



**Special Meeting of the Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees
January 22, 2008**

Gail Moran, Observer

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Board took place prior to the regular meeting to address a Harrison Street catalyst project. The Board agreed to move ahead with Circle Theater's relocation from Forest Park to the Harrison Streets Arts District. There would be a Village contribution to this effort which would come in the form of issuing bonds for the project as part of a set aside by the prior Board specifically for a Harrison Street catalyst project to address vacancies. Staff will report back to the Board on parking and bonding issues.

Regular Meeting

The meeting commenced on time with all Trustees and the Village President present. There was a presentation by the Public Works Director honoring Scott Brinkman, first place winner of the statewide Rodeo competition. This is Oak Park's first time receiving this award. The presentation was followed by two Resolutions, one in support of an economic stimulus package and the second in recognition of retiring Deputy Police Chief Robert Scianna.

During the Manager's report, the Board rejected proposed street signs for Harrison Street due to the cost. The designer was asked to submit a scaled down version more in line with the original estimate of \$900 per sign versus the \$1900 per sign price tag.

An appointment was made to the Historic Preservation Commission, and three names were put forward, one each, for the Plan Commission, Transportation Commission, and Farmers Market Commission.

Without discussion, the Board voted unanimously to deny a petition to create resident permit parking on the 1150 block of South Maple Avenue.

An Arts Council emergency arts fund request for \$1500 was unanimously approved. Before its approval however, Trustee Pate pointed out that the Emergency Arts Funds had been cut from the 2008 budget. The Village Manager indicated that funds for such projects remained in the 2007 budget, and on this basis, since the books were not yet closed, the request was funded.

A Resolution for the Village Board to become a member of Downtown Oak Park (DTOP) drew significant discussion. Trustee Moore had a number of questions of the Executive Director about the mission and purpose of the organization, and Trustee Hale, while stating his strong support for the organization, expressed his concern that becoming a member could only lead to awkward situations. Trustee Johnson was of the view that membership would be appropriate as the Village, who was a

10% landowner in downtown Oak Park, had a fiduciary duty to manage its properties appropriately. The Resolution passed with Trustee Moore abstaining from the vote, and Trustee Hale voting "no." Attorney Heise alerted the Board that Anthony Shaker, through his attorneys, objected by letter on unspecified grounds.

The West Suburban Medical Center Humphrey Avenue and Erie Street vacation agreement was unanimously amended to extend the completion six months.

The Consent Agenda contained some technical amendments involving overlay districts and a planned development, as well as some additional routine items, and was passed unanimously without discussion.

After the Call to the Board, the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.