

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2023*

VILLAGE HALL

DECEMBER 18, 2023

7:30 PM

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Village Clerk LoGalbo took roll.

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa

ALSO PRESENT: Village Manager Bridget Wachtel; Assistant Village Manager Jonathan Bogue; Fire Chief Bob Kopec; Finance Director Ann Novoa; Director of Public Works John Brunke; Director of Building & Zoning Scott Bugner; Communications Manager Nicole Castagna; Acting Village Attorney Megan Lamb; 9 residents

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order. Mayor Nelson reminded everyone that the Village Board meeting was being streamed via Zoom for the convenience of those unable to join in person. Mayor Nelson noted that Trustee Mustafa would be participating in the Village Board meeting remotely due to illness, and that her remote participation was permissible by Illinois State Law. Mayor Nelson stated that Acting Village Attorney Megan Lamb advised that the Village Board would need to have a Motion to Approve Trustee Mustafa's Remote Participation in the Village Board meeting.

Mayor Nelson called for a Motion to Approve Trustee Mustafa's Remote Participation in the Village Board meeting.

Trustee Lofton so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Recognitions and Appointments:

None.

Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 1-5):

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting Held on December 4, 2023*
- 2. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (December 18, 2023)*
- 3. Consideration of an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Amending the Village of Flossmoor Personnel Manual (Whistleblower Act and Bereavement Leave)*
- 4. Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor Approving Part-Time Salary Schedules for Fiscal Year 2023-2024*
- 5. Consideration of a Resolution Appointing a Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA)*

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Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Reports of Committees, Commissions and Boards:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #6 – Presentation of the 2024 Sculpture Program. Mayor Nelson introduced Chair of the Flossmoor Public Art Commission Nancy Burrows to present. Chair Nancy Burrows noted that artist Richard Hunt recently passed away, and she read a statement from former President Barack Obama about his death. Burrows explained that the Village of Flossmoor is the sculptor of “Uplifted,” which he also helped fund for the Village. Burrows proceeded to present sculptures and seek approval for their placement in the Village. She discussed the Homewood-Flossmoor High School – created piece, “Kinetic Vision,” and the plan to move it from the Flossmoor Public Library to the front of Heather Hill School for three years. Burrows discussed the proposed Homewood-Flossmoor High School piece, “Centennial,” influenced by Claes Oldenburg’s work and the Village’s centennial. She discussed the benefits of the project and noted that the sculpture would be placed in front of the Flossmoor Public Library. If approved, Public Art Commissioner Mike Cheney would collaborate with the school on the project. The Public Art Commission proposes a \$2,000 honorarium and a three-year lease at the Flossmoor Public Library.

Mayor Nelson noted that Mr. Oldenburg’s pieces are featured in Kansas City, where she grew up and that she was looking forward to having art in his style in the Village of Flossmoor. She thanked Homewood-Flossmoor High School (HFHS) art teacher Greg Peteki for his work on the project, and Commissioner Cheney for his willingness to collaborate with the high school on the project. Mayor Nelson thanked Chair Burrows and the Public Art Commission for their work and noted that she thinks it is a great collaboration between the Village, HFHS, School District 161, and the Flossmoor Public Library.

Trustee Daggett stated that he had attended Flossmoor Public Art Commission meetings, and that they do a lot of work to bring forth recommendations to the Village Board. He was in favor of the proffered suggestions by the Public Art Commission.

Trustee Bradley-Scott thanked Chairwoman Burrows for the presentation and commended the intergovernmental relationships. Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired whether the Flossmoor Public Library was in favor of the Art Commission’s proposals and whether there would be a vacant pad. She liked the proposal for the “Centennial” piece, and thanked the Public Art Commission for the work they do to benefit the Village.

Chair Burrows responded that she spoke with the Flossmoor Public Library Director, and she was on board with proposal. Chair Burrows added that there will probably be a vacant pad for a period of time, noting that the existing sculpture needs some work done before it is moved. The details of the sculpture move and installations had not been worked out yet.

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Assistant Village Manager Jonathan Bogue added that the Village Staff spoke with SD 161 Superintendent Dana Smith and Flossmoor Public Library Director Jamie Paicely about the proposal.

Trustee Mustafa also thanked the Public Art Commission for their work and noted that the entire presentation in the packet was very well done. She inquired about whether the students at Heather Hill would receive any educational information about the sculpture to be placed at the school because she was in favor of the Art Commission being a part of that process. Trustee Mustafa added that she was in favor of the “Centennial” piece.

Chair Burrows responded that they had discussed the issue of being involved with the presentation of educational information to Heather Hill students in the past, and they were going to revisit the issue to see if the school was interested this time around. She noted that the Art Commission hopes that HFHS students will have the opportunity to be present when the sculptures are installed and be part of the celebration. She also discussed some of the benefits of the HFHS students being a part of the project.

