

APPROVED MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Antioch Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002
Call In (312)626-6799 Access Code: 592-598-564
November 10, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gartner called the November 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 874 Main Street, 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, Burman and Dominiak. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Keim and Clerk Romine. Absent: Trustee Bluthardt.

**indicates attendance via Zoom*

IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

No approval is needed for remote participation pursuant to the Governor's order.

V. Approval of the October 27, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented

Trustee Dominiak moved, seconded by Trustee Pedersen, to approve the October 27, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

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

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Bluthardt.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VI. Mayoral Report

Acknowledgements – Veteran's Day November 11, School Board Members Day November 15, Wayne Soder. Mayor Gartner noted the above and mentioned that Wayne Soder will be present at a future board meeting for recognition. He thanked the Veterans for their service.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

There were no citizens wishing to address the board at this time.

VII. Regular Business

1. Request for a facility usage agreement with the Antioch Lions Club – Administrator Keim reviewed the request from the Lion's Club for use of the Standard Oil block building near the skate park owned by the Village. The building is currently being used by the Lion's club for storage for their various events.

Mr. Kevin Fielder, President of the Lions Club, discussed the purpose of the organization, and the vision the club has for Williams Park in the long-term. He commented that they are aware of the definite need for improvements at Williams Park, including roof and gutter repair and replacement of the older pavilion. He commented that they would like to share use of the Standard Oil building with the Village, but would also like to make improvements to the building. The Lion's Club is prepared to make a financial investment into Williams Park, beginning with the Standard Oil Building. Future repairs and beautification of the existing pavilion at Williams Park are also planned.

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The Mayor and Trustees thanked the Lions Club for making the improvements and think it's a great project to move forward with. This item will be placed on a future village board agenda for consideration.

2. Tobacco license request from Sky High Vape – Clerk Romine reviewed the request for a tobacco license from Mr. Karmash at two potential locations. The first location is within 500' of an existing tobacco retailer, and the second location is in the plaza across from the high school.

Trustee Pierce said he has no interest in this, and thinks it's too close to the BP and too close to the high school. He said he doesn't support this request. Trustee Macek agrees with the concerns related to the business location, and believes vaping is marketed towards teens and disagrees with the name. Trustee Pedersen commented on the location near the high school and also the proximity to Huntington Learning Center. Trustee Burman said due to the locations, she does not support this business. Trustee Dominiak does not support this business.

Mr. Karmash commented that the name could be changed and responded that he has kids and would not sell to minors.

There was no support from the Village Board to consider this at a future meeting for a vote.

3. Lakota Update on Property at the corner of Main and Depot – Administrator Keim discussed the property in question and presented a rendering of a concept for the property. He introduced Mr. Kevin Clark of the Lakota Group who presented what has been done so far for the project, and future plans.

Mr. Clark discussed the engagement process, and various community input processes used during the research of the project. He reviewed the preferred concept plan which includes a pavilion, flexible space, creek walk, landscaping, bridge element, kiosk feature, walking path, overlook, splash pad/water feature and playground. He discussed making Depot a one-way street to allow for diagonal parking. He also discussed a crosswalk path that links to the bandshell area and connects to downtown. He reviewed some design elements that may be possible such as paving, seating area, and also presented potential splash pad features.

Mayor Gartner asked the board if they agree with the overall concept, and said next steps will include design and engineering.

Trustee Pierce said he has envisioned this area to look like the proposed concept, but added a couple of comments. He recommended a raised area with a fire in the middle that could help light it up at night. He would also like to see the splash pad enlarged and flooded in the winter to use as a skating rink. He asked to have the playground be handicapped accessible.

Mayor Gartner commented that engineering of the project will ensure that the creek is always full.

Trustee Macek said there's free money out there and Antioch does a poor job of electric vehicle planning. He opined that engineers don't plan for electric vehicle parking and asked about the long term cost to keep these areas looking new. He said for this park to be feasible we should look to the future to have charging stations for vehicles.

Trustee Pedersen is thrilled with this rendering and thinks this is something the entire community has been wishing of for years. She agrees with enlarging the splash pad and having a multi-use area for multiple seasons. She commented on McHenry's Riverwalk and their beautiful cast iron art pieces in their creek, and likes the idea to light up the creek with art. She added overhead lighting aside from street lights would be nice also.

Trustee Burman loves the concept, and asked how big the playground area is. Administrator Keim responded that it is a medium sized playground, and concepts and features can be adjusted when it goes to

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the design phase. He added that this is still a concept to see if the board agrees with the proposed elements, and the Board will have another opportunity to comment throughout the process.

Trustee Dominiak likes the concept, and commented on the location of the playground. She asked to keep in mind the safety and screening for the children. She discussed the stone on both sides of the creek, and likes the idea of having something different on another side. She asked to see the creek more natural looking than a straight line, and would like to see more plantings along the creek.

Mayor Gartner said that he would like to see more hardscape in some areas, specifically east of the pavilion. He would also like to see a European-style seating area and move the concessions to that area, as well as electricity and water to those locations. Mayor Gartner mentioned Mariano Park for design concepts, and agreed that unique lighting that can change with the seasons and events should be incorporated into the final plans. He added that the Village has approximately \$5 million dedicated toward his project from state and federal funds with additional grants being sought.

Trustee Pedersen likes the one-way street on Depot since it creates additional parking.

Trustee Burman agreed with making sure the park is ADA compliant.

4. 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule – Mayor Gartner asked if there were any comments or concerns about the meeting schedule as presented. He commented that he has a conflict with the March meeting date, and expressed concern with the one meeting in November and December. Trustee Dominiak recommended a meeting on November 30 so there's a shorter time period. November 30 will be added as a second meeting date in November, and this item will be placed on the next Village Board agenda for consideration.

5. HR Coordinator Position – Administrator Keim discussed the creation of the part-time position for an HR employee. He said demands have gone up tremendously, and a part-time position could help alleviate the burden on other staff. He commented that it is not a budgeted position, however, personnel costs are currently down.

Trustee Pierce expressed concern with the position being part-time and wants to make sure whatever work schedule is done, it's sufficient to fill the needs of the position. He also recommended sharing an HR position with other communities. Trustees agreed with the need for the position, and that it should be full-time.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk