

**Village of Indian Head Park
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to: a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided, and a record of votes taken.”

**Thursday September 13, 2007
7:30 P.M.**

★ CALL TO ORDER - MAYOR RICHARD ANDREWS

The regular scheduled meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, September 13, 2007, at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

★ ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK

PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):

Mayor Richard Andrews
Trustee Debbie Anselmo
Trustee Brian T. Bailey
Trustee Anne Bermier
Trustee Carol Coleman
Trustee Norman L. Schnauffer
Trustee Matthew P. Walsh II

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank Alonzo, Administrator
Steve Busa, Treasurer
Joseph Consolo, Village Clerk
Richard J. Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent

★ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Richard Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all”*.

Mayor Andrews stated that this past Tuesday on September 11th, we commemorated the September 11, 2001 attack on our Country. By resolution of the United States Congress, the date has been designated as Patriot Day. Mayor Andrews noted that on that tragic day, 2,974 people perished when hijacked airplanes hit the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and on a plane that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. He noted that twenty-four people are still missing six years later. Mayor Andrews asked everyone to fly the American Flag on every Patriot Day out of respect for those that lost their lives, for the loved ones, for the first responders and for our men and women in our armed forces around the world who risk their lives to defend our freedom. Mayor Andrews stated that it is important to enjoy every day that we have an opportunity to gather as a community in friendship and in fun like last Saturday when the community gathered for the Family Fun Day event hosted by the Village. It is a symbol of our resolve to maintain our civil liberty and our way of life that others seek to destroy out of hatred. Let us move forward with the resilience that typifies all Americans but never forget September 11th and the event that happened or those who perished on that date

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees paused for a moment of silence to honor the victims and the families of the September 11, 2001 attack and Frank Alonzo's mother, Elizabeth "Theresa" Alonzo, who recently passed away. The Board extended their condolences to Frank Alonzo and his family.

★ **CONSENT AGENDA**

- *Approval of Resolution Supporting the Formation of the Shoreline Mayor Task Force Whose Main Purpose is to Protect the Water of Lake Michigan (Resolution #R9-07-1)*
- *Approval of Motion to Authorize the Purchase of a John Deere Backhoe for the Public Works Department not to Exceed a Cost of \$85,010.00 including Financing.*
- *Approval of an Ordinance Establishing the Position of Village Administrator (Ordinance #07-14)*

Mayor Richard Andrews entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented:

Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Walsh, to approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented to the Board for approval. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Aye: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nay: None

Absent: None

★ **APPOINTMENT OF FRANK J. ALONZO AS CHIEF OF POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Andrews stated that it is an honor and privilege to nominate Frank J. Alonzo, Jr. for the position of Chief of Police and Administration. Frank has been a police officer for over thirty-three (33) years, including ten years as Deputy Chief of Police and four years as Chief of Police for the Village of Hillside. Mayor Andrews noted that Frank Alonzo has also served as our Village Administrator since February of 2006 and his record as a police officer and as administrator shows not only that Frank is well qualified and experienced for this position, but that he has proven his leadership and administrative skills. Mayor Andrews stated that Frank's background includes serving as a patrol officer, police detective, a patrol sergeant, a commander of the detective division and then on to Deputy Chief and Chief of Police for the Village of Hillside.

Mayor Andrews stated that he appreciates Frank Alonzo's willingness to step forward to serve in both capacities as Chief of Police and also Administration. Trustee Bermier moved, seconded by Trustee Walsh, to appoint Frank J. Alonzo, Jr., as Chief of Police and Administration for the Village of Indian Head Park. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Aye: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnauffer, Walsh

Nay: None

Absent: None

Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Frank J. Alonzo to serve as Chief of Police and Administration for the Village of Indian Head Park.

