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# Villa Park REVIEW

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## Villa Park Village Board members vote to dissolve advisory commissions and create new commissions in their place

By Chris Fox  
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Villa Park Village Board members voted during their July 28 meeting to dissolve multiple village advisory commissions and create new commissions in their place.

The proposals to dissolve village commissions and replace them with new commissions first appeared on the board's agenda during the June 23 board meeting. A large majority of the 37 residents who spoke during that meeting's segment for public comments criticized the proposed ordinances to dissolve several village commissions, including the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, the Environmental Concerns Commission, the Economic Development Commission, the Traffic and Safety Commission and the Video Production Commission.

### Residents express their opinions during public comments on agenda items

Eight people spoke during the July 28 meeting's segment for public comments on agenda items. That segment took place early in the meeting, before board members voted on resolutions to dissolve village commissions.

The first of the eight speakers was Ivan Figueroa, a junior commissioner on the Environmental Concerns Commission.

He said that dismantling that commission would erase the voice of young people like him. Moments after he spoke, Villa Park Village President Kevin Patrick said that none of the pending resolutions stated that junior commissioners were going away. Later in the meeting, the village's attorney—Ryan Morton—also noted that junior commissioner membership is not going away. He added that junior commissioners' terms expire after one year. After that, junior commissioners need to be reappointed.

Village resident Tom King spoke during the segment for public comments on agenda items and said he supported the restructuring and dissolution of some village commissions. King said the village's current system for its advisory commissions is a dated one that discourages new voices.

Bob Wagner, a former village board member and the chair of the Environmental Concerns Commission, spoke after King and criticized the dissolution of that commission and the Video Production Commission. Before the segment for public comments began, Patrick advised speakers to adhere to the board's 3-minute limit for comments.

After Wagner spoke for about 90 seconds, or half of his allotted time, the music signaling the end of a speaker's time began to play. About 15 seconds later, Patrick stated, "Bob,

you're going to need to wrap it up."

Village Clerk Rolf Laukant, who frequently struggles to keep track of each speaker's allotted time, and to stop what appears to be his phone from playing a musical alarm marking the end of that time, seems to be in charge of timing each speaker's comments. His musical alarm went off about 40 seconds into the comments of Marianne Greco, who spoke after Wagner. The same alarm also went off later in the meeting as Villa Park Finance Director Susan Mika, who is not constrained to any time limit, tried to answer a question from Trustee Cari Alfano.

Greco, who is a member of the Environmental Concerns Commission, said there was no plan for a smooth transition from the dissolved commissions to the new commissions. She also said that a lot of knowledge and time would be lost by removing experienced commissioners from various commissions. Greco added that she would continue to champion environmental causes.

Justin Shlensky, a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, was the eighth and final speaker in the meeting's segment for public comments on agenda items. He said the village board approved the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations more than 90 percent of the time. Shlensky said that the ordi-

nance to dissolve that commission was "all about control," and lacked a clear transition schedule.

"This is not how you build trust, connection and community," said Shlensky in criticizing the proposals to dissolve commissions. "This is how you divide."

### Meeting's agenda includes white paper and report from village president

The agenda for the July 28 meeting featured a white paper titled: "Modernizing Villa Park's Boards and Commissions." The opening of that white paper states that the village's boards and commissions

have long provided a vital channel for resident input and policy guidance.

"Over time, however, many commissions have experienced challenges such as inconsistent participation, overlapping responsibilities, and outdated purposes no longer aligned with the Village's strategic goals," added the statement at the beginning of the white paper.

A report from Patrick, titled, "Modernizing Local Governance: Rationale and Evidence for Restructuring Villa Park's Commissions," was included in the meeting's agenda, and apparently part of the white paper. The report provides a summary

of proposed changes regarding village commissions and benefits of reorganization. The item from Patrick also refers to practices in three cities—Naperville, Oberlin, Ohio, and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Patrick's report states that half of all seats on village commissions are occupied by members with more than six years of tenure, with many serving 10 to 17 years continuously. Additionally, some people sit on multiple commissions, and some commissions are "primarily composed of former Trustees, Village Presidents, or long-time officials."

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## Parade award winners



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Villa Park Review

During its July 28 board meeting, the Villa Park Village Board announced and presented the award winners from the village's recent Independence Day Parade. The award for Best Musical Performance was presented to the DuPage 88 Marching Band, which consists of musicians from Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. Some members of the band are pictured during last month's parade. The Most Patriotic Award was presented to St. Paul Lutheran Church. The Northwest Suburban Concert Band received the Best Use of Theme Award, while the Community Choice Award was presented to Midland Plumbing and Sewer. The village and Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 presented the Fourth of July Parade. The theme of this year's parade was "Forever United."

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# Sports



CHRIS FOX FOR FILE PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook's Silver and Blue Community Night takes place Aug. 22

Willowbrook High School invites its students, parents/guardians, alumni, staff, community members and friends to celebrate the start of the 2025-26 school year by attending the school's ninth Silver and Blue Community Night on Friday, Aug. 22. The event, which will take place in Willowbrook's stadium, will include introductions of the school's fall athletic teams. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. Activities will begin at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Concessions will be available to buy. The event will conclude with the Willowbrook football team's scrimmage against the Friars of Fenwick High School. One photo (above) from last year's Silver and Blue Community Night shows Claire Brennan (middle) during the introductions of members of the school's girls tennis team. Another photo (below) shows Maggie Hurley (No. 20) of Willowbrook's girls volleyball team. One more photo (bottom) from last year's celebration shows McKenzie Edison (No. 3) of the Warriors' flag football team. Brennan, Hurley and Edison are members of Willowbrook's Class of 2027.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Twin brothers earn All-Conference recognition

Twin brothers (left to right) Nick and Vince Irion of Montini Catholic High School's boys track and field team both received Chicago Catholic League (CCL) All-Conference honors for the 2025 outdoor season. The Irion brothers, who are Lombard residents, are members of Montini's Class of 2025. Earlier in their senior year, the two brothers played on the Broncos' 2024 IHSA Class 3A state-champion football team. The twins will continue their academic and athletic careers at Lake Forest College. Both Irions will play for the Foresters' football team. Another 2025 Montini graduate—Santino Florio—will also join them in playing for the Lake Forest College football team. Like the Irions, Florio was a member of Montini's 2024 state-champion football team. He also joined the Irions in earning CCL All-Conference honors during 2025 outdoor track and field season. The Irion brothers and Florio have been football teammates for several years, since they played flag football, and then tackle football, with the Lombard Falcons program.

### Answers

#### PUZZLE 1

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7	2	3	8	1	5	9	6	4
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6	5	9	4	3	2	8	1	7

#### PUZZLE 2

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