

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** STAFF

**COPY:** VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES - DEPARTMENT HEADS

**FROM:** Richard Nahrstadt, Village Manager

**DATE:** November 22, 2013

**RE:** STAFF BRIEFING

### WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18, 2013

#### PLAN COMMISSION

At its November 19 meeting, the Commission considered the following applications.

- Docket No. 13-01: 770 Skokie Boulevard - NorthShore 770 Mixed Use Development. The Commission considered a Resolution recommending approving the revised project with conditions. Several amendments to the resolution were considered. The Commission adopted amendments (a) clarifying the reasons for the foundation landscaping waiver and (b) clarifying further benefits regarding the provision of green roofs on the residential portion of the project. Proposed amendments made by Commission members that were not adopted included (a) amending the Zoning Code clarifying that tandem parking spaces are prohibited, (b) recommending that the developer work with the Village Board on the provision of affordable housing units consistent with the Village's Affordable Housing Plan and the Comprehensive Plan; and (c) that the thirteen surface parking spaces proposed along the northerly driveway in front of the residential building be relocated. After all the amendments were considered, the Commission adopted the resolution by a vote of 7-2.
- Docket No. 13-15: 3525 Walters Avenue – Three Lot Subdivision. The Plan Commission held its second public hearing on a request for combined tentative and final plat approval with variations for a three-lot subdivision. The applicant presented a revised subdivision design that extended the proposed shared driveway to provide the synagogue property to the west with an additional emergency/restricted access. After hearing comments from a few neighbors, the applicant stated that he would amend his application to propose only a two-lot subdivision, thus having only one new lot with access onto Coral Parkway. At the applicant's request, the Commission continued the public hearing to December 17 to provide the applicant with time to resubmit a revised subdivision design.
- Docket No. 13-15: 2315 Catherine – Three Lot Subdivision. The Plan Commission held its first public hearing on a request for combined tentative and final plat approval with variations for a two-lot subdivision. After no one from the public spoke, the Plan Commission briefly discussed the item and directed staff to prepare a resolution recommending approval of the application as submitted. The Commission will consider the resolution on December 3.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMISSION

At its regular meeting on November 14, 2013 meeting, the Commission considered the following:

1. The ACC reviewed and approved an alternative building material for the first floor of the proposed Library expansion (1201 Cedar Lane).

2. The ACC reviewed revisions to the design of the NorthShore 770 mixed use development project that had been made since the ACC last reviewed the project in September. After reviewing the revised design plans, the ACC:
  - Recommended approval of the revised residential building plans, including the building design, materials, massing, height, and colors, subject to review of the final plans at which time details of certain items, such as the size and method of fastening the Trespa panels and the use of the proposed materials and windows at the corners of buildings; and
  - Recommended approval of the larger windows on the south façade of the Mariano’s building; and
  - In response to Plan Commission recommendations,
    - Recommended that green roofs not be added to the roof of the 8-story portion of the building as the added expense of the green roofs did not justify the visual benefit they would provide tenants on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor
    - Recommended that the emergency exit not be added to the Panera’s drive-through lane in order to preserve the landscaped area.

Though the Commission found the previous building design bold and attractive, they did find that the new design also compatible with the buildings in the corridor and that it would stand the test of time.

3. The ACC also reviewed a request by the developer of the NorthShore 770 project to be able to use CPVC piping instead of copper piping for the distribution of water in the proposed residential building. The Commission requested additional information regarding the alternative piping and continued its discussion of this issue to its December 12 meeting.

#### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Commission met on Thursday and received updates for the completed and on-coming stormwater management improvement projects for FY 2012/13 (Sunny Acres Subdivision, Techny Basin Expansion, Ridge/Lee Intersection, 837/841 Cedar Lane, Oak Avenue Storage & Shermer Road at UPRR Bridge) and FY 2013/14 (Shermer Road Overflow Sewer, Wescott Park Proposed Storage Facility Study & Cherry Lane Underpass) from Village Engineer Paul Kendzior. New member Greg Hoeft was also welcomed to the Commission.

The meeting concluded with a thorough discussion of possible incentives to encourage the use of “green” initiatives for private development projects. These “green” initiatives would involve green roofs, rain barrels, rain gardens and native vegetative swales. Possible incentives could be expedited reviews and inspections. It was also suggested that a demonstration project for a rain garden in a high profile location is necessary to raise awareness and further promote “green” initiatives. The Commission is scheduled to meet next on January 16.

#### YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

On Wednesday evening, the Youth Commission met to discuss upcoming events. Operation Santa Claus, the Commission’s annual book drive for under-privileged, inner-city students at the Goethe Elementary School in Chicago, is so far a success. All of the student wish lists have been claimed and Santa is now busy at his workshop. If you are interested in participating next year, please contact Youth Commission Liaison Jason Batalden at 847/664-4417 for further information.

The Commission is also looking forward to joining residents of Lake Cook Terrace in December for a holiday gathering. Lake Cook Terrace is a residential rehabilitation and nursing center located on the east side of Northbrook. The festivities are scheduled for December 19 from 7-8:30pm and is open to any who would like to join the Commission. The Commission decided to replace December's regular meeting with this event. Other dates to place on your calendar: Quiz Bowl on February 27, 2014 and the Youth Film Fest on June 9, 2014. The next regular Youth Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2014.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

The Environmental Quality Commission held their regular meeting on Thursday evening. The meeting began with an update on the joint sustainability plan between the Village and Park District. The Commission then discussed the possibility of working to convert some of the Village's existing detention basins from turf grass to native plantings and possible grant funding for these projects. Earlier this year, the Commission worked to develop a brochure discussing rain gardens and the Village's drainage improvement cost share program. Staff provided an update on the program including the number of drainage consultations that led to projects eligible for the program. The meeting concluded with a continued discussion of goals for the Commission including the possibility of partnering with another organization to perform a river bank cleanup in the spring. Due to known scheduling conflicts, the Commission decided to cancel their regular meeting in December. The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Commission will be held on January 16, 2014.

#### UPDATE ON UNION PACIFIC RAIL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

On Wednesday, Village staff along with counterparts from IDOT, the ICC, the Village of Glenview and the Union Pacific Railroad met at the site of the new rail bridge over Shermer Road. The new rail bridge is in place and functional and work is progressing on the new wing walls for the new bridge span. However, a major component of the discussion was focused on progress of other work that remains, including an assessment of the condition of the underground utilities (specifically, water main, storm and sanitary sewers) and the condition of the roadway. Glenview staff indicated that they were able to determine that the sanitary sewers are functioning properly but to further ascertain the condition of the other utilities, over the next few days Northbrook will be assessing the condition of our water main and UPRR contractors will be televising the storm sewers.

The hope is that sufficient work can be done, and plans approved by IDOT, in order to open the roadway with temporary improvements, and then complete the permanent roadway improvements in the spring. Substantial further work, including the removal of a significant portion of the foundations of the old center pier and bridge abutments, must still be completed before any temporary roadway improvements can be completed. Likewise, the roadway is not in very good condition, which was expected. However, all representatives at the meeting agreed collectively that a temporary roadway improvement, if it met safety standards, was the outcome that the team would work toward, understanding that there are certain limitations (including the availability of asphalt as the temperatures continue to fall, as well as IDOT approval of the temporary roadway work) that would impact our ability to do so. All representatives are meeting in early December to reassess conditions and determine what next steps are necessary to work toward that outcome. We remain cautiously optimistic that the roadway may be opened with temporary improvements; but ultimately, IDOT has the authority to determine if that is possible.

#### GAS LEAK AT NORTHBROOK COURT

On Saturday, November 16 at about 2:00pm, a construction crew ruptured a 1.5" gas main at Northbrook Court. Gas escaped into the mall resulting in an evacuation of all occupants and shoppers. The Northbrook Fire Department, with assistance from Deerfield FPD, monitored and ventilated the Mall. Nicor was able to control the leak around 3:30 p.m., and Northbrook Court was re-opened. The evacuation of the Mall caused

heavy traffic on Lake Cook Road, and Police from Northbrook, Highland Park, and Deerfield assisted with traffic control.

#### NORTHBROOK RECIVES MUTUAL AID FROM MULTIPLE AGENCIES

On Monday November 18, Northbrook received 10 calls for service in approximately a one hour period during the early evening rush hour. Through automatic aid agreements and call back staff, Northbrook was able to provide uninterrupted service to the community. Northbrook received assistance from Glenview, Wheeling, and Lincolnshire Fire Departments during the increased call load.

#### ACQUIRED STRUCTURE DONATION ALLOWS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT TACTICAL TRAINING

Northbrook residents donated the use of their property on the 2700 block of Woodland for fire department training exercises prior to demolition. Northbrook fire crews were able to use the single family home for two weeks to conduct company training drills. The use of this property as a training prop allows the opportunity for valuable hands-on practice of essential fire-ground skills. The family's gesture greatly benefited the department and the firefighters.



#### POLICE ACTIVITY

On Sunday, November 17, during and following the storm, the Police Department inspected and monitored the following historically flood-prone areas: Midway/Whitfield-South Intersection, Dundee Road/Skokie Blvd. Intersection, 1800 Block of Illinois Road, Shermer Road/Illinois Road Intersection, Cherry Lane Underpass, Founders/Kensington Drive Intersection (Northbrook Greens), Farnsworth Road/Sunnyside Circle Intersection, 834 Sutton Drive, Brittany Road (Bordeaux to Dauphine), and Elm Ridge Drive/Canterbury Drive Intersection.

During the week, the Fire and Police Commission and staff conducted interviews of thirty candidates for the position of Police Officer. Those candidates receiving the recommendation of the Commission will continue to the next stage of the hiring process. It is anticipated that the chosen candidates will be offered a conditional employment with the hopes of them entering an academy in January, 2014.

During the week of November 11, Northbrook Police were contacted by the Department of Homeland Security to assist in a vehicle search at J. Alexander's Restaurant on Lake Cook Road. Officer Salmi and Canine Jack located \$80,000 in U.S. currency in the vehicle. The case is being handled by the Department of Homeland Security.

Officers responding to a well-being check on a person slumped over the steering wheel resulted in the driver speeding away at 60 mph in a 45 mph posted zone. The driver was eventually stopped, interviewed and a search of his vehicle revealed 33.9 grams of cannabis in the trunk. The driver was arrested, charged with speeding and a felony charge of possession of cannabis. His vehicle was seized and a court date set for December.

Arlington Heights Police Department requested a NIPAS Mobile Field Force activation on Saturday, November 16, for crowd control in relation to a possible protest at the annual Americans for Truth about Homosexuality Banquet. Approximately twenty protestors arrived with loud speakers and banners. After a peaceful demonstration, the rain forced the protestors to depart without incident.

A Northbrook NIPAS Mobile Field Force representative was called to Broadview, Illinois on Tuesday, November 19, for an immigration rally suspected of getting out of control. The event concluded peacefully. Northbrook also responded to a second NIPAS call out requested by the Addison Police Department on November 21 for a warrant service.

#### HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Over the past week, Public Works crews have worked to install holiday decorations on the light poles throughout the Central Business District (see photo). The Village's holiday lighting contractor, Kinnucan Tree Experts, will be coming in next week to restring some of the light strands that became dislodged during last weekend's wind storm. The holiday lights will be turned on during the evenings between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day and the decorations will be removed in January.



All residents are reminded to shop and dine in Northbrook this holiday season. Visit [www.liveshopdinenorthbrook.com](http://www.liveshopdinenorthbrook.com) for a Northbrook Shopping and Dining Guide or stop by the Village Hall or Chamber of Commerce during business hours to pick up a copy. Visit the Chamber of Commerce website at [www.northbrookchamber.org](http://www.northbrookchamber.org) for more information about holiday activities and special offers.

#### BRICK PAVER MAINTENANCE

Next week, the Village's contractor, Midwest Brickpaving, will be resetting settled brick paver sidewalk along the east side of Shermer Road just south of the railroad crossing. The contractor will also be working to reset settled bricks in the bump outs along Cherry Lane. This work is intended to mitigate any potential trip hazards that may exist due to the natural settling of the brick pavers. Midwest Brickpaving will return in the spring to power wash each of the brick crosswalks in the Central Business District and the center of the intersection of Shermer and Meadow Roads.

#### NOVEMBER 17 STORM RESPONSE

On Sunday, the Village received approximately 1.25 inches of rain and experienced winds averaging between 20 and 30 miles per hour, the exception being around 4:00 p.m. when the Village experienced winds averaging 40+ miles per hour and gusts of up to 90 miles per hour (as recorded at the Public Works Center).



The rain combined with the leaves that had fallen resulted in 10 street flooding calls at the Police Department and Public Works crews were mobilized to help clear inlets and allow the water to drain. Public Works crews also responded to several tree calls after the winds picked up and all were responded to and cleared by 6:00 p.m. The Fire Department also responded to one storm related call that was the result of a tree falling on a home's electrical service line.

Through the first half of this week, Public Works crews collected large branches that had fallen from parkway trees onto sidewalks and the road. Crews also worked to check and clear inlets that had gathered leaves. The street sweepers worked through the Village to clear leaves that had fallen in the street. The photo depicts a Public Works crew working to clear a fallen parkway tree on Downing Street.

UPDATE REGARDING NORTHBROOK NOTIFY

The Village has refined the weather alert options for the new Northbrook Notify based on input from Northbrook Fire Chief Nolan and feedback from residents in response to numerous weather calls, texts and emails that were sent to subscribers. In the future, the ONLY weather alerts that will be generated by Northbrook Notify will be for TORNADO WARNINGS. If there is a TORNADO WARNING from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA ), a message will be sent to each of phone/text or email contacts registered with the new Northbrook Notify. There is no need to adjust your weather options on your Northbrook Notify account. Thank you for your patience as we refine our system.

Residents that have not opted in to the new Northbrook Notify which was implemented on November 1, must go to [www.northbrook.il.us/NorthbrookNotify](http://www.northbrook.il.us/NorthbrookNotify) to create a new account. Questions? Call 847/64-4015.

NORTHBROOK INTERFAITH SERVICE

The Northbrook Interfaith Service will be held on Wednesday, November. 27, 7pm, at the United Methodist Church, 1190 Western Ave. The service is presented by the Northbrook Clergy Association. All are welcome to take part in this celebration to give thanks with family, friends and neighbors in our community. The service includes an opportunity to donate canned foods or cash to benefit the Northfield Food Pantry, if you so desire.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25, 2013

<b>MON.</b>	<b>11/25</b>	7:30 p.m.	ZBA – Board Room
<b>TUES.</b>	<b>11/26</b>	7:30 a.m.	ICDC – <b>Cancelled <i>rescheduled to December 17, 2013</i></b>
		7:30 a.m.	Special Meeting: Bd. Of Fire & Police Commissioners – Fire Station 11
		7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – <b>Cancelled</b>
<b>WED.</b>	<b>11/27</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Interfaith Service – United Methodist Church, Cherry &amp; Western</b>
<b>THURS.</b>	<b>11/28</b>		<b>Hanukkah begins at Sundown</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day – Village Hall Closed</b>
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>11/29</b>		<b>Day after Thanksgiving – Village Hall Closed</b>