

The Business Association Council (BAC) is a meeting between the leaders of business districts and representatives of the Village of Oak Park staff. Of course, all business owners are invited every week and should reach out to BAC Chair Anne Pezalla, [anne@livelyathletics.com](mailto:anne@livelyathletics.com) if they have any questions.

Summary of the October 23rd meeting:

1. The Madison Street Project is still moving along. There has been some confusion about the shift of parking to outside the biking lane, but the village is not ticketing anyone yet- just issuing warnings. The village seemed amenable to a mail drop to all the business owners letting them know what's going on with parking. More information here: <http://www.madisonstreetconstruction.com/index.html>
2. Tammie Grossman was kind enough to walk us through the [VOP 2020 Recommended Budget](#), which is a 330-page-long document that covers all the village does and has tons of information on staffing and projects. Here are my takeaways on what's of interest to small businesses:
  - a. PAGE 7- Village Manager Cara Pavlicek's Budget Message outlines the budget and gives some useful information
  - b. PAGE 22- The budget timeline. You'll see that a lot of important dates are coming up if you want any input on the budget. It will be adopted on 12/2, which is 2 days before the next BAC meeting. The BAC will convene without the Village staff present to discuss the budget before this meeting. If you're interested, please reach out to me! [Anne@livelyathletics.com](mailto:Anne@livelyathletics.com)
  - c. PAGE 100-102- a summary of the permitting process and how it has done. Also important to small business is that the Commercial Facade Improvement Program (CFIP) was successful! So it will be continued and expanded.
  - d. PAGE 322- Sales & Liquor Tax Historical Data. Interesting data on how small businesses are contributing to the budget of the village.
  - e. NO PAGE NUMBER- wayfinding. This is the system of maps and signage around the village that helps tourists find their way to landmarks, historic buildings, and shopping districts. It's not in the budget anymore. The Village Board asked that it be removed, which caused a lot of consternation and discussion among the business district leaders. Please reach out to me if you're a business owner with thoughts or concerns about this topic.
3. Oak Park Counts (Census) and Dementia Friendly Community updates- the census is coming and business can help! If you're interested, here's some [information](#). My main takeaway from this is that the better we're counted, the more federal money we get. And people who are afraid to be counted shouldn't be. The [Dementia Friendly Community](#) means that some businesses may be able to get special training and a logo in our window. That logo will signify that those suffering from dementia can come in and be welcomed and safe. People with early stages of dementia will be trained to recognize this logo in the hopes that they will be able to recognize it if they become disoriented or need help.

4. BAC Meeting Frequency and Start Time- we discussed meeting quarterly instead of monthly. The Village requested we continue to meet monthly and cancel when meetings were not needed instead of moving to quarterly. That idea was approved by all those present. However, we will be restructuring slightly. The Village will now present from their agenda from 8:30-9:15. From 9:15-10, the business community will meet without Village staff present to discuss our concerns and priorities. If you own a business and have concerns, please make an effort to come to this portion of the meeting.

Our next meetings are 12/4 at 8:30a. All are welcome.