



VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

*I. Call to Order:* The Regular Meeting of the Village of Riverside Board of Trustees was held via Zoom on Thursday, March 18, 2021, immediately following the Special Joint Zoom Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Preservation Commission, Landscape Advisory Commission and Parks & Recreation Board. President Sells called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

*II. Roll Call:*

Present:	President Sells Trustee Evans Trustee Gallegos Trustee Hannon Trustee Jisa Trustee Pollock
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Absent: Trustee Collins

Also Present: Village Manager Frances  
Village Attorney Marris  
Village Clerk Haley

Also in attendance: Finance Director Johns, Parks & Recreation Director Malchiodi, Police Chief Weitzel, Public Works Director Tabb, Village Forester Collins, Village Engineer Galey and members of the public.

*III. Pledge of Allegiance:* The Board did not recite the Pledge because it has proved difficult to do so over Zoom.

President Sells noted that the Regular Meeting is starting late because the Special Meeting immediately preceding the Regular Meeting ran longer than expected.

*IV. Presentations and Public Comment*

A. Update on Criminal Justice Reform Legislation by Chief Weitzel  
Chief Weitzel stated that Public Act 101-0652, known as the Safety, Accountability,

Fairness and Equity Today (SAFET) Act is the single biggest piece of police reform legislation he has seen during his 37 years of policing. Weitzel believes the Act, which is 700 pages long, will have significant financial implications for municipalities because it includes numerous unfunded mandates. The State's police academies have asked to suspend operations for 6 months in order to allow for time to change their curriculum to comply with the legislation. Weitzel noted that training for new officers is already behind a year due to COVID-19 and if the academies close for six months, this will further delay the hiring of new police officers. No decision has been made on this yet, possible closures are still being discussed.

Chief Weitzel noted that 11 components of the legislation will go into effect July 1, 2021, including a possible loss of qualified immunity for police departments. This will impact insurance premiums and litigation. Weitzel hopes the task force set up to further investigate the impacts of eliminating qualified immunity will find that departments should still receive some form of qualified immunity. He noted that officers who act outside the scope of their authority or in a manner not in compliance with department policies and procedures can be held accountable for their actions. Qualified immunity does not prevent officers from being held civilly responsible for their actions. Chief Weitzel stated that training, even though some of it will be internet based, will be expensive because officers participating in training will not be able to respond to calls for service. Additional officers will need to provide coverage for those who are completing the mandatory training. The legislation also eliminates some administrative tow fees and fines. The required body cameras will be expensive and Weitzel estimates that the department will need to spend between \$80,000 - \$200,000 on equipment which includes backup cameras, batteries, servers and software for redacting videos. He recommended that the department purchase the same products as neighboring communities to facilitate cost savings and sharing of equipment. He recommended that the Trustees read the Illinois Municipal League's Review of the legislation for details.

Village Attorney Marrs noted that due to the ongoing public health emergency, and consistent with the Governor's most recent emergency declaration, various Executive Orders entered by the Governor, and the recent amendments made to the Open Meetings Act in Public Act 101-640, this meeting will be conducted electronically. Public comments were welcome on any topic when received by email or in writing by the Village Clerk prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Public comments may also be made live during the meeting by persons participating via Zoom. Attorney Marrs asked that anyone having trouble hearing the meeting or experiencing technical difficulties please contact the host or raise their hand to get assistance.

B. Public Comment – None.

**V. *Reports of Village Officers***

A. Village President's Report

1. Groveland Levy Design Update

President Sells said that he would like to begin a general public dialogue about the next steps of the Groveland Berm project. Doug Gotham, a landscape architect with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, has created some designs for the proposed floodwall. He noted that the images that will be presented are computer generated images and they are just a starting point. To create the images, Gotham found images of other walls designed by Olmsted and incorporated details from those designs into the proposed Groveland Berm. Some examples cited include: Franklin Park in Boston, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, and The Rockery in Easton, Massachusetts. President Sells also addressed the need for a Section 106 Review. Since the Board's last discussion, documentation of the State Historic Preservation Office's Section 106 Review has been located. The previous review was done in 2015, and at that time, the SHPO found that the Groveland project would not have a detrimental impact on any historic resources. That approval letter, which was valid for a two year period, is included in the agenda packet. Next month, the Preservation and Landscape Advisory Commissions will have an opportunity to review the designs and provide feedback and the Village Board will review and discuss the project at both meetings in April. At the April 15 meeting, the Board may even be able to select a preferred design to forward to the SHPO for an updated Section 106 Review. President Sells noted that the Board will not be discussing the designs this evening. He is just informing the public of the progress that has been made on this project.

B. Village Manager's Report – No report.

*VI. Approval of Consent Agenda*

President Sells read the Consent Agenda aloud.

- A. Approve Voucher List of Bills March 18, 2021
  - B. Approve Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes March 4, 2021
  - C. Review and file Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes January 14 and February 4, 2021
  - D. Review and file Riverside TV Commission Meeting Minutes February 8, 2021
  - E. Review and file Community Development, Finance, Fire, Police and Public Works Departments February Reports
  - F. A Resolution to Approve an Amendment to the Village of Riverside Flexible Benefit Plan pursuant to the CARES Act
  - G. A Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to waive competitive bidding and execute a sales agreement with Currie Motors Commercial Center Ford for a total amount not to exceed \$30,570 for the purchase of one 2021 Police Utility Vehicle
- President Sells asked if any of the Trustees needed to remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Hearing no requests, he called for a motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda.

**Trustee Gallegos made a motion to approve. Trustee Pollock seconded the motion.**

**AYES:** Trustees Evans, Gallegos, Hannon, Jisa and Pollock.

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion passed.**

*VII. Reports of Departments, Commissions and Trustee Liaisons* – None.

*VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions* – None.

*IX. Considerations*

A. Discussion of Final Design Elements of Swan Pond and Path

Public Works Director Tabb provided a recap of the Board’s prior discussions on this project including the decision to use exposed aggregate, include shoreline stabilization elements and a river access point. Director Tabb outlined the potential structural difficulties and added expenses associated with dyed concrete. In consideration of these concerns, Staff recommends a more naturalistic appearance without dyed concrete.

President Sells thanked Director Tabb for his recap and summarized the commission recommendations made during the Special Meeting.

The Preservation Commission feels strongly that the design for the river access point should be less uniform in appearance and more naturalistic. The Commission would also like to investigate the possibility of replacing the duck bill valve with an inline valve which would be less obtrusive. They also noted that the bid documents should be modified so there is no confusion regarding the need to preserve and protect the existing WPA wall. The Commission also supports possibly narrowing the path from 10 feet to 8 feet.

The Landscape Advisory Commission was concerned about look of the exposed aggregate and trees in the vicinity of the project. The Commission would also like to see the path narrow from 10 feet to 8 feet near Millbridge Road. Additionally, should signage be needed, they recommend a uniform rather than ad hoc approach.

The Parks & Recreation Board expressed concern regarding ADA compliance and the potential for the two additional shoreline stabilization areas, other than the proposed river access point, to be used in a similar manner, and how that use might have a negative impact on plantings in those areas.

President Sells then opened the discussion to the Trustees.

Trustee Gallegos spoke in favor of maintaining a 10 foot wide path to facilitate access for emergency vehicles. Trustee Evans concurred.

Trustee Hannon also expressed a preference for a 10 foot path but asked if 8 feet

would be adequate. Director Tabb stated that 8 feet would accommodate a vehicle, but 10 feet is preferable.

**Consensus:** Keep the design for the path 10 feet wide.

With regard to the appearance of the path, everyone on the Board supports a naturalistic appearance.

President Sells then asked for input regarding the pipe and valve near the proposed river access point.

Trustee Evans noted that the proximity of the valve to the river access point is not great and the valve is unsightly. She supports finding a way to move or disguise it. Director Tabb stated that the valve could possibly be moved closer to shore and closer to the water line, but there is only so much that can be done without impacting the functionality of the valve.

Mr. Galey estimated the cost of an internal valve at \$5,000 - \$7,000 with similar maintenance requirements to the existing duck bill valve.

Trustee Pollock recommended that the bid documents include the option of installing an in line valve. He noted that this work could be deferred if the cost is too great.

Trustee Hannon expressed concern regarding expanding the project to include replacing the valve since the project is already over budget.

Director Tabb believes Staff would be able to install an internal valve in house at a later date.

**Consensus:** Include the valve modification in the bid documents.

There was also consensus that the WPA wall must be preserved, trees and newly planted grasses and forbs must be protected and uniform signage should be used.

President Sells then inquired about a sample pour of exposed aggregate and aggregate specifications. Trustee Pollock noted that the village sidewalk specifications are fairly specific and he is confident that there will be an engineer on site who will monitor the project to ensure compliance.

**Consensus:** If the cost is not prohibitive, do a sample pour of exposed aggregate before pouring the path.

Clerk Haley then read the comment received by email from resident Dale Yates who

does not support the Swan Pond project. Mr. Yates recommends deferring the project and prioritizing street, sewer and water line improvements. He expressed concern regarding the project's cost and the fact that the project is located in a flood plain.

Trustee Pollock and Manager Frances noted that the project is partially grant funded. He noted that Mr. Yates point regarding funding is well taken. The project would not be possible without grant funding.

President Sells reiterated that grants comprise a significant portion of the funding for this project and Staff has secured approximately \$14 million in grant funding during the last 8 years.

President Sells noted that it would not be possible to address the Parks & Recreation Board's concerns regarding ADA compliance this evening; however, he asked Chief Buckley to comment on any potential safety issues at the other two shoreline stabilization locations. Chief Buckley stated that normally, the water level is very low at these locations. People regularly wade into the river to fish and the water is knee deep. Most of the time, there will not be an issue. When the river is in flood, the area will not be accessible.

President Sells asked Director Tabb for input regarding breaks in the plantings at the other shoreline stabilization areas. Tabb favors taking a wait and see approach. He noted that any impact on the plantings will depend on the frequency with which those areas are used.

Trustee Evans expressed concern regarding having three river access points. She does not want what is intended to be a shoreline stabilization mechanism used to encourage ingress into the river.

**Consensus:** Do not modify proposed planting plan at this time.

There was consensus to concur with Staff's recommendation against dying the center line of the path be accepted.

Engineer Galey inquired about the width of entry point to river. Some of the commissioners had noted that typically, a "canoe launch" is a narrow path, but the current plan calls for a wider access point.

Trustee Jisa favored a more naturalistic limestone approach to connect the main path to the river access point.

**Consensus:** Stick with a 10 foot wide path of aggregate or limestone, depending on cost.

Mr. Galey then brought up the issue of ADA compliance. He stated that he is fairly certain that the running slope is greater than what is required for ADA compliance. Two possible ways to address this would be to modify the path to create a switchback or to install a handrail. The handrail would likely be less expensive. A discussion ensued regarding these two options. It was also noted that the southern access point to the path at Millbridge Road is already ADA compliant. Mr. Galey will investigate whether having one ADA compliant access point is sufficient or whether both entries to the path are required to be ADA compliant. The Board also discussed possible handrail materials and decided that a wood handrail would be more naturalistic in appearance and would be more harmonious with the environment.

**Consensus:** Mr. Galey will determine if the path must be ADA compliant at both access points. If a handrail must be included, wood is the preferred material.

A discussion subsequently ensued regarding the ability to match the new path to the existing exposed aggregate on Burling Road and it was noted that the existing sidewalk is several years old so it will not be possible to get a perfect match because that surface has aged.

#### B. Swim Club Sidewalk Update

Public Works Director Tabb provided a recap of the Board's prior discussions on this project. He noted that the expense of the sidewalk installation would be paid by the Swim Club; however, the Village will then assume responsibility for maintenance of the sidewalk. Staff has met with Swim Club representatives to discuss placement of the sidewalk and tree removals and replacements.

President Sells then summarized the feedback received from the Preservation and Landscape Advisory Commissions on the proposed project. He noted that both commissions expressed concern regarding the linear nature of the sidewalk and expressed support for a more meandering design if possible. If possible, the use of curbs should be avoided in favor of parkway grading.

Trustee Evans expressed support for the feedback received from the commissions. She would also like to see a more meandering design.

President Sells asked Mr. Galey to explain the need for the sidewalk curbs the commissioners are concerned about. Mr. Galey noted that IDOT began requiring the curbs about 10 years ago and many communities have subsequently installed them; however, they are not required for ADA compliance.

**Consensus:** Avoid using sidewalk curbs if possible.

It was noted that the linear design of the sidewalk is a result of the presence of both an AT&T box and a ComEd utility pole in the parkway. AT&T may be moving the box slightly or removing it; however, the cost associated with moving the ComEd pole is prohibitive. Mr. Marhoul stated that he will direct the Swim Club's architect to revisit the proposed sidewalk design and revise it to make it less linear and more curvilinear. Mr. Marhoul also noted that the proposed sidewalk design was also dictated by the presence of trees.

President Sells expressed support for a more curvilinear design.

Director Tabb called attention to the property line and noted that the design cannot be significantly modified because the sidewalk needs to be located on public property.

**Consensus:** Soften the line of the sidewalk as permitted.

President Sells then brought up the issue of the trees that would be impacted by the project. Mr. Marhoul stated that nine trees will be removed and nine trees will be replaced, although they may not all be planted in the parkway in front of the Swim Club side of Bloomingbank. Trees will be planted in locations deemed most appropriate by the Village Forester.

Mr. Marhoul confirmed that the Swim Club will pay for the sidewalk installation and he thanked Director Tabb for including this project in the village sidewalk bid for the coming year.

*X. New Business*

Trustee Gallegos made a request to fly the "Blue Line" flag during the month of May to commemorate Peace Officers Memorial Day. President Sells stated that the Board cannot vote on the request because it was not listed on the agenda. He also indicated that unless he hears support from the other trustees, he is not inclined to include this request on an upcoming agenda.

*XI. Adjournment*

With no other new business to discuss, President Sells stated that the Board had need for an Executive Session to discuss pending, probable or imminent litigation per (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)) and called for a motion and second to adjourn to Executive Session, not to reconvene.

**Trustee Evans made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gallegos seconded the motion.**

President Sells declared the Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Village Clerk Haley

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Date Approved

*XII. Executive Session*

- A. To Discuss pending, probable or imminent litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11))