

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2010
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Village President Richard Hofeld called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. There were seven people in the audience and one member of the press in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Village President Hofeld led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Village Clerk Gayle Campbell recorded the Roll Call. Those responding were Trustees Glenn Tienstra, Tom Kataras, Barbara Dawkins, Joe Casella, Anne Colton, Ray Robertson, and Village President Richard Hofeld.

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF: Village President Hofeld introduced the present staff members: Village Manager Mark Franz, Village Attorney Christopher Cummings, Police Chief Larry Burnson, Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik, and Director of Public Works John Schaefer.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Trustee Dawkins, seconded by Trustee Colton to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, July 13, 2010. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Trustee Tienstra. Motion carried.***

CLAIMS LIST: Following questions from the Board, which were answered by staff, a motion was made by Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Kataras, to approve the Claims List of Tuesday, July 27, 2010, in the amount of \$208,608.63. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

MEET YOUR MERCHANTS: Economic Development Committee Member Pam Lau introduced Vince Ruffolo, owner of Money Mailer of South Suburbs of Cook County. Mr. Ruffolo informed the Board and audience his company mails envelopes to residents that contain advertisements for local businesses. They also offer solo mailings that can be sent to specific targeted demographic groups. For more information, visit www.moneymailer.com.

PRESENTATIONS: Director Schaefer introduced Bryon Doerr, newly appointed maintenance worker for the Landscape & Maintenance Division of Public Works. Village Clerk Campbell swore in Bryon Doerr, who was then welcomed by the Board and audience.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: No one came forward.

ORDINANCE M-1814/TIF SURPLUS DISTRIBUTION/WASHINGTON PARK: Director Bubenik led in the discussion of the distribution of \$3.5 million surplus funds at this time with the remaining surplus to be distributed early next year.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is the most powerful economic development tool available to municipalities. TIF is used to revitalize blighted and under performing areas in communities by reinvesting and redeveloping them into healthy tax paying properties.

The total surplus is sent to Cook County and they distribute it proportionately to taxing bodies in a formula based on their share of the total real estate tax bill.

The very successful Washington Park TIF has grown from a starting Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of \$3 million to an EAV of \$61 million. Typically the TIF surplus is declared in October or November. Given a few unique circumstances including upcoming end of the WP TIF and the budgetary problems being experienced by all taxing bodies in the Village, staff recommended an early partial surplus distribution of \$3.5 million at this time, with the remaining surplus to be distributed early next year.

Following comments and questions from the Board, which were addressed by staff, a motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Dawkins to pass an ordinance declaring surplus funds in the Washington Park Tax Increment Financing District and providing for the distribution of those funds. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

MURAL RESTORATION AND NEW MURAL PROJECT: Village Manager Franz led in the discussion of the restoration of the Richard Haas murals in the Central Business District (CBD) and the creation of new murals in both the CBD and the Southgate Business District.

In 1983, a famous New York artist named Richard Haas created some very unique murals in our downtown on the store backs of the Ridge Road properties, between Dixie Highway and Harwood Avenue. In the early 90s, the Village worked with Mr. Hass, his contractor, and the business owners to restore and refresh these same murals.

One of the Village Board's goals in the Strategic Plan and Capital plan was to not only restore these murals again, but also look for new opportunities to create murals in our commercial areas. One such location was in Southgate, specifically on the northeast corner of Dixie Highway and 187th Street. This location has been discussed over the last year with the Southgate merchants and specifically with the owner of the commercial building on 187th Street and Dixie Highway. This location would provide an opportunity to celebrate the Dixie Highway history, and the Heritage Committee has provided some ideas and concepts for Mr. Haas to consider.

Last month staff met with the contractor who performed the work in the 90s, Tom Melvin, and also met with the famed artist Richard Haas on separate occasions. Mr. Haas was very enthusiastic about being back in town to review one of his very first murals and is excited about creating some additional murals that would unify these areas together. He identified two additional CBD mural locations he considered ideal for murals. These sites include the north side of the Homewood Florist building on Martin Avenue and the south side of Melody Mart, where he is considering a Homewood Theater mural similar to the mural that was lost when the theater was demolished. In addition to the restoration work and new murals, there may be a need for some tuckpointing and other façade improvements in preparation for the painting. Funding

for this project would be split between the CBD TIF and Southgate TIF. This concept had been discussed with the two owners of the property who are candidates for new murals, and they have pledged their support.

The Richard Haas murals provide Homewood with a unique attraction, especially for a small town. Haas' murals are featured in much larger metropolises, such as Chicago, New York City, Boston, Portland and many more. Incorporating murals into the Southgate commercial area unifies both districts and also provides the area with its own cultural attraction.

A resident stated he supported this project.

Elaine Egdorf, chairperson of the Heritage Committee, stated this Committee has been talking about doing a mural promoting Dixie Highway for some time. She encouraged the Village to move forward and requested the Heritage Committee be one of the committees to work on the mural project.

Village Manager Franz added that once staff gets direction from the Board, the time table can be determined. Restoration of existing murals could possibly begin this fall. More time would be required for the design of the new murals.

The Board was in agreement that this is an exciting project, and the Village is in a fortunate position to do this.

Following comments, a motion was made by Trustee Kataras, seconded by Trustee Casella to approve the overall concept to restore existing murals and create three additional murals to complement the current design at a cost not to exceed \$130,000. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

MANAGER'S REPORT: Village Manager Franz had nothing further to report.

GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION:

Trustee Tienstra expressed his concerns of not having all the department heads present at all Board meetings; asked for residents to have priority for any job openings; and asked for information regarding smoking in certain business locations.

Several other Trustees also stated they would like to have all department heads attend the Board meetings to address questions from the audience and Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella, to enter into Executive Session to discuss probable litigation, compensation of specific employee or employees, and semi-annual review and approval of Closed Session minutes at 8:09 p.m. ***Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

The Board took a short recess at 8:09 p.m. prior to entering into Executive Session. The Board returned to open session at 9:27 p.m.

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Colton, seconded by Trustee Casella.
Roll Call: AYES: Trustees Tienstra, Kataras, Dawkins, Casella, Colton and Robertson.
NAYS: None. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m. There was no one in the audience.

Village Clerk