

**APPROVED MINUTES - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK
HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2012 AT 6:30 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF OAK PARK VILLAGE HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Pope called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Trustees Brewer, Hedges, Johnson, Lueck, Salzman and Tucker; President Pope
ABSENT: None

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Pioneering Healthy Communities Update

Elizabeth Lippitt of the Infant Welfare Children's Clinic spoke about a grant awarded to the West Cook YMCA from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as one of the 16 Pioneering Healthy Communities in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. The Oak Park initiative is called Wild About Wellness. West Suburban Hospital C.E.O Jack Cleary gave statistics on childhood and adult obesity, noting the health and financial consequences.

Ms. Lippitt spoke about the Community Healthy Living Index (CHLI) assessment conducted to acquire baseline data regarding physical activity and healthy eating. This data was used to develop a community action plan with six major goals; increasing availability of fresh fruit and vegetables for children, increasing community activities that promote healthy eating, increasing the capacity of families to provide healthy food to children, increasing the number of youths walking and biking to school, increasing after-school programs that align with new physical education standards and decreasing car usage for trips within a mile from one's home. She discussed steps being taken to achieve these goals.

Ms. Lippitt answered questions from the Board regarding healthy cooking and eating habits and ways to increase physical activity. West Cook YMCA C.E.O. Jan Pate spoke about the initiative and also answered questions. President Pope identified the individuals serving on the core team and noted that those who would like to get involved or wanted further information may contact them.

B. Presentation by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Housing Programs Manager Tammie Grossman stated that this project is part of the West Cook County Housing Collaborative (WCCHC) initiative. She added that the Collaborative, comprised of Oak Park, Berwyn, Maywood and Forest Park, had applied to CMAP to provide technical assistance in preparing the Homes for a Changing Region Report, which outlines future housing supply and demand. The presentation includes an overall sub-regional plan for all five communities as well as the Oak Park specific recommendations.

Allison Mild of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus gave a brief history of the project.

Andrew Williams Clark of CMAP gave the presentation. Statistics included foreclosure filings, unemployment rates and median income, as well as affordability of rental and owner occupied housing and housing plus transportation costs. Mr. Williams Clark discussed recommendations agreed to by the Chief Elected Officer and WCCHC Steering Committee member of each community. These included creating a planning strategy to develop integrated transportation and land use decisions that strengthen transit oriented development, developing a marketing strategy to encourage new investment and attract new residents and preserving the current housing stock by supporting current homeowners and creating economic stability as well as responding to the foreclosure crisis. Also recommended was increasing housing options for Oak Park's workforce and seniors through transit oriented development. Statistics regarding where Oak Park residents work and where Oak Park's workforce live were discussed.

Mr. Williams Clark provided a current housing analysis in addition to projecting future housing needs. Also recommended was updating Oak Park's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. There was discussion regarding consideration of form-based codes in the Zoning Ordinance, which would allow more flexibility, and Mr. Williams Clark answered questions from the Board

1. It was moved and seconded to **Accept the Homes for a Changing Region Report for the Village of Oak Park Prepared by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.**

The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: Trustees Brewer, Hedges, Johnson, Lueck, Salzman and Tucker; President Pope

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion was approved.

C. Madison Street Corridor Overview

1. **Overview of Madison TIF**

CFO Craig Lesner explained the history of the Madison Street TIF and stated that approximately \$7.6 million will be available for funding this project. Trustee Lueck commented that before issuing debt as an alternate source of funding, the current debt load and recommended capacity needed to be looked at. Trustee Johnson agreed, adding that a broader look is required to prioritize where dollars are to be applied.

2. Overview of Recruitment and Retention Efforts

Business Services Manager Loretta Daly stated that the Village and the Oak Park Development Corporation have been meeting weekly to move forward with the work plans put forward to the Board. A clearer joint reporting structure may be available for the Board to review by month's end. Ms. Daly gave a presentation reviewing the current market mix on Madison Street. She also discussed retention strategies consisting of business support, communication and marketing strategies, and recruitment strategies such as developing and implementing specific methods for national and local recruitment targets, professional and commercial targets and developers. Ms. Daly answered questions from the Board, adding that these new strategies are currently under development; some significant results and strategies for the Board to review should be available by the end of the second quarter.

