



**Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees  
March 17, 2008**

*Gail Moran, Observer*

The meeting convened on time with all Trustees present. Two individuals offered public comment (both concerned West Suburban Hospital, including the traffic flow around construction at the hospital) followed by the Village Managers Report. Of note was the ongoing construction of the elevator at the downtown parking garage, future construction in the alley between Bar Louie and Chipotle, and resumption of street improvements on North Avenue.

Citizen Involvement Commission appointments were approved without controversy. The Chair of the Commission made a plea for commission volunteers, particularly for the *Community Development Citizens Advisory Commission (administers HUD block grants)*, the *Retail Support Commission*, *Telecommunications Commission*, and *Housing Program Advisory Commission*.

A recommendation from the Farmers Market Commission to open two weeks early (on May 24<sup>th</sup>) was unanimously approved. A recommendation from staff to approve a contract for the elevator construction at Holly Court was unanimously approved, but Trustees Hedges and Johnson questioned the cost increases.

A presentation on the Chicago/Harlem Plan was made by the consultants hired for the project. Major components of the Plan call for more restaurants, a gateway at Harlem and Chicago, addition of a coffee shop, signage improvements (particularly as they relate to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio), and shared parking for employees. Trustee Johnson, supportive of the Plan, asked the Board to consider the question of how the various business district plans would be integrated. The Plan was approved unanimously.

The Board discussed whether or not to continue the Volume Bond Cap, a first time homebuyer assistance program and, on balance, decided to continue it because benefits would be better for homebuyers if kept in house, and may be particularly attractive for persons buying condominium units.

Madison and Highland LLC were selected unanimously as the preferred developer for the Madison/Highland property.

An extended discussion took place regarding an agenda item to extend the deadline for construction of the WhiteCo. planned development. While Trustee Marsey raised a number of questions, ultimately the extension was approved in large part due to the fact that the Village has been instrumental in delaying the start of the project by renegotiating some parameters of the project. During this discussion, it was clarified that Trader Joe's had, in fact, leased retail space at the property and was engaged in discussions with the Village related to liquor sales. The new completion date for WhiteCo. was extended to 4/30/09 and Trader Joe's is expected to open later in the year.

