



**Citizen Involvement Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
**Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 7:00 PM**  
**Village Hall 123 Madison Street, Room 101**

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- A. Call to Order**
- B. Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum**
- C. Agenda Approval**
- D. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**
  - A) [May 1, 2024](#) – Regular Meeting Minutes
- E. Public Comment**

Public statements of up to three minutes will be read into the record at the meeting. Individuals should email statements to [PublicComment@oak-park.us](mailto:PublicComment@oak-park.us) to be received no later than 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. If email is not an option, you can drop comments off in the Oak Park Payment Drop Box across from the entrance to Village Hall, 123 Madison Street, to be received no later than the day before the meeting.
- F. New Business**
  - A) A Motion to Conduct Volunteer Applicant Interviews for the Following Individuals to be considered for an Advisory Board, Commission and/or Committee:
    - i. Rachel Gresk – Community Relations Commission
    - ii. Cheryl Wisniewski – Community Relations Commission
    - iii. Jill Baker – Board of Health
    - iv. Vic Guarino – Plan Commission
    - v. Aaron Vanderbilt – Building Codes Advisory Commission
    - vi. Amanda Massie – Historic Preservation Commission
  - B) Review of Board and Commission Vacancy and Chair Expiration Date Report [June 4, 2024](#)
  - C) Review of Advisory Board, Commission, or Committee Appointments at Regular Board of Trustees Meeting(s) – None
  - D) A Motion to the Village Board to Approve the Proposal of Oak Park’s Citizen Involvement Commission to Enable Every Volunteer Board, Commission, and Committee to Have the Option to Retain Previous Members as an Emeritus Member | presented by Commissioner Elling
- G. CIC Liaison Reports**

*This section is intended to be informational*
- H. Staff Liaison Report**

*This section is intended to be informational*
- I. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session**

5 ILCS 120/(c)(1) – Motion to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss the Appointment Recommendations of Volunteers to the Village of Oak Park’s Advisory Commissions, Committees, and Boards.
- J. Reconvene to Regular Meeting**
- K. New Business Continued**
  - A) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Rachel Gresk to the Community Relations Commission.
  - B) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Cheryl Wisniewski to the Community Relations Commission.
  - C) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Jill Baker to the Board of Health.
  - D) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Vic Guarino to the Plan Commission.
  - E) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Aaron Vanderbilt to the Building Codes Advisory Commission.

If you require assistance to participate in any Village program or activity, contact the ADA Coordinator at 708.358.5430 or email [ADACoordinator@oak-park.us](mailto:ADACoordinator@oak-park.us) at least 48 hours before the scheduled activity.



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- F) A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Amanda Massie to the Historic Preservation Commission.
- G) Discussion to Coordinate Volunteer Time Slots for [Go Green Days \(Farmers' Market\)](#), and [Thursday Night Out](#)
- H) Discussion on Agenda Topics for Upcoming Citizen Involvement Commission Meeting(s)
  
- L. Old Business**
  - A) [Calendarization of Activities](#) we discussed at our working meeting
  
- M. Adjourn**

Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, July ??, 2024 at 7:00 PM - TBD



**MEETING MINUTES  
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024, 7:00 P.M.  
VILLAGE HALL, ROOM 101**

**A. Call to Order**

Chair Kolar called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

**B. Roll Call**

Present: Commissioners Elling, Kill, Lott (arrived late), Miller, Roman, Wesonga, and Chair Kolar

Absent: Commissioners Eid, Song

Also present: Clerk Waters

**C. Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Roman seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**D. Minutes Approval**

Commissioner Wesonga moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2024 meeting as amended; Commissioner Roman seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. Commissioners Kill and Miller abstained.

**E. Public Comment**

Kenneth Floody: If the emeritus position was limited to one year, it would permit the emeritus member to rejoin the committee as a full voting member, while opening up the emeritus position for another committee member that has completed their second term.

Commissioner Elling shared an example of a commissioner that made a public comment because he said he had no other way to put the Item on the Agenda.