★ **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - August 9, 2007

After review of Board meeting minutes, Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Schnauffer, to approve the August 9, 2007 regular Board meeting minutes, as presented. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

★ **FINANCIAL REPORTS — TREASURER STEVE BUSA**

Approval of Financial Report for the month ending July 31, 2007

Approval of Financial Report for the month ending August 31, 2007

Treasurer Busa presented the financial report for the months ending July 31, 2007 and August 31, 2007. For the month of July, he noted: (1) total revenues were \$367,353.78; (2) expenditures were \$224,593.13 and; (3) total fund balances in all accounts at the end of July were \$642,511.53. For the month of August, 2007, he noted: (1) total revenues were \$95,767.04; (2) expenditures were \$308,842.94 and; (3) total fund balances in all accounts at the end of August were \$559,938.93. Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to approve the financial report for the months ending July 31, 2007 and August 31, 2007, as presented by Treasurer Busa. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Aye: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnauffer, Walsh

Nay: None

Absent: None

ZONING AGENDA ITEMS -- (QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ALLOWED AFTER ZONING REPORT(S) AND PRIOR TO VOTES ON ZONING REQUESTS

ZONING REPORT, BOARD CONSIDERATION AND VOTE REGARDING THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

Zoning Petition #162 -- A Public Hearing Regarding Terms and Conditions for a Fence at 6472 Apache Drive.

Motion to remand the request for a fence for the property at 6472 Apache Drive to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the public hearing to be continued to the Tuesday, October 2, 2007 meeting.

Mayor Andrews noted that everyone who is present in the audience regarding the zoning matter concerning a proposed fence at 6472 Apache Drive, is welcome to join the meeting. However, the matter will not be considered by the Board this evening. Mayor Andrews stated that prior to the August Village Board meeting, the petitioners, through their attorney, made a request that the matter be continued to the Board meeting this evening with the intent to allow the petitioners time to modify their plan and later for their request to be remanded back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the October zoning meeting.

Mayor Andrews stated that on Wednesday, September 12th, a revised plan was received by the Village from the petitioner's counsel requesting that the fence matter be remanded to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration at the October Planning/Zoning meeting. Mayor Andrews informed the audience that upcoming agendas for both Board meetings and zoning meetings are posted on the Village's Website according to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Also, agendas for upcoming meetings are available at the Village offices prior to meeting dates. Mayor Andrews noted that a public hearing notice will also be published in the newspaper regarding the continuation of the public hearing to be held on Tuesday, October 2nd concerning a proposed safety fence and modifications to that plan for the property located at 6472 Apache Drive. Mayor Andrews pointed out that the petitioner's counsel requested that a modified fence plan be considered before the Planning and Zoning Commission before a recommendation is made to the Board. Gene Callahan, of Apache Drive, inquired when the modified fence plan that is being proposed for the property at 6472 Apache Drive would be available to those residents who are adjacent property owners.

Denise Guardino, of Thunderbird Drive, stated that when she moved into the community the Village was contacted to determine the regulations for fences and was informed at that time by the Village that fences are not permitted in Indian Head Park and that variances were not given to allow for fences. Mrs. Guardino stated if someone has tenacity and uses forcefulness to get a safety fence for their child will the Village grant a variance now when she was denied a fence in the past. Mrs. Guardino further stated that if a safety fence is granted to Mr. & Mrs. Pall on Apache, there will be more requests from other property owners in the future for fences. Mayor Andrews stated that safety fences are allowed under certain circumstances through a zoning process and as defined in the Village's zoning code with such terms and conditions that are required by the Village. He noted that any and all comments regarding the proposed safety fence for the property on Apache Drive will be received by the Planning and Zoning Commission during the public hearing process at the October zoning meeting. Mrs. Guardino stated that a safety fence around an in-ground swimming pool makes sense but a safety fence to screen an entire property boundary to keep a child in the yard is not like a safety fence for a pool. Trustee Bermier stated that she did not recall anyone in the past who formally applied for a zoning process to allow for a safety fence for a child and was denied. Trustee Bermier stated that she recalled several years ago a fence in the Village was granted for the safety of a child with special needs.

