

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY -MARCH 22, 2022
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: President Hofeld called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Hofeld led trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Clerk Marilyn Thomas called the roll. Those present were Village President Richard Hofeld, Trustee Lisa Purcell, Trustee Cece Belue, Trustee Karen Washington, Trustee Vivian Harris-Jones, Trustee Lauren Roman, and Trustee Jay Heiferman.

President Hofeld introduced staff present: Village Manager Napoleon Haney, Assistant Village Manager Justine Bruno, Attorney Christopher Cummings, Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, Director of Economic Development Angela Mesaros and Police Chief Denise McGrath.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2022, were presented. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion was made by Trustee Washington and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the minutes as presented.

Roll Call: AYES—Trustees Purcell, Belue, Washington, Harris-Jones, Heiferman and Roman. NAYS –None. Motion carried.

CLAIMS LIST: The Claims List in the amount of \$326,769.09 was presented. There were no questions from the Trustees.

A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Harris-Jones to approve the Claims List as presented.

Roll Call: AYES—Trustees Purcell, Belue, Washington, Harris-Jones, Roman and Heiferman. NAYS –None. Motion carried.

President Hofeld said two items totaled 39 percent of the Claims List: Payment to Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District of \$84,811.84 and Suburban Laboratories for a water corrosion study of \$17,373.24.

HEAR FROM THE AUDIENCE: President Hofeld invited anyone in the audience to discuss any item not on the agenda. A representative of Bloom Township gave information on the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial that will be at Marian Catholic High School July 7-10. She was hoping Homewood would be involved and citizens would volunteer on the project. President Hofeld said he would be in contact with the Veterans Committee so its members could be part of the event.

APPOINTMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Purcell to approve the appointment of Julie Willis to the Appearance Commission for a three-year term ending March 22, 2025.

Roll Call: AYES—Trustees Purcell, Belue, Washington, Harris-Jones, Roman and Heiferman.
NAYS –None. Motion carried.

Julie Willis was sworn in by Clerk Thomas.

RE-APPOINTMENT: A motion was made by Trustee Roman and seconded by Trustee Harris-Jones to approve the reappointment of Mario Planera to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five-year term expiring March 22, 2027.

Roll Call: AYES—Trustees Purcell, Belue, Washington, Harris-Jones, Roman and Heiferman.
NAYS –None. Motion carried.

OMNIBUS VOTE: The board was asked to consider a motion to pass, approve, authorize, accept, or award the following item(s):

- A. Waive Competitive Bidding/Emergency Purchase/Police Department: Waive competitive bidding for an emergency purchase due to a high demand for vehicles; and authorize the purchase of two 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles from D’Orazio Ford in the amount of \$74,115, and \$24,000 for additional equipment for Squad #15 and #16.
- B. R-3103/Fund Appropriation/2022 Rebuild IL Bond Resurfacing Program: Pass a supplemental resolution appropriating an additional \$120,000 of Motor Fuel Tax funds to fully fund the low bid award of the 2022 Rebuild Illinois Bond Resurfacing Program.
- C. Bid Award/Street Resurfacing/K-Five Construction Corporation: Award a bid for the 2022 Rebuild Illinois Street Resurfacing Program to K-Five Construction Corporation of Westmont, IL, the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$956,921.03.

A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Belue to approve the Omnibus Report as presented.

Roll Call: AYES—Trustees Purcell, Belue, Washington, Harris-Jones, Roman and Heiferman.
NAYS –None. Motion carried.

Old Business: 183rd Street Traffic Study/Phase One Recommendations: Direct staff to refine and identify costs required to implement Phase I strategies of the 183rd Street Traffic Study Implementation Plan.

Director of Public Works John Schaefer gave an overview of the four proposals to reduce speeding on the major thoroughfare. 1) Reduce the 4 lanes of 183rd Street to 2 lanes with a center turn lane and bike lanes from Riegel to Morgan for a two-week test period in early May. 2) Gottschalk Avenue north of 183rd Street will be limited to northbound traffic from 183rd to Olive, or close Gottschalk to traffic from 183rd Street. 3) Study the possibility of putting a stoplight at 183rd and Center. 4) Put delineators in the intersection of Park Avenue and 183rd Street to stop the illegal left turns from southbound Park onto 183rd.

Director Schaefer addressed questions from the audience. He reminded the community that this is phase 1 of a study of 183rd Street through the Village. The stretch from Park east to Halsted was studied because of the high traffic volume in a residential neighborhood. He said the Village does not intend to make changes permanent until they have been tested and studied. Schaefer also said

the Village is testing the least costly proposals first to gauge their impact the situation. If they are successful, they could be implemented sooner than the more costly proposals.

