

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF GRAYSLAKE HELD OCTOBER 2, 2018

The regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Grayslake was called to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the Grayslake Village Hall, Mayor Rhett Taylor presiding.

Roll Call: Trustees Vogel, Jarvis, Waldenstrom, Davies, Shores, Nicodemus - present. Village Clerk Lee – present.

Also present were various Village staff members.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS: None.

1. APPROVAL: MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Trustee Jarvis made a motion, seconded by Trustee Nicodemus, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 18, 2018. On voice vote – all “aye”. MOTION CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL: TREASURER’S REPORT/PAYMENT OF BILLS: OCTOBER 2, 2018

Trustee Shores made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vogel, to approve the Treasurer’s Report for October 2, 2018, and authorize payment of the bills as listed in the report. Roll call: Trustees Vogel, Jarvis, Waldenstrom, Davies, Shores, Nicodemus – all “aye”. MOTION CARRIED.

3. RECOGNITION: GEORGE A. RANNEY, JR.

The Board recognized George A. Ranney, Jr. for his decades of leadership, service and efforts towards the advancement of Grayslake. Attached are Mr. Ranney’s remarks, made a part of these minutes.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT: GRAYSLAKE ARTS ALLIANCE/VILLAGE OF GRAYSLAKE ART CONTEST

The Board announced Mary Haas as the winner of the “From Prairie to Village” public art competition.

5. WAIVER OF BIDS AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE: SNOW PLOWING CONTRACTS

Trustee Waldenstrom made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jarvis, to waive the formal bid process and authorize the execution of three-year contracts with Landscape Concepts, Inc., Acres Landscaping, McNeill Farms and James Martin Associates for street snow removal services. Roll call: Trustees Vogel, Jarvis, Waldenstrom, Davies, Shores, Nicodemus – all “aye”. MOTION CARRIED.

6. WAIVER OF BIDS AND AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE: ANNUAL SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT

Trustee Vogel made a motion, seconded by Trustee Shores, to waive the formal bid process and authorize the execution of a three-year contract with Geoscapes, Inc. for snow and ice control services on sidewalks adjacent to Village facilities or property. Roll call: Trustees Vogel, Jarvis, Waldenstrom, Davies, Shores, Nicodemus – all “aye”. MOTION CARRIED.

7. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE: EASEMENT AGREEMENT – COMMONWEALTH EDISON

Trustee Davies made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vogel, to authorize the execution of an easement agreement with Commonwealth Edison to allow roads, water/sewer and municipal utilities in the ComEd right-of-way north of Peterson Road. Roll call: Trustees Vogel, Jarvis, Waldenstrom, Davies, Shores, Nicodemus – all “aye”. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: The Trustees expressed appreciation, congratulated and thanked the Ranney family for their vision for impact on Grayslake. The Trustees wished good luck to Zoe Magnetta for the Ms. Veteran America competition and noted the success of the Grayslake Historical Society Cemetery Walk. The Trustees and reminded all to attend the Grayslake Heritage Foundation Toast to Art event at Village Hall on October 19th and the Exchange Club pancake breakfast at the Grayslake Fire Department on Hawley Street on October 21st.

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Taylor expressed his appreciation and congratulated the Ranney family and thanked the Grayslake Arts Alliance for their work with the “From Prairie to Village” public art competition. Mayor Taylor noted the capital improvement meeting is October 13th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Trustee Jarvis made a motion, seconded by Trustee Waldenstrom, to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote – all “aye”. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia E. Lee
Village Clerk

George Ranney, on receiving the Keys to
the Village of Grayslake, 10/2/2018

This is a wonderful honor for me. I grew up on a farm on Casey Road, and now I live on another farm a mile away on Casey Road in Grayslake that dates to 1860 . I have been coming to Grayslake since the 1950s, when I was a member of 4-H. It met across the railroad tracks from this Village Hall. In the summer I showed my cow, whose name was Daisy Mae, at the Lake County Fair at the old Fairgrounds at 45 and 120.

25 years later, as a lawyer, I assisted my father and Uncle Gaylord Donnelley in

litigation involving the developers of the huge Heartland project. We felt it would destroy the character of central Lake County. As part of settling the lawsuit, my uncle bought the land that is now Prairie Crossing. He asked Vicky and me to develop it. I remember climbing with my uncle to the second floor of the old Grayslake Village Hall – now the Historical Society. I wondered if he could make it. (I think he was about as old as I am now). We met with Grayslake's Mayor Schroeder and the young village manager, Mike Ellis, to work out the features of what would become a new species, a "conservation community." We named it Prairie Crossing for the two rail lines that crossed nearby – and for the native prairie that we wanted to reinstate.

We worked together with Mike and subsequent mayors to improve the USA Waste “dump.” It threatened to be so smelly that one county official publically predicted that it would keep Prairie Crossing from ever selling a single house. Thank God he was wrong!

Together with the Village we worked out many of the innovations for which Prairie Crossing became famous. These include the natural storm water system using wetlands, prairies and swales. We clustered the houses together to save open land, laid out trails open to the public and started an organic farm and a charter school. Later we worked with the Village to sell the land along 120 to the Lake Forest Hospital, now a regional amenity.

We also fought the adverse impacts of Route 53. It would have split Grayslake and Prairie Crossing in two with a high-speed six-lane highway, and damaged many of Lake County's wetlands and open lands. We reached received the commission's approval for many beneficial changes to the original plan.

Looking to the future, ongoing projects remain: Each is important to the Grayslake area, and each will require leadership from people in Grayslake. Let me mention four.

1. One is Route 53. Will it be built? If so, will it keep the environmental standards that the Blue-Ribbon Advisory Committee fought so hard for? We

appreciate that Grayslake is holding firm for the environmental principles today.

2. Transit-oriented development. We are now ten years beyond the disastrous downturn of 2008. We hope the time will soon come when the remaining parcels around the Prairie Crossing stations will be developed.

Curt Johansen, a developer from California, is here tonight. He is committed to transit-oriented development and conservation community design. He first visited us at Prairie Crossing ten years ago and knows it well. He hopes to incorporate ideas from Prairie Crossing into a program that includes housing, retail, and more -- south of 137.

3. The Liberty Prairie Reserve includes 3400 acres of open space, protected from development by law, between Independence Grove and the Prairie Crossing Farm. These protected acres should be expanded – for both recreation and agriculture . The Liberty Prairie Foundation hopes to lead the way with regenerative farming -- agriculture that not only provides healthy food but at the same time mitigates the negative effects of climate change.

4. Finally, the Landfill, now owned by Waste Management, will reach its limit for accepting trash in a few years. What will happen to it? Will it, as legally required by our contract with them, have environmental safeguards and trails from which hikers can view the county in all directions? Like Independence Grove,

which was created out of an old gravel pit, the Landfill is an industrial site appropriate for repurposing. It should become a treasured natural and recreational destination for people in Grayslake and beyond.

Thank you for this honor. I have tried to use the occasion to think ahead-- in the manner in which Grayslake and Prairie Crossing have worked together -- for over three decades.
