

April 13, 2020

Dear Wilmette Park Board Commissioners and Executive Director Steve Wilson,

We understand that the Park Board is meeting tonight remotely via Zoom or some other platform. While we commend the Park Board for continuing to carry on with its important work during this very difficult time for all, we are concerned the Park Board is not livestreaming this remote meeting or providing a way for public comment during the meeting.

We understand that Governor Pritzker, by Executive Order, has suspended the Open Meetings Act (OMA) provisions relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body and limitations on when remote access is allowed. However, the Executive Order did not suspend OMA requirements for public bodies to allow for public comment. In fact, the Public Access Counselor's [Guidance to Public Bodies on the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), as updated April 9, 2020, very specifically reminds public bodies to allow for public comment, offering variety of alternatives in which to do so. That guidance also urges public bodies "to provide remote access to members of the public and to update their websites and social media with the goal of openness and transparency during this time."

In light of this and in keeping with our mission of supporting an open, transparent and accountable government, the League of Women Voters of Wilmette urges you to livestream your remote Park Board meetings publicly. Some potential ways to do so are 1) streaming the meeting on YouTubeLive (e.g., see [here](#)), or 2) providing the public access to remote meetings (even if the Park Board establishes controls over the public's participation in the meetings), both with the ability for a public comment period.

Our apologies for the short notice raising our concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hoying and Cindy Levine
Co-Presidents, LWV-Wilmette