Residents wondered if the redesign would give them back the parkways they lost when the street was widened to four lanes. Several said the houses are close to the road now and they will not walk on the sidewalk because of how fast cars speed down 183rd. Several residents said the center turn lane would be good for them, but others thought it would be tough to get in and out of driveways.

Director Schaefer said the Public Works Department would study traffic volume on Ridge Road, 183rd and 187th Streets before and during the study period to learn if traffic would move to other streets to avoid the lane reductions.

President Hofeld polled Trustees for comments. All agreed that the Public Works proposals should be studied and voiced support for the proposal to reduce 183rd Street traffic to two lanes for a testing period in May.

General Board Discussion: None

Executive Session: A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Washington for the board to move into executive session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).

Roll Call: AYES—Trustees Purcell, Belue, Washington, Harris-Jones, Roman and Heiferman. NAYS –None. Motion carried.

The board moved to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

The board returned from Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

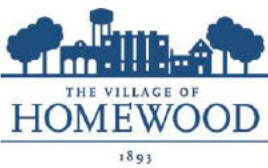
A motion was made by Trustee Purcell and seconded by Trustee Belue to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Thomas

Village Clerk



PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Board Meeting

From: Linda Wallace [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 8:50 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: 183rd St. Changes

Dear Madams and Sirs;

After reading the proposed modifications for the traffic pattern on 183rd St., I am very concerned that the proposals don't adequately address the tragically dangerous situation from Riegel Road west to Kedzie Avenue. One native Homewood pedestrian was already killed on this stretch (2015), so are you waiting until another tragedy occurs before any action is taken? This tragedy was not even part of the engineering firm's study of 183rd Street, which is a travesty in itself. Homewood residents deserve more from the study and proposals since our well-being is at stake and our tax dollars are paying for this. The present design of 183rd St. was not even approved by most residents when it was redone back in 1974, and traffic has only gotten worse. Please insist on a more thorough and comprehensive plan before approving any action to correct the numerous and tragic problems of 183rd St.

I was born in and have lived in Homewood for 60 years of my life and hope that it can grow to be a safer and more responsive community for pedestrians, bicyclists and auto drivers alike.

Sincerely,
Linda Wallace
[REDACTED]
Homewood, IL 60430

From: Lawrence Benson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 10:20 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: 183rd Street

We love to walk and bike ride through Homewood. We frequently walk from our Southgate home to the library. Highland Avenue is the most convenient route. Crossing 183rd at Highland is challenging to say the least. Also, 183rd is the major EW street in Homewood and impossible to safely ride a bicycle on. The "road diet" option sounds great. But please, let's fix 183rd from Kedzie to Halsted.

Respectfully yours,
Lawrence and Jeanne Benson
40+ Years Homewood residents

From: Ree Grisham [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:10 PM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Comment for tonight's Board meeting

This is regarding Park Avenue heading southbound to 183rd Street. It would be helpful to have a sign at the Dixie Highway/Park Avenue intersection advising that there is no left turn at 183rd Street. There are signs further along Park Avenue, but by that time a driver has committed to that route. Having a clear advisory before a driver actually enters Park Avenue might alleviate some of the problem. Thank you.

Ree Grisham
Homewood, IL 60430

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Board Meeting**

From: Kristen S [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 7:10 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

To whom it may concern,

I am a Homewood resident, a car owner, a parent, a cyclist, and a disability advocate. In all of these intersecting roles, I have worried about 183rd Street.

As a disability advocate, I always think about what a safe, accessible neighborhood might look like for someone in a wheelchair. While the sidewalks along 183rd are helpful, cars drive too fast down 183rd for anyone who uses the sidewalks regularly to feel safe. Take into account that wheelchair users are less visible to speeding cars, cars that are turning, and visibility decreases with piled snow and full trees and busses. My heart goes out to any wheelchair user in Homewood that has to ever cross that street.

From: Tom Dascenzo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:08 PM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

I am a multi decade homeowner in our Homewood Community. As a veteran, retired educator, and person of faith, I am deeply concerned that the current vision for fixing 183rd street, though well meaning, misses the overall community need.

I live at [REDACTED], Homewood IL 60430. I try often to walk, bicycle, and drive throughout the surrounding area. I find that 183rd street prevents access to our community resources, residents and their guests. Currently configured, challenges most, either by car, foot, bicycle, and walking!

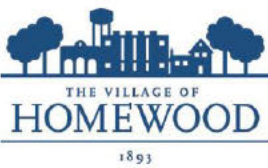
You take your life into your hands anytime you attempt to access, cross, drive or walk along, by car, bicycle and foot. We have a wonderful downtown but 183rd prevents encouraging access anywhere along it from Kedzie to Halsted.

Whether sight lines for any direction along 183rd from most side streets, to speeding through traffic, no established bike lanes, as well as little to no sidewalk for foot traffic along 183rd street, it's currently a village handicap for almost all.

This resident requested change to your current limited vision, is an absolutely necessity for the fulfillment of the potential quality of life for our entire community and visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Dascenzo



PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Board Meeting

From: Irwin Friedman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:47 PM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

I would like to voice my opinion that an appropriate solution to the traffic problems plaguing 183rd Street would be to implement bike lines on either side of the street, reduce the traffic lanes from two in each direction to one each way and create a center lane dedicated to left turning. Such an example can be found on Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park between 183rd Street and the railroad tracks just north of 175th Street. This solution can readily be implemented at a reasonable cost by merely painting new lines delineating each lane. I would suggest that this scheme be adopted from Halsted Street to at least Governors Highway.

Irwin Friedman
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: L.C. Wagner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 11:40 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

I am glad that the Village of Homewood is addressing the 183rd Street issue, however, I think it should be all of 183rd from Halsted to Kedzie. There have been countless accidents, including the one where a young man lost his life near James Hart school. The sidewalks for most of 183rd are very narrow and it is not safe to bike on the street. I just think it would benefit our community to have designated bike lanes along 183rd.

Thanks,
LC Wagner
[REDACTED], Homewood, IL

From: Paula Hiebert [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 10:43 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

I believe that we need to fix all of 183rd Street, from Halsted to Kedzie. That means that any pilot program that is initiated by the village should include all of 183rd Street within the village of Homewood, that is, from Halsted to Kenzie.

Paula Hiebert
[REDACTED]

PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Board Meeting

From: Julie Clack [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 10:25 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

To Whom It May Concern,

I am not able to make it to the meeting tonight but I do have a few suggestions on fixing 183rd Street. First, The speeding is out of control. While I appreciate the step up in patrols, it is still terrible and dangerous. At this point I think 4 lanes is not working. This is allowing people to speed while weaving in and out of traffic which is much worse. A turn lane down the center of the street with a two lane road would probably be best. This would allow room for a bike lane or parking for those who live on that street or have a business there. This is just my idea but I know others have said the same. Second, with the lack of street lights, drivers cannot see the lines on the road sometimes on a good night but especially when it rains or snows. Restriping does not work or only does for a very short time. Can we get reflectors added? This would greatly be appreciated by the community as I know this also is a huge problem people have with 183rd street. I am not old and have great eyesight but this makes me avoid this street because if i can't see them, then the other people cannot as well. Thank you for your time. I truly hope you take the ideas the community has to improve such a hazardous road.

Julie Clack
Clack Graphics
www.wix.com/clackgraphics/julie

From: Matthew Moran [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 12:45 PM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Moran <liz@mattnliz.net>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

To whom it may concern:

We are writing as a long time residents of Homewood to express our support for the plan you will be considering this evening to reduce the number of lanes on 183rd street and to add protected bike lanes. We understand that this plan is currently limited to the stretch between Riegel and Morgan. We strongly encourage you to adopt this plan and to consider extending it all the way from Kedzie to Halsted.

We enjoy riding our bikes around the village, although we do not always feel safe with traffic. 183rd street is a major thoroughfare that divides Homewood, and navigating anywhere near it on a bicycle can be hazardous. We would gladly use our bikes instead of our car for more errands if it were easier to safely get around on a bicycle.

In addition, we have observed that there are several areas on 183rd Street where the sidewalks are too narrow to permit an adult tricycle or wheelchair to safely pass. This is particularly true near the 183rd Street viaduct. It is our hope that reducing the traffic lanes in favor of protected bicycle lanes will help cyclists and pedestrians, especially those with disabilities.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Board Meeting**

We realize that asking for protected bike lanes the length of 183rd Street may seem like asking for the moon. It is our hope that you will approve the plan before you this evening, and revisit the idea of extending the infrastructure improvements to the entire length of 183rd Street as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

Matthew and Elizabeth Moran
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Kim Nolen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 1:28 PM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

While the proposal to reduce lanes of traffic, add a center turn lane and bike lanes is a good start, I support a plan that fixes ALL of 183rd St., the full length of it traversing Homewood: from Kedzie to Halsted.