Trustee Mitros was in favor of the proposals and the great tie-in with the HFHS and SD 161 students. He noted that HFHS has an outstanding art department. His children attended classes in the art program and the architecture classes especially benefited his son. Trustee Mitros inquired about how the “Centennial” will be placed.

Commissioner Cheney discussed some of the design plans for the “Centennial” piece.

Trustee Lofton thanked Chair Burrows for her work and the other Commissioners on the Public Art Commission for their work. He inquired about the estimate for the cleaning and painting of “Kinetic Vision.”

Chair Burrows responded that the information was not available yet.

Trustee Driscoll shared his support for the proposal.

Chair Burrows then discussed the plan for “Marmeg” currently at Leavitt Park, to leave in Spring 2024. The Public Art Commission proposes replacing it with Fritz Olsen’s “Eternal Flame.” Burrows provided information about the piece and Olsen, and how the proposal for the sculpture coming to Flossmoor came to be. Burrows noted that the “Eternal Flame” piece would be an exciting piece in the proposed location, playing off the Richard Hunt sculpture there. She noted the \$3,000 lease amount for a three-year time period and requested that the Village Board accept the piece of art to go in Leavitt Park, where “Marmeg” is currently located.

Mayor Nelson noted that “Marmeg” was an important part of the sculpture park and was pleased with the proposed piece to replace it.

Trustee Bradley-Scott stated her support for the proposal.

Trustee Mustafa stated her support for “Eternal Flame” and the proposed location for it.

Trustee Mitros stated his support for the proposal.

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Trustee Lofton stated his support for the proposal and inquired about the plan for “Marmeg.”

Chair Burrows explained that it would return to the artist and noted that it is important to refresh the sculpture collection with new pieces.

Trustee Driscoll stated his support for the proposal.

Trustee Daggett stated his support for the proposal.

Chair Burrows then discussed the proposed donation of three sculptures entitled “Untitled.” Burrows provided information about the artist, the sculptures, and the locations of some of his other works. The cost of installation and solar lighting would be approximately \$900. It will also need a new pad for the proposed location at the northwest corner of Brassie and Flossmoor Road, set back from the corner. The proposed installation would be in Spring 2024. She explained how the Public Art Commission’s goal is to build a walking path for sculptures, and the proposed location creates a wonderful walking tour with several of the existing pieces and requested that the Village Board accept the proposed donation. Burrows also noted that Flossmoor’s sculpture collection will be an asset to the Village’s centennial celebration and will continue to be a tribute to the Village. She described the Public Art Commission’s devotion to being stewards of the current collection, seek out new art, teach youth about art, and provide pleasure to guests and residents.

Mayor Nelson noted the Village’s successful sculpture tour and how it is featured throughout the Southland. She stated that having an additional leg of the tour would be a wonderful addition. She also noted the generosity of the artist.

Chair Burrows noted that a number of sculptors are living near the Southland, and the Public Art Commission hopes to bring them to Flossmoor for different initiatives.

Trustee Mustafa noted the generosity of the donation and inquired about how it came to be. She also inquired about the chosen location for the pieces, and the issue of requests for sculptures at existing locations like Ballantrae Park. She stated her support for the pieces and proposed location.

Chair Burrows explained that it came from the connections of Vice Chair Jeff Stevenson, director and curator of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. She noted that the Public Art Commission had been looking to connect sculptures as part of the strategic plan, and they also liked the idea of the sculptures leading into the Village. Burrows noted that the proposed sculptures would be lost in some locations because of them being straight up and down. The Public Art Commission members spent a lot of time discussing the proposed location of the pieces. She also noted the plan for discussions about Ballantrae Park and how the Public Art Commission is very aware of the request for art there.

Trustee Mitros stated his support for the proposal and location.

Trustee Lofton stated his support for the proposal and location. He also requested that the Public Art Commission continue discussions with the Ballantrae Homeowners Association regarding placing sculptures in Ballantrae Park.

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Trustee Driscoll stated his support for the proposal and location.

Trustee Daggett stated his support for the proposal and location, and supported the fact that the Village is adding to its permanent sculpture collection.

Chair Burrows noted that Assistant Village Manager Bogue, Police Chief Jones, and Public Works Director Brunke visited the proposed location to address any perceived traffic safety concerns. She also noted that the Flossmoor Veterans piece will be in the area of the proposed sculpture location.

Trustee Bradley-Scott thanked Burrows for bringing the pieces to the Village and noted the value of the Village's current collection. She noted the low cost of bringing the sculptures to Flossmoor and inquired about saving information regarding previous pieces. She also inquired about the proposed solar lighting for the pieces.

