

**JOINT VILLAGE-LIBRARY MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021 8:30 A.M.**

VILLAGE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees: Baldino, Canty, Padovani, Rosenberg, Scaletta, Schwingbeck, Tinaglia

VILLAGE BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee LaBedz

VILLAGE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager

LIBRARY TRUSTEES PRESENT: President Zyck, Trustees: Medal, Smart, Supplitt, Tangney

LIBRARY TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustee Ruhl

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT: Michael Driskell, Executive Director; Shannon Distel, Deputy Director; Donna Ekl, Finance Director; Mary Hastings, Communications and Marketing Director; Janet Moravec, Business Office Administrator; and Julie Doren, Business Office Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Somary and Melissa Cayer

**I. Call to Order**

Village President Hayes called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. President Hayes stated that the meeting was being held virtually due to COVID19.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call taken.

President Hayes and President Zyck made opening comments. President Hayes stated that there is a good relationship between the Library and Village. The past 12 months have been challenging and President Hayes thanked everyone for their efforts. President Zyck stressed the importance of the relationship between the Village and Library and he echoed Mayor Hayes thanks to all.

**II. Citizens To Be Heard**

President Hayes asked if any members of the public had comments. There were no comments.

### **III. Library Topics of Interest**

Executive Director Michael Driskell presented information on the makerspace, presenting drawings of the commercial kitchen, fine art space, industrial tools area and flex spaces. Art and culinary programs are the most popular programs at the library. Construction will be starting soon, and hopes are to finish construction in early June.

An overview of the changes that have taken place during COVID were highlighted. Programs became virtual, craft kits were put together for pick up, Little Free Libraries were stocked throughout the community and LitCrates were added. Curbside pickup was a popular service offered as well as the bookmobile Grab and Go pickup. Mr. Driskell explained that when items are returned to the library, they are quarantined for 3 days.

The building is still closed but the drive-up window is open and book drops are open. Virtual programming will continue when things go back. Phones and emails are still being answered, the building is just not open for the public.

Village Trustees thanked the Library for all of their efforts as it has been such a help for the community. They stressed how wonderful it is for the community to still be able to use the library and that the makerspace is still progressing forward.

Mr. Driskell discussed the DEI commitment of the Library. The Board of Library Trustees made the commitment to DEI officially in 2017 and created taskforces, updated services and followed it up with an all staff training. Additional DEI efforts include recognizing October as inclusion awareness month, creating a film series around DEI topics and have continued the staff training. Upcoming programming includes a film screening and live Q&A series and a fireside chat with Dr. Ewing. Also, to eliminate inequitable access to library resources, the Library has changed to a fine free model.

Mr. Driskell thanked his staff. He recognized Shannon Distel, Deputy Directory; Donna Ekl, Finance Director; Mary Hastings, Communications and Marketing Director; Janet Moravec, Business Office Administrator; and Julie Doren, Business Office Assistant. He said that the entire library staff is instrumental in all of the efforts and programs.

President Hayes asked for questions. Amy Somary commented on the impressive presentation by the Library. She asked if the Library could put a copy of the presentation on the library website.

Melissa Cayer asked if the meeting was streaming on YouTube. Village Manager Recklaus stated that it could be watched via Zoom.

### **IIII. Village Topics of Interest**

Village Manager, Randy Recklaus commended the Library and their efforts during COVID and with all of the DEI commitments. He stressed that the Library is such a vital part of the Village.

Manger Recklaus reviewed the impact of COVID 19 on the Village and the vaccination status was discussed. The Village has registered to be a local vaccine site.

The Village's response to the economic downturn was seen with the suspension of late fees, delay and reduced payments for liquor licenses, grant funds for emergency assistance for residents, and creation of zero interest loans for small businesses.

Arlington Alfresco was discussed. A survey has been sent and a meeting is coming up to consider Alfresco for 2021 and beyond. If Alfresco becomes an annual event, special events would be impacted.

The Village Emergency Assistance Fund was presented. This fund is to help local folks in need, funded partially by the Village and by the Arlington Care program. In a typical year about 80 families are assisted, in 2020 a total of 251 families were assisted.

The Village's role in COVID19 enforcement was reviewed. If a complaint is received the Village confirms its validity. Violations are reported to Cook County for enforcement. Major revenue reductions due to COVID19 were also reviewed. The operational impact of COVID19 was highlighted, with a decrease in Fire calls while Police saw an uptick in nuisance calls. Building Inspections were up this year as was Code Enforcement.

The ERP effort was highlighted. This standardizes, streamlines and integrates business processes across many business activities. The top 4 vendors are currently being reviewed and hoping that contract negotiations will occur in the second quarter of 2021.

DEI is a major focus of the Village, like the Library. A consultant has been hired, focus groups have been held as well as a Town Hall Meeting. The focus of the Village's DEI efforts is on the Village as an employer and as a service provider. The recommendation from the consultant will be presented at a meeting on February 8. There will be a regional law enforcement minority recruitment event in March. The Village now has a fulltime Social Worker and full time Case Worker in the Health Department.

There is currently a re-evaluation of the Senior Center. There was a recent AARP Age Friendly Community Process and the needs of the senior center and services are being reviewed.

A new Solid Waste Contract was presented. This contract will begin in spring. Groot is being retained. The twice weekly collection is being reduced to one time a week for all.

Mr. Recklaus and the Village employees were commended by the Mayor for their work over the past year. He stressed that the Village employees are essential workers and he saw, first hand that the high-quality service and commitment continued throughout this pandemic.

Mayor Hayes thanked Trustees Rosenberg and Padovani for their roles with the Village as this is their last Joint Meeting with the Library as they will not be running again.