

NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING—JANUARY 31, 2019

Those members attending were Marco Aiello, Thomas Bolling, Genie Cooper, Jonathan Don, Kathy Estabrooke, Ericka Foster, John Green, John Kemper, Keith Reed, Jeannie Scully, Dennis Smith, Cricket Trutter Hauff and David Woodyatt. Guests were Village residents Charles Orth and William Kelly.

The meeting was convened at 7:00 by Chair Don. Upon motion made by Cricket Trutter Hauff and second by Dennis Smith, the agenda for the meeting was approved. Upon motion by Dennis Smith and second by Cricket, the minutes of the July 19, 2018 were approved.

Upon motion by David Woodyatt and second by Tom Bolling, the list of Caucus members presented by the Membership Committee who are continuing for the 2019-2020 term was unanimously approved (names, precinct number and contact information attached hereto). There was a short discussion on those precincts which are over and under represented on the Caucus and the recommended ratios will continue to be kept in mind as we recruit new members to the Caucus.

Jonathan presented a list of Caucus officers nominated by the Caucus Executive Committee to be officers for the 2019-2020 term: Chair—David Woodyatt, Vice-Chair—Marco Aiello, Secretary—Keith Reed, and Treasurer—Mark Gantner. Upon motion by Kathy Estabrooke and second by Cricket, the nominated officers were unanimously approved. At this point Kathy thanked Jonathan for his 4 years' service as the Caucus Chair and complimented him on the excellent job he did in keeping the Caucus active and effective. Several members echoed Kathy's comments and Jonathan received a rousing support of applause for a job well done. Jonathan replied by stating that Dave Woodyatt is a worthy successor; that he has a long history of Caucus membership; and has been very diligent in attending not only Caucus meetings but also Village Board meetings, and especially in following the finances of the Village.

The Treasurer's report was given by Jonathan with the 12/31/2018 balance being \$1121.86. He said that the good work of Marco Aiello has cut the cost of our website maintenance. Marco reported that we should soon be able to finalize our domain name which means that our website will be up and running again soon.

Regarding reports on other activities in the Village, Jonathan reported on the 20/40 Northfield Plan and the recent meeting with the Plan's vendor/consultant at the Senior Center. He was impressed with the progress of the Plan, as were Caucus members John Green and Tom Bolling, who also attended such meeting. Ericka Foster reported that the Village is now considering changes in the Village's noise ordinances and /or enforcement of same. There was a discussion of the Village's actions in response to the possibility of having the assisted living development on the East side of Eden's on Willow Road. The general consensus was that the Village Board acted responsibly in considering the proposal and in visiting the premises to understand how the proposal would adversely impact that part of Northfield. Kathy Estabrooke mentioned the long and faithful service given by our former Caucus member Frank Charhut who finally lost his battle with cancer late last year and the possibility of a Caucus resolution in his honor—the matter will be on our next meeting's agenda.

The subject of the 5 candidates for 3 vacant Village Board positions for the 4/2/2019 Village election was discussed, especially since the ballot will not identify the three candidates slated by the Caucus.

Jonathan reported that our Executive Committee has spent considerable time developing 3 possible alternatives regarding Caucus support of our slated candidates. They are: 1) To conduct an active marketing campaign based on issues and/or personalities aimed at getting our slated candidates elected – this approach would tend to be divisive and not in keeping with the Caucus' non-partisan intent; 2) The Caucus could do nothing in the campaign—this would be non-supportive of fellow Village residents who have stepped up to be considered as Village leaders and might make the Caucus' job even more difficult in the future to get qualified and vetted candidates for these positions; or 3) To communicate to the Village residents whom the Caucus has selected and why, its process in doing so, and the importance of having a Caucus to recruit, vet and present qualified candidates to the Village's residents for future elections.

After considerable discussion, the consensus of the Caucus was to follow the third of the above listed alternatives.

Newly installed Chair, David Woodyatt, then pointed out that there is no scheduled Caucus meeting before the election on April 2, so he will probably be calling a meeting of the current members of the Executive Committee to discuss developments in this election campaign, expectations of our slated candidates, the type of communication the Caucus should do during the campaign, and to discuss other strategy in this very important matter. He said that he would keep all Caucus members advised of possible action to be taken in this matter and that Caucus members should advise him or Executive Committee members of their thoughts, suggestions and concerns about the campaign. Dave also said that our regular April 18th Caucus meeting will focus on the results of the election and what we could do in the future when we have non-slated candidates; discussion of the Caucus committees for the next two years, especially to consider revisions of our bylaws and platform; and that he would like to appoint every Caucus member to at least one committee. Dave would like to have Steve Noble at our July 18th meeting to discuss Village finances, budgets and future plans. He also recommended that Caucus members attend the next Village Board meeting on Feb. 19th; the Village Board March 5th meeting to discuss the budget; and the March 19th meeting at which the Board presents the Village budget. He thinks it's important for Caucus members to attend more of the Board meetings. By the end of 2019, Dave would like to have the Bylaw and Platform committees complete their assignment in preparation for the next set of Board candidate interviews for the April 2021 Village election—at which election the Village will probably need to replace 3 trustees and the Village President. Dave said that he agreed with the consensus reached by the Caucus at this meeting to communicate and educate the Village residents on the importance of the Caucus and voting for the Village Board candidates. He said that we have to publicize the Caucus, its function for the Village and the importance of getting out the vote—all of this will make it easier for the Caucus to get new members in the future, as well as to get qualified residents to run for Village positions.

The next Caucus meetings during 2019 are scheduled for April 18, July 18 and October 3.

A motion made by Dennis and second by Cricket to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

Prepared by Caucus Secretary Keith A. Reed.