Chair Burrows answered that on the Village's website, there is a section regarding the Village's previous pieces, but they do not keep information about them on the ottocast for the walking tours due to cost. Burrows explained that the lighting would be in the ground and would illuminate the sculptures. Public Works Director Brunke is assisting with the lighting.

Mayor Nelson thanked Chair Burrows for the excellent presentation.

Chair Burrows commended the members of the Public Art Commission for their support and input.

Mayor Nelson called for a Motion Authorizing the Village Manager to enter into a three-year loan agreement with Fritz Olsen, approve the relocation of "Kinetic Energy," approve the HFHS "Centennial" Sculpture, and accept William O'Brien's donation of "Untitled" into the Village's permanent collection.

Trustee Bradley-Scott so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Action Items:

None.

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Discussion Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #7 – Presentation of Strategic Plan Update (2022-2023).

Mayor Nelson noted the importance of looking back at the Village's successes and progress. She introduced Village Manager Bridget Wachtel to present the Strategic Plan Update. Wachtel pointed out highlights from the full report that was presented to the Village Board. In April 2022, the Village Board adopted its Strategic Plan for the time period 2022-2026, and the current report was a look back at the past 1.5 years. The Village Board's priorities included finance and services; infrastructure and housing; economic development and business retention; inclusivity; and a focus on staff and the delivery of services. Wachtel highlighted some of seventeen major accomplishments under finances and services, including the number of grants that the Village has been able to secure worth over five million dollars; the successful change in the Village's water supplier with favorable contract terms; and the proactive consolidation of the Village's 911 dispatch center with SouthCom to increase services. Wachtel noted pending projects, including working to obtain more grant funding for the Flossmoor Viaduct Project, police and fire projects, and other capital improvements; the Water Meter Replacement Project; and technology-related improvements in the Village. Wachtel also highlighted some of the eighteen major achievements from the infrastructure and housing priorities, such as the following capital improvement projects: Berry Lane Drainage Improvement Project, the Phase 4 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project, Street Pavement Crack-sealing Project, Street Rehabilitation Program, and the FY22 Sidewalk Replacement Project. Other notable accomplishments were the planting of seven hundred trees and the addition of new sculptures. Wachtel pointed out some of the pending projects, such as the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvement project and that the Village is waiting on the final word on whether it will be awarded a related grant.

Wachtel discussed the third priority of economic development and business retention, including highlights of the fourteen major accomplishments, such as obtaining over forty business contacts and leads through engagement with the Retail Coach, seven new business ribbon cuttings, and sixteen new businesses/ change in ownership at existing properties. Future projects include continuing to make connections through the Retail Coach and promoting Village-owned properties to investors and businesses. Wachtel noted the fourth priority of inclusivity and highlighted some of the eighteen major accomplishments, including engagement by meeting diverse business goals and requirements for multiple projects; the hosting of a community forum where the Village engaged with residents on policing and community relations; and the fact that the Village put together forty community events, many of which involved the Flossmoor Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Wachtel also highlighted a program from the 2023 Black History Month that involved HFHS, the Village, and Black STEM Professionals on a panel that engaged with HFHS students. She described some of the pending projects, including a new social media page for the Flossmoor Police Department and planning the Village's 100th year celebration. The fifth priority that the Village focused on was promoting excellence in service delivery to residents, which includes eleven major accomplishments. They include staffing restructuring, settling a Police CBA in record time, taking steps to build camaraderie among Village Staff, and facility improvements. Pending projects include filling staff vacancies, consideration of changes to the Fire Department's staffing structure, and capital improvement purchases.

Wachtel thanked Village Staff for their assistance with putting together the report and noted that the report would be posted on the Village's website.

Mayor Nelson stated that she was extremely proud and noted the work of Village Manager Wachtel. She asserted that the Village has the best Village Manager, Department Directors, Village Staff, Village Board, Commissioners,

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volunteers, neighbors, and community partners who help make everything possible. Mayor Nelson thanked everyone for the work that they do that led to the incredible presentation.

Trustee Mitros agreed with Mayor Nelson, noting how he was also proud of the Village's achievements and lauding staff for their good work.

Trustee Lofton agreed and stated that the Village has the best staff in the Southland and praised Village Manager Wachtel for her work leading the team. He also noted that he was proud of the work of the Village Board and praised Mayor Nelson for her economic development work recruiting businesses to open in Flossmoor. He shared his optimism for filling Flossmoor and Vollmer Roads with businesses in the near future.

Trustee Driscoll agreed with the previous sentiments and detailed the long-term efforts by the Village Board, Village Staff, Mayor, and Village Attorney to secure water for the Village at a fair price with stable delivery. He asserted that this project was a very big achievement. Mayor Nelson added that the previous Mayor and previous Village Board should also get a lot of credit for their contributions on that project.

Trustee Daggett stated that the presentation was incredibly impressive, including how the Village took the strategic plan and put it into action. He commended all of the achievements and noted the Village Staff's professionalism and engagement.

Trustee Bradley-Scott thanked Wachtel for the presentation. She noted the success of obtaining almost six million dollars in grants and how it speaks to the staff's successful work. She does not think that Village residents are fully aware of the Village's achievements, for example, the water supply project where there was no disruption in services. That speaks to the hard work by staff, including their professionalism and commitment.

Trustee Mustafa noted that the highlights of the achievements were phenomenal, and echoed what the other Board members stated. She thanked Wachtel and Village directors and staff and noted that the Village is fortunate to have their level of dedication and commitment. Trustee Mustafa requested that the achievements be aligned with the activities so that it could be known whether the Village achieved what was desired to be achieved under each action step in the strategic plan. Trustee Mustafa inquired about whether aspects of the Berry Lane project should be included in additional areas of the reports because she wanted the Village to receive full credit for all of the related achievements. Trustee Mustafa also inquired about the seven ribbon cuttings. She also inquired about whether the Berry Lane project had specific diverse business goals like other listed projects in the report.

Village Manager Wachtel agreed with Trustee Mustafa's suggestions regarding additional Berry Lane related annotations in the report and noted that the report could be amended to reflect the same. Wachtel noted that the seven ribbon cuttings were part of the sixteen total business openings.

Public Works Director Brunke responded that the Berry Lane project was an Army Corps project, and the Village does not have the specifics or goals in their project because they have not been shared with the Village. Also, the Army Corps has not closed out the project, so the Village does not have the final report.

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Trustee Mustafa noted how she watched the Berry Lane project construction every day and called Public Works Director Brunke about the lack of diversity. She inquired about whether the Village should contact contractors in future situations and let them know that diversity in their workforce is expected.

Public Works Director Brunke explained that it was not the Village's role to be involved in that process as the Army Corps received all of the certified payroll records from the contractor. The information was not shared with the Village because the Village did not pay the contractor, nor did the Village hold the contract or have any say in the matter as it is the federal government's funding.

Trustee Mustafa understood Director Brunke's response but hoped that the Village could still find a way to have a diverse workforce for Village projects.

Public Works Director Brunke responded that for Village projects, diversity of the workforce is a topic that can be discussed. But with federal projects, the Village does not have a say in what the workforce looks like.

Trustee Mustafa noted that there was no mention related to diversity in hiring, and inquired about whether a training-related initiative from the Fire Department should be listed as an accomplishment in the Staff section of the report. She also suggested including a priority of considering other recruiting practices to attract more diverse candidates. She also commended the report and the work of Village Staff.

Village Manager Wachtel agreed that the Fire Department initiative could be included as a Staff achievement. She thanked Trustee Mustafa for her suggestions and noted the difficulty with reviewing the last year and a half. They will make some modifications to the report before it is posted online.

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board:

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board on a Non-Agenda Item

(It should be noted that in reporting these comments, the Village has not researched the accuracy of any comments.):

Flossmoor resident Warren Engelberg's comments, in summary, were about student loan debt related issues, the use of artificial intelligence (AI), and the workforce using AI.

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board on an Agenda Item

(It should be noted that in reporting these comments, the Village has not researched the accuracy of any comments.):

No residents wished to speak on an Agenda Item.

Other Business:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #8 – A Motion to go into Executive Session to Discuss the Employment of Specific Individuals, Property Acquisition and Litigation.

There was no need to enter into Executive Session.

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The Village Board wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel noted two upcoming partial Village Hall closures due to electrical improvement work by ComEd. She also highlighted upcoming open houses regarding planned Village projects on January 23 (Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvement Project), and January 24 (Brookwood Bridge Reconstruction Project). Wachtel wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Village's annual lights parade would be held the upcoming Thursday and that the Shops on Sterling would also be hosting a Sip and Shop event on Thursday.

She noted that the nightly Kinara lightings were coming up at 5:00 pm each night of Kwanzaa.

On January 14, 2024, at 5:00 pm, Mayor Nelson will be hosting her fourth annual classical music concert at Flossmoor Community Church in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There would be a collection of food and donations to help with food insecurity for youth in South Holland and Glenwood.

Mayor Nelson thanked the Board members, Village Manager, Village Directors, Village Staff, and everyone who helps to make the Village a very special place to live. She noted that it was an honor and privilege to work with them all in 2023. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a safe holiday season.

As there were no other items to discuss, Mayor Nelson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott and passed by a voice vote.

<i>AYES:</i>	<i>Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.</i>
<i>ABSENT:</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>ABSTAIN:</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>NAYS:</i>	<i>None</i>

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Gina A. LoGalbo
Village Clerk*