Mayor Andrews stated that the Village has an ordinance that states in part "*no fences are allowed — except safety fences under such terms and conditions as set forth required by the Village Board*". Mayor Andrews further stated that the Village Board is not entertaining changing the ordinance that prohibits fences but considering one petition that was submitted to the Village for formal review under the current zoning process concerning one property. He noted that the facts regarding the petitioner's request for a safety fence will be reviewed individually as it relates to their specific request for a fence and the Board will consider that request when the zoning process is concluded. Gene Callahan, of Apache, stated that he has been a resident of Indian Head Park for twenty-nine (29) years and he as well as the adjacent neighbors in the community have raised their children in the community without fences. Mr. Callahan stated that there are many children who live in the community that have disabilities and they were raised without fences. He added that the term "safety" fence is very broad and he asked if there is a definition in the Indian Head Park code that defines a safety fence. Mayor Andrews stated that the term safety fence was incorporated in the code when the Zoning Ordinance was first adopted many years ago and that section of the code is in place to address requests that might come before the Village as it relates to safety.

Mr. Callahan stated that the original petition to the Village by Mr. & Mrs. Pall was to allow for a fenced in yard for their child with special needs and now the proposed fence is five-feet in height around the entire property boundary and termed as a safety fence. Mr. Callahan stated that most of the neighbors within two-hundred feet of the subject property are here this evening and they are very much concerned about the proposed plans for a fence in the community.

Mayor Andrews stated that it would be unfair for the Board at this time to address both sides of this issue since the petitioner is not present and the matter is not being considered by the Board this evening. He noted that this topic will be considered before the Planning and Zoning Commission at the October meeting and a report will be provided to the Board once the Zoning Commission concludes the public hearing process. Mr. Tom Davis, of Apache Drive, stated that he and his wife built a home in Indian Head Park because the Village did not allow fences. He added that a tremendous sense of community and family has been developed primarily because there are no fences to create barricades between people and children played and ran through the backyards because of the park-like atmosphere. Mr. Davis stated that the open yards environment cannot be found in neighboring towns such as Western Springs or LaGrange Highlands because they all have fences that create barriers between people.

Mayor Andrews stated that the proposed plans for a fence at 6472 Apache Drive will be available to the audience at the public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday, October 2nd. He noted a possible vote may take place by the Commission to provide a recommendation to the Board and the Village Board will consider and possibly vote on a proposed safety fence for the property at 6472 Apache Drive at the October Board meeting.

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to remand the zoning matter with regard to a safety fence at 6472 Apache Drive to the October Planning and Zoning Commission to continue a public hearing regarding this matter. Trustee Coleman moved, seconded by Trustee Anselmo, to remand the zoning matter with regard to a proposed fence at 6472 Apache Drive, to the Tuesday, October 2, 2007 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Carried by unanimous roll call vote. (6/0/0).

Aye: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnauffer, Walsh

Nay: None

Absent: None

Report from the Planning and Zoning Commission Regarding Petition #167 — Public Hearing Regarding Zoning Variations Regarding the Residence at 6349 Blackhawk Trail.

Motion to Receive Report

Discussion, Consideration and Possible Vote to Grant Relief Requested

Commissioner Noreen Costelloe reported that a public hearing was held before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 regarding Petition #167 submitted by Mr. & Mrs. John Adams who requested a rear yard zoning variation to allow for the construction of an addition to the residence at 6349 Blackhawk Trail.

Commissioner Costelloe noted: (1) the Commission was presented with a petition by Mr. & Mrs. John Adams, the owners of the property, to allow for the construction of an addition that encroaches into the rear yard setback of the property; (2) the existing residence was a non-conforming structure when the Adams purchased the property, they were advised by counsel that no exterior renovations or additions would be allowed unless the home was first brought into compliance as required by the current zoning code regulations. The property owners removed the non-conforming section of the home, part of the structure and foundation (eighteen feet and 8 inches -- 18' 8"); (3) the petitioner is now requesting a rear yard variance to allow to rebuild a new section of the home in the rear yard of the property; (4) the home is a Keck and Keck home. Keck and Keck are a well recognized Chicago architectural firm, known for early energy efficient house plans. This home was built in 1952 and utilizes passive solar design and radiant floor heating; (5) the variance would increase an exposed southern wall and add back a "module" both important in maximizing energy efficiency; (6) the floor plan does not appear to be at all excessive by today's standards. If the variance is granted, the home will have three bedrooms, one master and two small bedrooms (approximately 12 x 18). There will be other dual use spaces, such as an office and art room. The addition will add space to the master bedroom; (7) the petitioner produced two letters from neighbors in support of the plans. There were no letters or persons present who objected to the proposed variations; (8) having asked for a rear yard variance of ten-feet nine inches (10' 9"), the petitioner agreed to a smaller variance, which would encroach in the rear yard by seven-feet (7') — (approximately a 10.5% variance).

Commissioner Costelloe stated that after a review of the findings of fact, and discussion among the Commissioners in which various alternatives were considered with the petitioners, and an offer to allow the petitioners an opportunity to present an alternative proposal, the proceedings continued with a review of the findings of fact. The Commissioner members voted to provide a recommendation to the Village Board to grant a rear yard variance of seven-feet (7') (by 29' 9" wide) to allow for the addition to a residence at 6349 Blackhawk Trail conditioned that all water drainage shall not negatively impact neighboring properties.

Mayor Richard Andrews entertained a motion to receive the report presented by Commissioner Costelloe from the Planning and Zoning Commission with respect to Petition #167. Trustee Bermier moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to receive the report from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding Petition #167 for a rear yard variation to allow for an addition to the residence at 6349 Blackhawk Trail. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Aye: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nay: None

Absent: None

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to direct counsel to prepare an ordinance to grant the zoning relief requested by the petitioners and as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the property at 6349 Blackhawk Trail.

Trustee Bermier moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, to direct counsel to prepare an ordinance granting a seven-foot (7') rear yard variance and subject to the conditions set forth by the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as a building permit process prior to the issuance of a permit. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Aye: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnaufer, Walsh

Nay: None

Absent: None

Trustee Walsh inquired if the only variance being considered by the Board regarding this property is the seven-foot (7') rear yard encroachment for the addition to the residence. Mayor Andrews stated that a retaining wall structure into the rear yard setback was initially proposed and the property owner is not asking for a variance for that scope of work. A variance is only being requested for the rear yard addition (seven-feet into the rear yard setback).

Mayor Andrews noted that an ordinance will be presented on the Consent Agenda at the next meeting for the Board's consideration and approval relative to this zoning matter. The petitioners confirmed their understanding should a building permit be issued prior to the formal vote on the variation by the Village Board at the October meeting, they will comply with requirements and constraints recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Village Board of Trustees this evening.

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Mayor Andrews stated that last Saturday, the Village hosted Family Fun Day at Blackhawk Park. He thanked Suhas Patel, the franchise owner of the 7-Eleven in Indian Head Park in the Brookside Plaza, who donated soda, bottled water, chips and ice-cream that was distributed to those in attendance at Family Fun Day. The musical group "The Catch" also performed that evening and there was a special appearance by "Judgie the Clown". On behalf of the entire Village Board, Mayor Andrews thanked the following people who helped to make the event successful: all Trustees, Village Clerk Consolo, administrative staff, Deputy Clerk Kathy Leach, public works staff, Superintendent Ed Santen, Tom Anselmo, Bridget Anselmo, Hope Walsh, Katie Campbell, Julie, Katie, Billy, Patrick and Jamie Bailey, Diane, Erica and Jonathan Andrews, Mary Crowley, Sergeant Ray Leuser, Officer Lee Zeitlan, Chief Dan Hermes and the Pleasantview Fire Protection District. Special thanks to the Indian Head Park Woman's Club for the bake sale.

Trustee Bermier stated that the Village will also be hosting a Halloween party at the end of October and volunteers are needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Section 2 (c) (21) of the Open Meetings Act to review closed session meeting minutes as required by Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act.
Carried by unanimous roll call vote (6/0/0).

Aye: Anselmo, Bailey, Bermier, Coleman, Schnauffer, Walsh

Nay: None

Absent: None

RETURN TO THE PUBLIC MEETING

Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Schnauffer, to return to the public meeting.
Carried by unanimous voice vote. (6/0/0).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 8:35 p.m. Carried by unanimous voice vote (6/0/0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk

Kathy Leach, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary