building before she moves in August or September.

Trustee Burman said she is excited about the project.

Trustee Dominiak asked if he was aware of the six points outlined in staff's memo, particularly that the aluminum casing would be enclosed and covered by wood trim. Mr. Alijoski said that is correct, and then stated that you can't cover the aluminum with wood. Director Garrigan said the intent of staff is to not be able to see aluminum from Main Street. Mr. Alijoski said it was preserved on three sides, and you won't be able to see it. Director Garrigan said he will work with applicant to make sure it's consistent with staff recommendations. Trustee Dominiak discussed the paint color and suggested consulting with Ainsley Wonderling about the historical preservation. Trustee Dominiak is hesitant to approve a reimbursement before the façade is improved.

Trustee Pierce discussed the relief on the timing, and asked if the board would ratify it at the next meeting. Attorney Vasselli said you could allow him to move forward and then ratify at the next meeting. Trustee Dominiak said in order to ratify at the next meeting, he would have to comply with all staff recommendations. Attorney Vasselli said staff can come back with a written report that the petitioner has complied with all conditions before payment or reimbursement is made.

All trustees agreed to allow the applicant to move forward with improvements granting a relief to the time requirement.

3. Park Board Recommendation regarding Centennial Park – Park Board Member Gina Wolf read aloud a letter from the Park Board regarding the condition of Centennial Park. The park is almost 30 years old, is aging, and was not ADA compliant when built. The Park Board has expressed concern with the integrity of the park. The Park Board would like to customize the park to meet the community needs, and follow their mission to continue to improve the parks for all to enjoy. They would like playgrounds to have ramps, smooth surfaces, and wild flower beds. The Park Board is hoping to open up to local businesses and corporations to sponsor some or all of the park. At this point, they are asking the Village Board to consider approving the concept.

Administrator Keim said Northbridge Church has expressed interest to champion an effort at Centennial Park, and help with fundraising and coordinating efforts to define the costs of the project as a part of their Sharefest initiative. He talked about a project kick-off, and said the ambitious project will take a lot of work and time.

Trustee Pierce discussed an all-inclusive project in another community and is glad to hear the Park Board is starting the process. He believes we can do so much more and incorporate some of the features from the park.

Trustee Macek commented on the lack of a park at Heron Harbor and no access to Pedersen Park.

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Trustee Pedersen is very happy to hear about this project, and believes our parks need a lot of work, particularly for special needs children. There are ADA parks in Lake County that are beautiful.

Trustee Bluthardt agreed it's a great idea and wants to look forward at improving existing parks and adding new parks.

Trustee Burman thinks this is a wonderful idea and thinks it's great that we are able to involve all children.

Trustee Dominiak thinks this is a terrific idea and is behind it 200%, and congratulated Mary Quilty on her recent appointment. She suggested looking at a long-term plan for all of our parks.

Ms. Wolf said this will be a lengthy process, and could be up to a 2-year project. She discussed Harmony's playground tailored to kids with all disabilities.

Park Board Chairman Jim Weber is excited to move forward and hopes to get sponsorships, fundraising and grants.

4. Fraternal Order of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Memorandum of Agreement –

Finance Director Joy McCarthy discussed the proposal from the FOP to amend the current contract VEBA requirement. She explained the VEBA program, and how it came about, stating that there are 2 ways to contribute to the plan. The union is asking for the 50% anniversary contribution to be status quo, but wanted to change the 34 hours. Many new officers are not benefitting from the plan because they do not accrue that much time. Patrol would like to contribute 2% of their base pay. Staff will be bringing the MOA to the Village board for approval.

Trustee Pierce asked about the cost. Director McCarthy said it depends on the pay and the number of hours, but she believes the costs will be comparable to what's currently happening.

5. All Together Presentation – Mayor Gartner suggested the All Together consultants be present today, but they are traveling so they made a short video presentation of their proposal. The full presentation will be posted on the website for the public to view. Their presentation addressed strengths and weaknesses, current market position, messaging and audiences, brand direction and marketing priorities. Mayor Gartner asked the Board to contact staff with any comments they have related to marketing.

6. Annual Meeting Schedule Amendment – Mayor Gartner asked to amend the meeting schedule to move both meetings to Wednesday nights, and would like to change the structure of the meeting, and have two regular board meetings each month. He proposed a Committee of the Whole meeting begin at 6:30 immediately followed by a regular Village Board Meeting. The proposed meeting dates would be the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Trustee Pierce agrees with having 2 meetings per month, but said historically the village has had meetings on Monday nights, and doesn't agree with changing the meetings to Wednesdays. He is not supportive of Wednesday meetings.

Trustee Macek said there will be more time to ask staff questions if packets are provided the week prior. He thinks with the prior mayor questions could have been answered beforehand or are in the packet, and he asked Mayor Gartner to throw his gavel down to trustees asking questions that could have been answered in advance or are included in the packet.

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Trustees Pedersen, Bluthardt, Burman and Dominiak are okay with the proposed schedule.

Trustee Dominiak asked if the items discussed at the Committee of the Whole would be voted on the same night. Mayor Gartner stated items on the Committee of the Whole would be voted on 2 weeks later at the Village Board meeting. Trustee Dominiak said she is okay with Wednesday, but is concerned with a 6:30 start time.

7. Ordinance Repealing Section 1-5-12 regarding legislative counsel – Attorney Vasselli provided an overview of the ordinance, and it is his understanding that there has not been a legislative counsel appointed for an extended period of time. He brought this idea forward to be discussed because it hasn't been used in some time, is an extensive cost, and he is happy to serve each of the trustees in their capacity.

Trustee Pierce does not recall ever hiring a legislative counsel, and understands the purpose of the ordinance, but knows it could be re-established if necessary.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee Dominiak, to enter executive session at 8:54 for property acquisition, with no action to be taken afterwards. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Pierce, Macek, Pedersen, Bluthardt, Burman and Dominiak.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Pierce moved, seconded by Trustee Dominiak, to exit executive session 9:33 pm with no action taken. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Pierce, Macek, Pedersen, Dominiak and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Poulos.

THE MOTION CARRIED

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk