

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
Oak Park Village Board

Minutes
Saturday, November 16, 2013
Oak Park Public Library
834 Lake Street
123 Madison Street
9:00 am-10:30 am

Attendees:

Ray Johnson – Village
Colette Lueck - Village
Peter Barber – Village
Jim Gates – D97
Denise Sacks - D97
Janet Kelenson – Library
David Sokol - Library
Jeff Weissglass – D200
Ade Onayemi – Township
Vic Guarino - Parks

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am. There was no public comment.

One View/Letter to the Editor

Park Board commentary is the letter is “too board centric.” Representatives commented that there is Director/Staff level engagement, but not at the elected official level. What is driving the letter? While there is day to day staff level engagement, not as much board level engagement.

If the Park District approves the draft, communications staff will use communication tools to release the One View.

Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cost Savings-Follow-up from Last Meeting

Tax Rate/Demographic Discussion

What does the effective tax rate really mean? Data is needed from Berwyn, Forest Park, River Forest, Elmwood Park, Cicero, Hillside and Evanston. The Civic Federation handout (page 7) was referenced.

Data is needed regarding demographic changes due to the tax burden. How are the long term tax burdens impacting our ability to attract residents? Real Estate data is needed: Are seniors not able to afford current taxes? We need demographic data of people who leave Oak Park. Who is leaving Oak Park?

Education funding is a key driver to our tax burden. What legislative action can we take? D97 CLAIM is a possible example. Regionalism issues need attention and focus.

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Costs and Revenues

Bring focus to commercial growth; we need development for expansion of revenues. ‘Sell’ Oak Park as a package. Don’t just focus where we can cut.

Surveying the public

Why are taxes going up? Provide this framework around the discussion with relevant information presented. We need to provide an overview of the comprehensive plan and bring together taxing bodies to fund a public relations campaign. What does commercial development mean to the taxing bodies? We should speak collectively about this with a common voice from our current situation, with COG information. Then we can share the public where we are headed.

Questions to pose include the following:

If we want to save money – here is what we cut?

Here is the reality of why taxes are what they are?

How can we really get effective community discussion about 10-20 year trajectory of costs? Ask the same two types of questions via a community survey and/or forum. Convene community regarding constraint of services – what can we do without? How can we expand revenues? Schedule these forums by June.

Jeff Weissglass/Jim Gates/work team.....

D200 will present a recommendation to the board on December 10, 2013. Jeff Weissglass will reach out to folks after the holidays regarding advice, regarding coordination of community input/framing/facilitation using the National Coalition for Dialogue (community based).

Report Out

Parks – Reported on the status of the GRC, Ridgeland Commons, the Budget process, and the Madison Street facility expansion in the same space. They are exploring partnering with the Village the Public Works building at Lombard and South Boulevard.

D200 – the Strategic Plan is moving forward. Finance committee will propose to D200 next Monday. Constraining the growth of taxes is likely the next recommendation. At the Early Childhood Collaboration meeting upcoming it was announced that Parenthesis was hired as partner.

VOP – Participating in the Early Childhood Collaboration; developing businesses and mentoring programs for education success with young people.

71% of VOP budget is dedicated to public works and public safety. The Comprehensive Plan Committee will have its next public meeting in December.

D97 – Using Civic Action (8th Graders), powerful experiences while learning about the homeless. Addressing financing issues for the Administration Building, air conditioning at schools, student capacity and building accessibility. A criminal investigation is ongoing for a theft from the technology office.

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Anonymous blogging is a concern. The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a redistricting initiative and another organization is sponsoring term limits petitions.

Library – Has been named a Five Star Library, one of six in the state. Grant funding is focused on youth services to best utilize the funding. A Village survey is in process. Savings at the Library include joining the Illinois Library Association risk pool for savings.

Township – 85% of township budget is staff/benefits. Township insurance plan shifted from Village to Township. Healthcare costs are a focus in the Township budget. Strategic planning is in process. December 10 the levy is at 2%. The Mental Health Board activities were noted.

Next Meeting

D200 is the next host with a goal of meeting in early January.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

SUBMITTED AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF:

Teresa Powell, Village Clerk