

MINUTES FROM NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING (10/26/2021)

The in-person meeting was called to order at the Northfield Library at 7:01 PM by Chair David Woodyatt. All members were present except Al Chircop, Marco Aiello, Kathy Estabrooke and Tom Terrill. Four guests were present: Melissa Morgan, Charles Orth, Tom Whittaker and Matt Galin.

CAUCUS BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes - Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting by Cricket and seconded by Dennis. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – The current balance of the Caucus account is \$1,032.86 and there was no revenue or expenses so we remain at \$1,032.86. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by Cricket and seconded by Ericka Foster. Motion approved.

Membership Report - Beverly provided the membership report. She indicated that we have had a difficult time finding new members. Ericka Foster indicated that she has two Caucus candidates. The Caucus discussed that we need someone in the far Southeast Corner and East of Edens. We need to remove Tom Bolling and have unfortunately lost Bill Kelly so we need to remove them from the membership. Tom Bolling moved to North Carolina. Motion by John Goodwin to remove Tom Bolling and Bill Kelly and seconded by Beverly. Motion approved. We had 21 members when David became Chair, we added 8 but lost 11 so we continue to be lower than historically. We discussed using social media to improve membership interest.

Oversight Committee Report - At the August meeting they talked about Happ engineering project road work and multi-use bike path. Northfield's population grew by 300 individuals in 10 years. There was discussion of the flying/posting of organization flags and discussion that they may be flown/posted but organization must carry costs. Financial operating costs looking better. Police pension is funded at 65% and there is no fireman's pension program. We had a 25% return last year. There was little to report from the Committee of the Whole meeting. There was discussion of wifi water meters. The Village received \$723,00 in federal recovery funds. Michael would like more people to attend the Board meetings. Most Board meetings are not widely attended. Head of Development from the Village said there is 152 unit retirement 790 Frontage Road behind Blue Pearl. The developer will bring ideas to Village and it will be reviewed.

Community Survey Discussion - As of last meeting there was some discussion of the possibility of doing a community survey. David contacted Stacy Sigman and Greg Lungmus and they had a meeting where they discussed the survey. They agreed that if they worked on one together it would need to be a Village survey not a Caucus survey. A village survey would get a better response and Village would pay the cost. Subsequent to that Stacy contacted David and asked that the Caucus put together list of appropriate topics for the survey. He asked Caucus members for ideas for the survey and put together topics. Stacy reviewed and provided comments. Stacy requested that we submit 8-10 specific questions. Keith and Larry Russell and David put together 8 questions that they submitted to Stacy. David assumed there would be a request to the Board or that Stacy or Greg would put together questions but Stacy requested meeting with David and at that meeting Stacy and Greg indicated that at this time the Village did not want to proceed with a survey due to little interest and no hot issues.

There was a discussion that the bylaws state that “the survey shall be done periodically but not less than every 8 years” There was a discussion regarding the appropriate method for compiling questions for the survey and administering/distributing the survey. There was a discussion specifically of what the scope of the questions would be and where they would be derived from and what they would focus on. The Caucus discussed who the survey would be directed to: all residents, head of household or property owners. There was a discussion of cost and financing, as well as format of hard copy v digital. The Caucus noted that the Village did a Cannabis survey and had substantial participation.

The Caucus debated whether the Caucus should coordinate with the Village. Dennis said we should support the Village in its survey. Larry indicated that he wanted views on the Caucus compromising with the Village. What if the Village did not accept the questions the Caucus posed. Will the Village survey satisfy the Caucus bylaws? Would the Village be willing to accept questions that were critical of the Village? Michael summarized that we either need to do the survey with the Village or we don't do it because we don't have the funds. Tom suggested asking the Village to form a committee to do a survey. Keith Reed suggested that the Caucus resolve to go back to the Village and let them know that we desire to do a survey.

Larry indicated that the Comprehensive Plan is a good foundation for formulating questions. Larry suggests around 30 questions.

Charlie Orth noted that other communities do surveys and we could evaluate that. Goodwin noted that the Cannabis survey was very helpful and individuals provided comments that the Village trustees reviewed.

Dennis moved to table survey discussion. All in favor.

The Caucus agreed to postpone discussion of the bylaws until next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Goodwin and Cricket seconded. All in favor

Minutes prepared by Caucus Secretary, Ericka K. Foster