



Village of Woodridge

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April 24, 2003

Trustee-elect Robert Brandt
Post Office Box 5284
Woodridge, IL 60517

Dear Bob:

Thank you for conveying your opinion regarding the reappointment of the twelve members of various Boards and Commissions and the two appointments.

While you used the words "condemnation as to the process of their appointments," I am not certain you are actually knowledgeable of the process for reappointments.

First, the Village Code provides, "All appointments to advisory boards and commissions shall be made by the Mayor, subject to the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees." In most metropolitan communities, the Mayor independently brings recommended appointments and reappointments to their boards without input from the other elected officials. That is not the case in Woodridge. In Woodridge, all Trustees are involved in the appointment and reappointment process. Decisions are generally made based on a consensus, not just the view of the Mayor.

When we have a resignation or make a decision not to reappoint someone, our general practice is to publicize the vacancy and interview interested residents. In the case of the two appointments, that was not done due to the unique background and the understanding on the part of the two appointees as to what the role is of the Zoning Board of Appeals. It would have actually been a dis-service to residents to schedule interviews and raise their expectations when because of the excellent background of the two appointees their appointment would ultimately have been made anyway.

You also have used the words, "automatically renewing citizen appointments on various Boards and Commissions." You are incorrect. There are no automatic reappointments. The process for considering reappointments is very deliberate. The Trustees and I review attendance, participation, and the contribution of those members who are up for reappointment. Contrary to your view to not reappoint those individuals who have an exemplary record would indeed be a negative "comment about the qualifications of those members" and a tremendous loss of historical perspective and knowledge.

While I agree with your desire to involve more citizens in Village government, it should not be at the expense of not reappointing volunteer residents who have contributed their time and expertise. As I review the membership of our various Boards and Commissions, opportunities often occur through attrition for the appointment of new residents. The Plan Commission is but one example. The Plan Commission has a very healthy blend of residents who have served with distinction on the Plan Commission for years but also several newer members.

Due to the before-mentioned reasons, I will not, as you suggest, "reappoint the specified members for 90 days to avoid vacancies and open up all positions to the public."

By way of conclusion, and in light of my comments, I would also take exception to your comment that "The image of Woodridge municipal government is a "members-only" club." Much to the contrary, I believe the image of Woodridge municipal government is one that is operated in a very "professional, business-like manner" with vast opportunities for citizen input and involvement, including Neighborhood Dialogues, the Town Meeting, Department Satisfaction Surveys, the Community Survey, and service on Boards and Commissions.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE



William F. Murphy
Mayor

Attachments

- c: Board of Trustees
- Eileene Nystrom, Village Clerk
- Members of the Plan Commission
- Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Members of the Board of Police Commissioners
- Members of the Police Pension Board
- Members of the Energy & Environment Commission
- John Perry, Village Administrator