

**VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST
SATURDAY MORNING RULES MEETING
May 4, 2019**

PRESENT: Mayor John Ostenburg, Trustee Mae Brandon, Trustee Robert McCray, Trustee Georgia O'Neill, Trustee Theresa Settles, Manager Tom Mick

ABSENT: Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Jon Vanderbilt

GUESTS: Communications Director Jason Miller, Resident/Youth Commissioner Joshua Travis, Downtown Business Owner Mario Koonce

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Ostenburg started the meeting by asking for audience questions. Youth Commissioner Joshua Travis presented a resolution to the Board from the Youth Commission establishing a task force to engage with the Board, the Youth Commission, and local school districts to bring all parties to the table in working for the youth of the community. Mayor Ostenburg stated the resolution will be passed on to the new Board for review but noted that with the exception of the City of Chicago, no local jurisdiction has any control over the schools. He noted that Park Forest is represented by 5 different school boards and the Village Board needs to relate to all of these. Mayor Ostenburg noted that 60-70% of property taxes go to the School Districts and that citizens need to be more active in their individual districts to affect change. Mayor Ostenburg mentioned that more students are needed on the Youth Commission as that was set up for them. Joshua Travis noted that 50% of the task force that has been created is students.

Mario Koonce, owner of Vanguard Fitness, spoke regarding his downtown business, mentioning that several of his supporters were present as well. Mr. Koonce discussed his recent business situation and the Village working with him on that. Mayor Ostenburg stated he would let Manager Mick discuss the business issue and explained that the Village, as a landlord for downtown businesses, must pay for property taxes and common area maintenance on the buildings. These two items typically make up more than 50% of a business's rental amount. Payment plans are available to Downtown tenants but they must be adhered to. Mayor Ostenburg noted that the Village cannot use taxpayer dollars to support private businesses. Manager Mick addressed several issues with Mr. Koonce and they will meet in the near future for further discussion. Trustee Brandon stated she is a strong advocate for local businesses and wants to see them succeed but has been stung in the past going above and beyond the norm to assist business owners with payment plans and not being able to recoup the funds.

Trustee Brandon asked Communications Director who is responsible for the reader board on Orchard; she has noticed it is not always updated. Jason Miller said it is a joint effort with IT and there is sometimes a lag due to technical issues. Trustee Brandon told the audience to encourage other residents to come to the Saturday meetings and to bring their questions and concerns, as this is an opportunity to get to know the Board.

Trustee McCray reiterated that point, stating that the Board wants to hear from the residents so they are aware of what is going on and to address any issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcy Gott, Recorder