



**Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees
January 7, 2008**

Gail Moran, Observer

All Village Trustees and the Village President were present for the meeting and it began on time. There was a Proclamation regarding Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 21 and an announcement by the Village Clerk that Village Hall would be open for Early Voting purposes on that day. The Clerk also reported a record number of voter registrations (258) on the last day of voter registration. She also acknowledged and thanked the League of Women Voters for their voter registration efforts.

There were several individuals who spoke during non-agenda public comment: three individuals addressed grievances and a planned eviction from SRO housing at the local YMCA, one individual addressed deficiencies in snow removal as they impacted disabled persons, and one individual voiced concerns about West Suburban Hospital's timely compliance with its agreement to make repairs and bring up to Code the residential structure it owns at 329 N. Humphrey.

The Village Manager then made various announcements concerning ongoing construction projects (Harrison Street Gateway signs are expected to be installed in mid-February.) The first item on the agenda, sale of a Barrie Park home, was approved unanimously. A Motion to approve a modification to the Marion Street and Lake Street intersection traffic signals was approved so that cars may now legally jog northbound through that intersection on North Marion Street. (Trustee Marsey voted no due to his concern that the Board did not address an additional modification to also allow a left turn onto Lake Street.) (Note that the pedestrian "Walk" signal is only triggered by someone activating the Walk button.)

During the Citizen Involvement Commission recommendation for appointments to Commissions and vacancies, there was an extended and heated discussion between the Village President and Trustee Marsey regarding the process of Citizen Commission appointments. Trustee Marsey expressed concern that the Village President was exercising too much control over the appointment process, and President Pope disputed that contention while pointing out his discretion to make appointments under certain statutes (Plan Commission, etc.). The Chair of the Citizens Involvement Commission indicated that there were significant vacancies, and that improvement to the selection process and protocols were needed and that recommendations would be forthcoming from the Commission. All Commission appointments were approved unanimously.

An extensive discussion ensued with the Plan Commission as follows:

- the Board unanimously approved recommendations regarding the Marion Street overlay district primarily having to do with restrictions on height to 45 feet and required building frontage
- with Trustee Moore voting no, the recommendation to *deny* a special use permit to Omni Bank for street frontage on Oak Park Avenue was approved

- after some public comment in opposition or for modifications, the Board unanimously approved with some modifications the Commission's recommendation to accept the 827-833 Madison Street planned development and related alley vacation. Modifications and amendments approved included:
 - referral back to the Community Design Commission regarding location and openness of the fence abutting the residential property on the southeast corner
 - LEED's certification at a minimum of 26 points and a corresponding letter of credit of \$10,000 per point to insure compliance
 - developer responsible for post construction traffic and parking study after 75% occupancy but prior to turning over the property to the tenant association with \$10,000 letter of credit to insure compliance
 - environmental testing of soil and airborne testing, if contaminants are revealed
 - developer to retain retail broker
- unanimous approval of the Commission's recommendations for changing to the Madison Street zoning ordinance and planned development overlay district, including specific intersections and the full corridor, adopting, with minor changes, the recommendations of the Madison Street Plan of 2005.

The Board unanimously adopted a Public Art Advisory Committee recommendation to proceed with a public mural project at Oak Park Ave. and South Blvd. not to exceed \$20,500. While he ultimately voted for the project, Trustee Moore expressed concern about the Village (and not private sponsorships) funding such projects.

Four Retail Support grants were approved for two new Harrison enterprises, East Gate Gift Shop (book store and coffee shop) and Prodigy Glass Works (glass blowing classes and gallery); similar grants for existing businesses, Papaspiros Restaurant and the Buzz Café, were approved. Trustee Moore voted in opposition to grants for the existing businesses. The Board also unanimously approved three revisions to the Retail Support Grant Program, including revisions to the Minority Business Enterprise/Woman-owned Business Enterprise bonus structure that related the amount of the bonus to the square footage of the project; reducing the lease requirement from 5 years to 3 years; and, permitting retroactive application for grants upon securing tenants for the space.

Two Transportation Commission items, one involving imposition of Lyman Street parking restrictions and review of parking restrictions on Roosevelt Road, were unanimously approved. During the discussion of the Lyman Street item, several Trustees (Johnson, Marsey and Pate) expressed their frustration with a street-by-street approach to parking issues and argued for a comprehensive approach that would take into account sustainability goals, including parking policies that would promote the use of public transportation.

The remaining agenda items were unremarkable and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at midnight after comments by Trustee Johnson to stay focused on Board priorities, and an impassioned plea by Trustee Pate to limit the length of meetings or to have additional (special) meetings when there are significant issues.