

**SATURDAY RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST COOK AND WILL COUNTIES ILLINOIS  
February 1, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt; Trustees Tiffani Graham, Maya Hardy, Glenna Hennessy, Candyce Herron, Theresa Settles, Joseph Woods

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Village Manager Thomas Mick

Mayor Vanderbilt called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The roll was called. Mayor Vanderbilt made note that the board would be leaving early to attend an open house ceremony. The Board then opened the floor to the public for questions and comments.

The Naumann family, long-time residents of Park Forest, shared with the Board the difficulties they are facing as a result of an ordinance that the board put into effect last year. Their home caught on fire in October, resulting in a total loss. They are willing to rebuild; however, they cannot move forward in the process due to the cost of the fire suppression system; a system now required for all newly built and rehabbed homes. The family asked the Board if they could receive a waiver or if the ordinance could be amended. Their insurance is not willing to pay for the life safety code upgrade and if not waived or amended by the board, the Naumann's will let go of the home. Manager Mick stated that granting a variance would open the door to many other properties beginning to request the same thing. The only thing the Board can really consider is if they find the sprinkler system to be an unnecessary requirement and decide to amend the ordinance. That, however, is a process and would have to go through Staff review. Mayor Vanderbilt presented the 3 options as, leave as is, include variance, or amend ordinance so that residents have a choice. The Board will get all of the facts pertaining to the fire and will look more closely at the ordinance in place.

Residents voiced their concern about the instability of commissions and the way in which commissioners were being appointed and removed. It was asked if there could be a sub-commission of 2 or 3 trustees and a staff member to oversee appointments. Mayor Vanderbilt stated that the mayor is responsible for appointments and then relies on the trustee liaisons to provide attendance and updates. As of now, trustee reports have not been turned in to Mayor Vanderbilt. The Board agreed that their current way of operating is not working and that they will need to discuss with the Mayor what he needs, look at the process of appointments and from there adjust the process if necessary. For transparency purposes, residents asked that it be public knowledge of commissions that have seats open and are looking for volunteers.

Due to the board needing to leave to attend an open house ceremony at 305 Sauganash the meeting was suspended at 11:35 AM.

The meeting reconvened at 12:35 PM and included a brief video presentation regarding the proliferation of guns in Chicago and the surrounding suburban areas. After the video, Park Forest Police Chaplain Ronnie White spoke with the Board about ongoing issues with youth offenders, especially those who habitually break the law with serious criminal actions. He presented various details about current state laws and proposed House Bill 333, all of which aim to hold repeat gun offenders accountable for their actions. Extensive discussion ensued on various aspects of current state law and the proposed bill. Additionally, the juvenile court system was discussed as were various components of the Park Forest Police Department's efforts to steer youth in the right direction and away from guns and other serious criminal activities.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deanna Eaton