



Village of Maple Park

302 Willow Street ♦ P.O. Box 220 ♦ Maple Park, Illinois 60151

Village Hall: 815-827-3309

Website: <http://www.villageofmaplepark.org>

Approved by the Village Board of
Trustees on June 2, 2026

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
MAPLE PARK CIVIC CENTER
302 WILLOW STREET, MAPLE PARK
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Village President Chris Rebone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Rebone led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL/QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Village Administrator Cheryl Aldridge called the roll call, and the following Board Members were present: Village President Chris Rebone, Trustee Andy Bingley, Trustee Tonia Groezinger, Trustee JT Peloso, Trustee Cliff Speare, and Trustee Jen Ward. Absent: Trustee Chris Simon.

Also present: Village Administrator Cheryl Aldridge.

Members of the public present were found on the meetings sign-in sheet.

President Rebone confirmed a quorum was established.

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *Any resident wishing to address the Board may do so according to the guidelines set forth in the “Rules for Public Comments at Public Meetings” handout. Please complete a speaker request form and submit it to the Village Clerk. You may also send an e-mail to villageclerk@villageofmaplepark.com in advance of the meeting. The Village Clerk will read such comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Time Limit: 5 minutes per speaker.*

President Rebone asked if anyone has a comment that is not related to ducks.

Resident Dan Humme did want to comment about the sidewalk reimbursement.

The meeting was then shifted to leave the discussion of ducks to the end.

5. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CODE SECTION 2-6 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT SUBSIDIES

Village Administrator Aldridge noted that the sidewalk reimbursement ordinance had not been updated since 1990. Administrator Aldridge shared that currently the reimbursement

rate of \$1 per square foot—compared to current replacement costs of approximately \$17 per square foot—might encourage residents to replace sidewalks and reduce Village expenses. Trustee Groezinger asked whether reimbursements were intended for necessary repairs or optional replacements, and Administrator Aldridge responded that most requests involved sidewalks that needed replacement. The trustees continued to discuss the reimbursement program. President Rebone stated that the Village now has a strong sidewalk replacement program funded through the TIF and expressed his opinion that the reimbursement program was no longer necessary. Trustee Ward asked how often the program had been used since 1990, and Administrator Aldridge stated it had only been used a handful of times. President Rebone added that sidewalk maintenance is the Village's responsibility and expressed concern that allowing private contractors not hired by the Village could create future liability issues. He also noted that Public Works maintains a report identifying sidewalks requiring repair or replacement. Administrator Aldridge asked if the Board wished to remove the ordinance. Trustee Bingley agreed, and Trustee Ward commented that the program likely existed when the Village had fewer resources. Administrator Aldridge added that even with current funding, the Village still has significant sidewalk repair needs. Trustee Peloso stated that the reimbursement program also creates confusion regarding sidewalk ownership responsibilities. Resident Dan Humme addressed the Board regarding drainage issues on his property that may require removal of sidewalk sections. He asked whether the Village could delay sidewalk replacement work in his area. President Rebone added that when sidewalk replacement is scheduled in Dan's area, the Village will provide advance notice and coordinate with him regarding if his sidewalk would be replaced. President Rebone added that liability concerns prevent residents from being responsible for sidewalk sections and stated he would not want that responsibility himself. Administrator Aldridge stated she would begin working on preparing the ordinance to remove the sidewalk subsidy.

6. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CODE SECTION 4-7 RAFFLES

President Rebone stated that bond requirements had historically been included as part of raffle applications. However, he noted that requiring a bond only to routinely waive it for small-town raffles was unnecessary. He suggested removing the bond requirement language while leaving the remainder of the raffle application unchanged. The Board agreed, and Administrator Aldridge stated she would begin working on the revision.

7. DISCUSSION OF MEMORIAL POND

Discussion will be at the June COW.

8. DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE CODE SECTION 4-2-23 LIQUOR CONTROL / PROHIBITED ACTS

President Rebone shared a quick history regarding the language used for this code. He shared that after speaking with Village Attorney the surrounding municipalities have similar language. President Rebone feels that this is a bit excessive and can be cleaned up. Discussion ensued and President Rebone asked if they agreed to consolidating this code down. Administrator Aldridge will move forward with the edits made by the Village Attorney. The trustees agreed.

9. DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

Discussion will be at June COW

10. DISCUSSION OF DUCKS

The discussion started by President Rebone asking who in the room is for having ducks.

Resident Andrew Demore asked the board to reconsider the ordinance prohibiting ducks. He explained that his ducks are kept as personal companion emotional support animals (ESAs), not for commercial purposes or financial gain. He stated that the ducks are responsibly cared for in a clean, enclosed environment, are not free roaming, have not caused property damage, and have not generated nuisance complaints during the three years he has owned them. Andrew requested that the board evaluate the ordinance based on measurable nuisance impacts rather than assumptions about poultry ownership. He noted that ducks and chickens typically vocalize within a 55–75 decibel range, which is comparable to normal conversation and significantly quieter than barking dogs, which commonly range from 80–90 decibels. He referenced CDC comparisons that place normal conversation at 60 decibels and lawn mowers at 85 decibels. He further explained that many municipal nuisance ordinances focus on the duration and repetition of noise, such as prolonged barking, rather than the mere presence of an animal. According to Andrew, ducks and chickens generally vocalize briefly and intermittently as part of normal communication and do not create prolonged or continuous noise disturbances. Andrew also pointed out that several Illinois municipalities and neighboring communities already allow backyard poultry, including ducks, under reasonable regulations such as limits on the number of animals and sanitation requirements. He argued that these examples demonstrate that ducks can be successfully regulated in the same manner as other permitted poultry.

Administrator Aldridge read a public comment from resident Joe Stout, “Ducks are good” he was unable to attend.

Administrator Aldridge also read a comment from resident Hillary Joy. She stated that she grew up with chickens and ducks in Lily Lake. It was important to her that Maple Park allowed chickens. She stated that chickens and ducks are very different. Hillary mentioned where ducks may be cute, they can be aggressive. They need standing water sources and lots of land to accommodate their needs. She stated that many sources online recommend at least one acre for ducks. She stated that their byproduct smells more than chickens. Lastly, she stated that ducks can be loud, mean and make bigger messes of the yard.

Trustee Bingley stated that he supports allowing ducks and does not see a significant difference between ducks and chickens. He added that the same restrictions currently applied to chickens should remain in place, suggesting a limit of six total birds in any combination. Trustee Groezinger expressed concern that the ducks had been kept in violation of the ordinance for the past three years. She noted that when the board reviewed and approved chickens approximately 12 months earlier, ducks were still prohibited under the ordinance. Trustee Peloso asked Andrew Demore how many ducks he currently owned and stated that he agreed with Trustee Bingley’s recommendation of allowing up to six total. Trustee Ward commented that it was difficult for her to view the noise concern as significant given that residents have long tolerated train horn noise in the area. She stated

that she was persuaded by the nuisance provision because any legitimate nuisance complaints could still be enforced under the ordinance. She also expressed interest in learning about the experiences of the Village of Lily Lake with allowing ducks. President Rebone responded that Lily Lake differs significantly in its layout and development. Trustee Groezinger reiterated her concern that the village had not enforced the ordinance despite the ducks being prohibited and questioned whether making an exception now could encourage residents to expect future exceptions for other prohibited animals. Andrew responded that there are additional ducks within the village, and Administrator Aldridge acknowledged that may be true but stated the village is not aware of who owns them.

President Rebone stated that he understood Trustee Simon's position on the matter and noted that both he and Trustee Simon were generally neutral regarding the issue. He pointed out that while roosters are prohibited under the current ordinance, some residents still own them, and the village does not actively seek out violations. Instead, enforcement relies on resident reports and anonymous complaints rather than directing police or staff to investigate proactively. President Rebone also noted that the ducks in question had been present for approximately three years without complaints until recently, which he believed demonstrated they had not created an ongoing nuisance. He agreed with Trustee Bingley that any amendment to the ordinance should include a maximum limit of six ducks total, regardless of the combination of chickens or ducks. In response to Trustee Groezinger's concerns, President Rebone stated that the Village has not routinely granted exceptions to ordinances in the past. Following additional discussion among the trustees, he asked the board to review Ordinance 6-2-9 and provide further comments. He suggested continuing the discussion at the June Committee of the Whole meeting, noting there appeared to be general agreement on allowing ducks with a six-bird limit, but that the ordinance language would need to be clarified and made more restrictive, as the current wording is too vague.

President Rebone read comments provided by Village Attorney Moore regarding the Illinois Assistance Animal Integrity Act and applicable federal laws, including the Fair Housing Act. The attorney explained that housing providers are required to recognize and make reasonable accommodations for emotional support animals, and municipalities cannot adopt ordinances that would prevent housing providers from complying with those legal obligations. The attorney further stated that municipalities retain the authority to regulate animals and to define, prevent, and abate nuisances. However, unlike housing providers, municipalities are not independently required to provide accommodation for emotional support animals under those laws. President Rebone stated that if the animals are considered service animals or emotional support animals, he does not believe the village code should interfere with those protections and indicated that he would prefer the Village avoid creating conflicts in that area.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

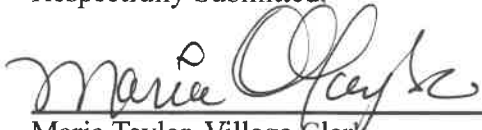
President Rebone shared we will be participating in a Paint a Hydrant campaign. Administrator Aldridge added that the applications will be in the village office, on the village website and on Facebook for residents to participate. He shared that the village will be providing the paint after approval.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business before the Board, motion was made by Trustee Bingley with 2nd by Trustee Peloso to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maria Taylor, Village Clerk