The difficulties and dangers to the community at large, including pedestrian and bicyclists traveling along 183rd and attempting to cross it, are elements of consideration for a comprehensive plan to fix all of 183rd St. Taking a holistic view of what it means to be a transit-oriented community means taking all aspects of a plan to fix the entirety of 183rd into consideration.

Fixing 183rd, so that it works for and serves EVERYBODY, can and should be this generation's legacy.

Sincerely,
Kim Nolen

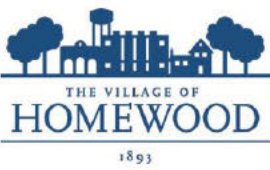
From: Brian Shores [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 7:53 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Fix ALL of 183rd Street!

183rd Street need to address bike lanes and pedestrian crossings as well as motor traffic. This should be addressed for the entire span of 183rd Street from Kedzie to Halsted.

As cities all around the country are making streets more friendly and available to bicycles Homewood should follow suit and bring 183rd St. into the future of how we commute around town.

Regards,

Brian Shores



PUBLIC COMMENTS –
for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Board Meeting

From: Jeff McClain [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 11:16 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: In support of 183rd St Changes

Dear Village of Homewood Board Members,

As Third Addition residents we enjoy being able to do our grocery shopping at Walt's by bike and do so regularly throughout the year. It would be great if we could easily do the same at Jewel at 183rd and Kedzie as we often shop there as well but with no easy route to and from home we do not often do so by bike. I commute to and from the Metra Electric every day for work at the Flossmoor station rather than Homewood simply because, while the same distance from our home, I do not have to contend with automobile traffic on 183rd St. While we have shopped by bike downtown and at some of the businesses on Halsted, we would do so much more regularly were it not for having to navigate across and along 183rd St. We most often ride south to Flossmoor Rd to cross to the train tracks when going anywhere east of our home. Because we drive to these businesses more often than we would prefer, we are compounding the very problem we wish could be corrected.

I strongly believe ease of access to the downtown area for pedestrians and cyclists would increase visitor traffic at Homewood Science Center and Homewood Library in addition to the businesses in the area.

Thank you very much for working to address this important safety and quality of life challenge in our community.

Respectfully,

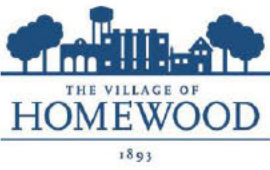
Jeff McClain

From: Brian Garland [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 8:27 AM
To: PublicComments <comments@homewoodil.gov>
Subject: Please read regarding village roadways and 183rd Street

My name is Brian Garland and I am a Homewood resident and employee. My wife and I moved here in 2013 to start our family which has grown to a 4, 5, and 8 year old. My wife is a teacher at Parker Junior High School and I teach at HF High School, both approximately 2 miles from our home on Cedar Road in the Ravisloe neighborhood.

I love that we can walk, run, or ride our bikes to Homewood's downtown area because it has so much to offer. It's one of our favorite things about our town. However, there is great need for improvement in our sidewalk systems and bike lanes to make the town more accessible. Painted bike lanes simply are not safe and are not the answer. This is well documented. We need better ways to get pedestrians around the Homewood-Flossmoor area. Pedestrian walkways should allow all Homewood residents to easily access all parts of our town, and ideally neighboring areas like Flossmoor.

My wife and I have no way to safely cross 183rd and get to our jobs even if we wanted to and I know many other residents in similar positions that either have to commute along 183rd or cross it somewhere between Kedzie and Halsted. I used to ride my bike to HF, but 183rd is simply too dangerous so I have stopped.



PUBLIC COMMENTS – for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Board Meeting

Also, the sidewalks along Dixie Highway that lead to downtown from our neighborhood (Maple, Cedar, and Pine) are also not safe - they are far too close to the road, there is no railing or wall of any kind, and cars go extremely fast down Dixie.

How wonderful would our community be if all residents could safely cross 183rd? Safely walk or ride bikes between Homewood and Flossmoor's downtown areas which are less than 2 miles apart? Safely walk or ride bikes to our outstanding community schools? We should be a leading example for a pedestrian accessible community. Instead, I am left cringing as I watch people walk down the median of 175th street, walk in the grass along Governors Highway trying to get to work or school, or cross 4 lanes of traffic on 183rd. We can do so much better.

Thank you all for taking the time to listen to my concerns and I look forward to the progress that we make on these issues.