3. Overview of Key Concepts in Madison Street Plan

Village Planner Craig Failor discussed the Madison Street Corridor, noting that it has become more residential over the years. He stated that the Madison Street Plan recommends residential, commercial and pedestrian improvements, adding that the Streetscape Plan follows those recommendations. The Steering Committee's plan will show how the Madison Street Plan can be enhanced by addressing the complete streets concept as well as the introduction of lane reductions that would slow down traffic, making it safer for pedestrians to cross the street.

4. Recommendations of the Madison Street Streetscape Committee**a. Introduction of Madison Street Streetscape Committee**

Mr. Failor identified the Steering Committee, consisting of the Madison Street Coalition members and various staff.

b. Overview of Streetscape Scenarios & Answer Questions from Prior Meeting by Altamanu

Josephine Bellata of the consulting group Altamanu gave a background of her company and identified team members. She spoke about moving from an auto-oriented street to a more mixed use concept. She noted that 25 TO 30% of cars going through the corridor use it as a bypass from Austin to Harlem and beyond.

Ms. Bellata gave a presentation, noting comments from residents and business owners, and spoke about the history of the project. The presentation included comparison charts, maps of traffic patterns and intersections as well as diagrams of proposed street narrowing at various locations. By narrowing the street, vehicle speed will be reduced, resulting in fewer collisions and injuries and greater ease in crossing the street. Proposed changes would increase pedestrian and bicycle use and improve the retail environment.

She spoke about bike lanes; the preferred concept by the Committee was to place them between the parkway and the parking lane, installing a raised curb so cars cannot park there. One lane of traffic in each direction would be removed, a turn lane would be added in the middle of the street and the difference would be split into bike lanes on each side.

John MacManus of Altamanu discussed case studies of lane reduction projects on streets comparable to Madison, noting statistics in speed and traffic collision reductions. He described Madison in its current capacity as a "heavy street", with synchronized lights and a high volume of traffic. He noted that drivers and pedestrians are not particularly aware of their surroundings so interaction drops, adding that streets with speed limits of 30 mph or higher are detrimental to retail.

Mr. MacManus referred to the presentation of the Valencia Street Bike Lane Merchant Survey and noted statistics. There was a discussion regarding bike lanes.

Michael Werthmann of the traffic and transportation planning firm KLOA, stated that he examined the traffic impacts resulting from the proposed road diet. He gave a description of Madison Street as it currently exists and discussed speed and accident data and traffic volume statistics during various times of the day. Mr. Werthmann noted that the proposed road diet will result in traffic flowing at slower speeds but more uniformly; he answered questions from the Board regarding this change. He indicated that operating conditions will be similar to, if not better than conditions along Roosevelt Road.

Mark de la Vergne of Schwartz Engineering identified himself as the lead consultant of the pedestrian plan and bike plan of the project. He indicated that an initiative is under way to identify 100 miles of bicycle tracks within the City of Chicago. As part of this project, Chicago is reaching out to neighboring municipalities to create bike lane connections and increase the bike corridor. This plan will be available for comment by June of 2012. Mr. de la Vergne spoke about pedestrian safety and other methods of speed reduction, such as speed humps and speed tables.

Bryan Luke of Christopher Burke Engineering discussed parking, noting that there are currently 707 parking spaces on Madison Street. Moving forward with this project would reduce spaces by approximately 10%. Discussion of additional parking alternatives followed, should the demand increase with redevelopment.

Mr. Luke referred to the portion of the presentation regarding costs, which included lane reduction and streetscape improvements, as well as the costs of lane reduction only and streetscape only. Comparison of construction costs of South Marion Street, Madison Street and Roosevelt Road were discussed. Total cost is estimated at \$17.4 million for the entire corridor as the plan is presented. The Village's bike lane grant of \$570,000 brings the cost to just under \$17 million

Dennis Marani, representing Madison Street Business Association. Mr. Marani stated that the Madison Street Coalition and the Madison Street Business Association fully support this project and asked the Board to give it serious consideration.

5. Discussion & Next Steps

President Pope stated that questions from the Board should be directed to Ms. Pavlicek, Ms. Daly and Mr. Failor. A follow-up conversation would take place in May or June.

VII. ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:57P.M. Monday, April 2, 2012.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

By: MaryAnn Schoenneman
Interim Deputy Village Clerk

Teresa Powell, Village Clerk