**F. New Business**

A. A Motion to Conduct Volunteer Applicant Interviews for the Following Individuals to be Considered for an Advisory Board, Commission and/or Committee:

- i. Daniel Gillen – Plan Commission
- ii. Eric Elshtain – Plan Commission
- iii. Andrea Krieg – Housing Programs Advisory Committee (HPAC)
- iv. James Gates – Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC)
- v. Dirk De Lor – Citizens Police Oversight Committee (CPOC)
- vi. Joe Ruesewald – Transportation Commission

Commissioner Miller moved; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Dan Gillen is a resident of four years and an architect by profession. He is finishing the design of the Thompson Center and has done urban planning for many years. He wants to get involved in Oak Park because he cares about the

community. A lot of discussions around planning revolve around height, density, and traffic. He is interested in how we make the new projects a better community. He would like to learn about the process and see if he can help iron out the barbs. His second choice would be the Historic Preservation Commission.

Eric Elshtain is a longtime resident and homemaker and retired poetry teacher of 30 years. He is a Taekwondo instructor and poet in residence at the Field Museum. He has experiences adding to his own house and the intersections between the objectivity of building codes and the aesthetics of living in a historic district. He does not have a second choice at this time though he would consider serving elsewhere if the Plan Commission is not available.

Andrea Krieg is a resident of seven years. She is a criminal justice professor at Elmhurst University and her work is related to residential segregation and crime. She considered Plan Commission, Housing Programs, and CPOC. The best way to deal with crime is through social programming and supports and not through law enforcement. The way to solve the issue is to fund schools and housing programs instead of law enforcement and prisons. She clarified she is not an abolitionist and believes that society needs to balance our funding.

Jim Gates is a 49-year resident and retired from teaching and consulting. He volunteers at the Hines VA Hospital inpatient pharmacy and is very active at St. Giles Church. He was pleased with the way the CPOC meeting he observed was conducted by Chair Barnhart. Commissioners did their homework and they stressed the importance of data-based decisions. He would bring a research-based perspective and understands committee and board-level service and what is and is not in their purview. At this time, he only wants to be considered for CPOC.

Dirk De Lor has been a resident since 2015 and is a lifelong public servant. He has a unique background as a firefighter who later became a prosecutor on Chicago's west side. He worked in the Inspector General's Office for the State of Illinois doing investigations for fraud waste and abuse and ethics trainings. He worked for the Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office where he investigated fraud against the government and serves as the affirmative civil rights coordinator. He said he would be willing to serve where he is most useful.

Joe Ruesewald is a resident of three years. He is a project manager in the consulting world, mostly software implementation. He has commuted to work via train, bus, or bicycle for the past 15 years and is a strong advocate for it. There is a lot we can do as a community to improve access for everyone and make sure it is equitable. He thinks Vision Zero is a generational opportunity for Oak Park to make some positive changes on how we approach transportation.

#### B. Review of Board and Commission Vacancy and Chair Expiration Date Report

Chair Kolar reported that Mas Takiguchi is the new chair for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Christina Welter is the new chair for the Board of Health. Chair Elling inquired about the status of Tim Kelly. Chair Kolar recommended emailing the Village President.

C. Review of Advisory Board, Commission, or Committee Appointments at Regular Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 11, 2024

Clerk Waters reported that Barbara Cimaglio was extended for one year for Aging in Communities. Curtis Lott was extended for one year for Citizen Involvement Commission. Camile Lindsay Kumi was appointed to CPOC. Marcia DiVerde was appointed to the Farmers' Market Commission.

D. Discussion of the Proposal for a Motion to the Village of Oak Park's Citizen Involvement Commission to Enable Every Volunteer Board, Commission, and Committee to Have the Option to Retain Previous Members as an Emeritus Member

Commissioner Elling presented the Item. The commissioners discussed and will vote at a future meeting.

**G. CIC Liaison Reports**

There were no reports.

**H. Staff Liaison Report**

A. Outstanding applicants to date.

Clerk Waters said the Village is pausing recruitment on the Community Design Commission (CDC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to determine the future of those two commissions. Paul Ribera is pending for HPAC and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Steven Brown is pending for Plan Commission and ZBA. Derek Eder is pending for Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC). Commission flyers will be updated and printed for *Day In Our Village*.

**I. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Motion to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss the Appointment Recommendations of Volunteers to the Village of Oak Park's Advisory commissions, Committees and Boards.**

Commissioner Roman motioned; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 9:04 P.M.

