

Minutes

Coffee with the Villa Park Board of Trustees

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Villa Park Village Hall, 20 S. Ardmore

Village Board Present: President Bulthuis and Village Trustees Dave Cilella, Christine Murphy, Cheryl Tucker and Bob Wagner

Village Residents Present: Joe Amore, Donna Noxon, John Squires, and Rolf Laukant.

Others Present: James McCluskey Circuit Court Judge candidate, Janice Anderson (wife of candidate McCluskey), and Richard Felice, Circuit Court Judge Candidate.

The meeting was called to order by President Bulthuis at approximately 9:03 AM. Approval of the Minutes: Minutes for the September 7, 2019 and November 2, 2019 Coffee with the Board were presented for approval and were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resident Donna Noxon raised the issue of about the height of the bushes at the Lighthouse BP at 1 W. St. Charles Road, which block visibility for motorists. Resident Rolf Laukant raised safety issues about the Prairie Path crossing at Monterey. Donna Noxon also asked about the possibility of installing a crossing beacon for the Great Western Trail at Ardmore.

Trustee Murphy mentioned that she is working with the Interact Club at Willowbrook H.S., which is a community service club connected to the Villa Park Rotary Club. She said the Interact Club was looking for week day service activities for the members to perform.

Trustee Murphy mentioned that there will be an upcoming SALT (Seniors and Lawmen Together) meeting and a specials holiday meal served at the Community Recreation Building this month.

James F. McCluskey introduced himself and indicated he was a candidate for the position of circuit judge for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court of DuPage County, Illinois and was seeking to fill the Bakalis vacancy. He mentioned that he has 39 years of legal experience and currently serves as an Associate Judge. He mentioned that 31 associate judges are appointed. The associate judges can perform marriage ceremonies and can hold bond hearings.

Trustee Wagner asked about diversity among associate judges. Mr. McCluskey mentioned that among recent appointments there were 5 men and 5 women. An African-American man and an Indian-American were appointed associate judge.

Janice Anderson mentioned that the Naperville Women's Club holds a bi-partisan judicial forum.

Resident Joe Amore asked about political affiliation. Both James McCluskey and Richard Felice answered that they were running in the Republican primary.

Richard Felice introduced himself and advised he was also running for the position of circuit judge for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court of DuPage County, Illinois. He stated that he had over 30 years of legal experience. He mentioned that he has served as public defender and has experience with Criminal law, Real Estate law, and Family law. He mentioned that he has served as DuPage County and Illinois Bar Association President. He was also appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Rules Committee.

President Bulthuis asked about the eviction process in DuPage County. Richard Felice mentioned that a judge can issue a stay order for an eviction for 7 – 10 days. He also mentioned that Sheriff Mendrick is much faster at processing evictions than former Sheriff Zaruba.

It was mentioned that judges have a list of social service agencies that can be contacted to help tenants that face eviction. There is also a language service that can provide translation services for non-English speakers.

Resident Joe Amore talked about the need for a pedestrian underpass. He also mentioned that there is a dispute between Union Pacific and Metra over the operation of commuter rail and that Union Pacific wants to divest itself from commuter rail. He mentioned that Union Pacific is more interested in freight and would like to rent the commuter rail tracks.

Discussion ensued about the need for a full time grant writer for the Village. There was also some mention of sharing a grant writer with another unit of government. Janice Anderson mentioned that DuPage County once made use of a professional grant writer named Diana Paluch. She provide her contact information and suggested that DuPage County might provide help with grant writing.

Rolf Laukant asked about arrangements for the Metra station management and construction. It was mentioned that many facets of the upkeep and maintenance of the station are handled by the Village.

President Bulthuis mentioned that engineering is one of the first steps toward the construction of a pedestrian underpass.

Due to the fact that there were no other resident questions, the meeting was adjourned by voice vote at approximately 10:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trustee Robert J. Wagner