**J. Reconvene to Regular Meeting**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 9:26 P.M.

**K. New Business**

A. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Daniel Gillen to the Plan Commission

Commissioner Elling motioned to amend the motion to include the Historic Preservation Commission;

Commissioner Roman seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved as amended. The roll

call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- B. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Eric Elshtain to the Plan Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned to amend the motion to include the Community Relations Commission; Commissioner Roman seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved as amended. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Nays: Elling

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- C. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Andrea Krieg the Housing Programs Advisory Committee

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Kill seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- D. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of James Gates to the Citizen Police Oversight Committee

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga

Nays: Elling and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- E. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Dirk De Lor to the Citizen Police Oversight Committee

Commissioner Wesonga motioned to amend the motion to include the Community Relations Commission; Commissioner Lott seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- F. A Motion to Approve the Volunteer Appointment Recommendation to the Village President of Joe Ruesewald to the Transportation Commission

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Roman seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes: Elling, Kill, Lott, Roman, Wesonga and Chair Kolar

Absent: Eid, Miller, Song

- G. Discussion on Best Practices – Commission Support | presented by Commissioner Wesonga. Discussion to Coordinate Volunteer Time Slots for Day In Our Village, Go Green Days (Farmers’ Market), and Thursday Night Out.

Chair Kolar postponed this discussion to the next meeting. Commissioners will participate at a future Farmers’ Market. Chair Kolar requested commissioners send their availability for June, July, and August for Thursday Night Out. Chair Kolar will contact commissioners regarding their availability for Day In Our Village on June 2. Clerk Waters has t-shirts.

- H. Discussion on Agenda Topics for Upcoming Citizen Involvement Commission Meeting(s)

Commissioner Elling requested to revisit the emeritus discussion and start thinking about the volunteer appreciation event.

**L. Old Business**

- A. Calendarization of Activities we discussed at our working meeting

There was no discussion.

- B. Motion to Approve Commission Liaison report

Commissioner Wesonga motioned; Commissioner Kill seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

**M. Adjourn**

Commissioner Kill moved to adjourn; Commissioner Wesonga seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Clerk Hansen



## Board and Commission Vacancy and Chair Expiration Date Report

### Vacancies

Board or Commission	# of Members	Current # Filled	Vacancies
Aging in Communities Commission	7	7	0
Board of Fire and Police Commissioners	3	3	0
Board of Health	7	6	1
Building Codes Advisory Commission	9	8	1
Citizen Involvement Commission	9	9	0
Citizens Police Oversight Committee	7	7	0
Civic Information Systems Commission	7	7	0
Community Design Commission	11	6	5
Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee	9	9	0
Community Relations Commission	9	4	5
Disability Access Commission	7	7	0
Environment & Energy Commission	9	6	3
Farmers' Market Commission	11	10	1
Historic Preservation Commission	11	9	2
Housing Programs Advisory Committee	7	6	1
Liquor Control Review Board	5	4	1
Plan Commission	9	8	1
Transportation Commission	7	6	1
Zoning Board Of Appeals	7	4	3
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>25</b>

### Chair Expirations

Board or Commission	Chairperson	Term Expiration Date
Aging in Communities Commission	Marc Blesoff	08/01/2025
Board of Fire and Police Commissioners	Robert Pickrell	10/30/2026
Board of Health	Christina R Welter	04/11/2027
Building Codes Advisory Commission	Tim Kelly	05/21/2023
Citizen Involvement Commission	Greg Kolar	10/04/2024
Citizens Police Oversight Committee	Kevin Barnhart	12/04/2026
Civic Information Systems Commission	David Baker	11/05/2025
Community Design Commission		
Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee	Andrew Celis	05/02/2025
Community Relations Commission		
Disability Access Commission	Gary Arnold	09/06/2025



Environment & Energy Commission	Liz Lukehart	10/17/2025
Farmers' Market Commission	Julia Knier	03/21/2025
Historic Preservation Commission	Louis Garapolo	03/06/2026
Housing Programs Advisory Committee	Dominic Tocci	08/01/2022
Liquor Control Review Board	Sarah Corbin	09/17/2024
Plan Commission	Michael Sturino	12/04/2026
Transportation Commission	Ron Burke	07/30/2025
Zoning Board Of Appeals	Mas Takiguchi	04/11/2029

**Proposal for a motion to the  
Village of Oak Park's Citizen Involvement Commission**

**Executive Summary**

I am recommending to the Village of Oak Park's Citizen Involvement Commission (CIC) that it pass a motion recommending to the Board of Trustees that it enable every volunteer Board, Commission and Committee [hereinafter "Commissions"] to recommend the retention of a previous Commissioner as an Emeritus Commissioner A) for one additional full term, B) whose presence does not count towards a quorum and C) who has no vote in the business before the Commission.

**Background**

The CIC's primary responsibility is to recruit and vet Oak Park residents (registered voters) to serve on the Village's 18 volunteer Commissions. The number of positions is approximately 150. The CIC has an annual work plan goal to maintain a 10% vacancy rate. While we have made progress during my tenure (since September 2022), we've never achieved better than a 15% vacancy rate and that was usually short-lived. Term expirations and resignations tend to outstrip CIC's ability to recruit and vet new volunteers.

The result for the Village's various Commissions is that they rarely gain and often lose experienced, informed and proven dedicated members. There is little we can do about resignations (unless there are internal processes or human dynamic issues that we can influence), but, by adoption of the recommended motion, we can retain valuable human resources, albeit in a non-voting role.

I am the CIC liaison to the Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC) and to the Citizen Information Systems Commission (CISC). In both cases, we had a commissioner who completed their "normal terms" (see below). In the BCAC case, the commissioner had exhausted his normal terms **and** an extended term (for one additional year). In the CISC case, the commissioner had exhausted her normal terms.

The solution differed depending on the Commission. The CISC commissioner, who was truly bereft at being no longer being able to serve, was rescued for the CISC and from her disappointment by the availability of the one year extension provision. In contrast, the BCAC commissioner, whose expertise and dedication would have been sorely missed, was rescued by the availability *for another five year term* by the Emeritus provision.

**Legal Precedent**

In the Village of Oak Park's Procedure Manual For Boards and Commissions In the Village of Oak Park Chapter 2.C is "Regulations Applicable to Chairs and Members". This includes Paragraph 6. Term Lengths and limits which states

"Members may serve two consecutive terms on a commission. Chairs are limited to three consecutive terms, either two as a member and one as a chair, or one as a member and two as a chair [hereinafter "normal terms"]. ... A chair or member's final term beyond a term limit provided above under one of the following conditions: (1) if the chair or member's failure to continue to serve on the applicable commission would negatively impact the completion of a special project or other matter; or (2) if the chair or member possesses professional qualifications which are required for service on the applicable commission and another person with such qualifications has not applied to serve on the commission. An extension of a term may not exceed twelve (12) months. A chair or member who has completed his or her service on a commission pursuant to an applicable

term limit may apply to serve on another commission at any time, or may apply to serve on the same commission on which he or she served upon a twelve (12) month waiting period after the expiration of that chair or member's term."

There is, then, a provision in the Village code to continue someone's service beyond their normal terms for an additional twelve months.

However, hidden away in the Village of Oak Park's Code is the provision in Article 2-20-2 referring to the membership of the Building Codes Advisory Commission (BCAC). This includes Paragraph H which states that a BCAC Commission member may be, "A former member of the Building Codes Advisory Commission as an "emeritus" nonvoting member to serve for one term only. This position would not count toward a quorum. (Ord. 2011-0-8, 2-7-2011)"

To my knowledge, BCAC is the only commission with this provision.

### **Rationale**

Adoption of this recommendation:

- In no way alters the legal requirements for quorum and voting Commission membership.
- Does not in any way deny an otherwise qualified candidate from filling an existing vacancy on a Commission, but
- Does retain for the Commission in question
  - A member whose dedication/participation is proven.
  - A member who has or has developed expertise in the business before the Commission.
  - A member who may have developed personal and practical relationships that can benefit the work of the Commission.

### **Draft Language**

I recommend that the CIC at its earliest convenience move and approve a motion with language similar to the following:

*"Oak Park Village's Citizen Involvement Commission (CIC) recommends to the Board of Trustees that it authorize all of its volunteer Boards, Commissions and Committees to recommend to the Board, by a majority vote of those present with a quorum, the retention, for one additional term as defined in the enabling language for each Commission, of one and only one previous member whose normal terms have expired as an Emeritus Commissioner A) whose participation does not count toward quorum and B) who has no vote in business before the Commission."*

Respectfully submitted  
CIC Commissioner Ron Elling  
April 13, 2024



