

MINUTES OF NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING (1/23/2020)

Members present were Marsha Balsamo, Barnaby Dinges, Jonathan Don, Ericka Foster, Keith Reed, Jeannie Scully, Beverly Smith, Dennis Smith, Cricket Trutter Hauff and David Woodyatt. Guests were Charles Orth, Tom Whittaker and Inchul Choi. There being a quorum present, Chair Woodyatt called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00.

Our guest Inchul Choi introduced himself as a member of the U.S. Census Bureau working in the Chicago Regional Census Center which covers 8 states, including Illinois. He explained that the U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years; that the Census determines the allocation of 675 billion dollars in federal money; and determines how many U.S. Representatives each state has in the House. Although Illinois' total population has increased from 12.4 million in 2010 to an estimated 12.7 million in 2018, we may have our House seats reduced from 18 to 16 due to the faster growth of other states like California and Texas. In the 2000 and 2010 Census Northfield had 88 and 84 percent of its households participate in the Census and our Village Board is trying to increase that percentage to 90% this year. The self-response period starts 3/12/2020, the nonresponse follow up starts 5/1/2020 with the deadline for both being 7/24/2020. Redistricting of representatives will be effective 4/1/2021.

The Census Bureau is now taking applications for clerical and census taker positions which pay \$26.50 and \$29.50 an hour for Cook County for 10-20 hours of work per week and you have to be at least 18 years of age. This count will be done per household and there are special forms for multifamily households to fill out. The number to call regarding this employment opportunity is 1-855-JOB-2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dennis Smith moved to approve the minutes of our 10/3/2019 meeting and Jonathan Don seconded with one minor correction—the last sentence in the 4th paragraph under “OTHER BUSINESS” should read “Jon reported that it is required that the Village of Northfield has two trustees on the joint Winnetka/Northfield Library Board, if it so chooses.” The motion and amendment were both unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Woodyatt reported that our bank account received \$14 in contributions since the last meeting, bringing the total to \$1135.86.

LIBRARY CAUCUS POSITION: Jonathan reported that he would be willing to find one or two Village residents (Caucus members preferred) who would be willing to serve on the Winnetka/Northfield Library Board. He has so served for several years now and would like to get someone else involved in this very important position.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Dave reported that Village resident Michael Cohen has shown considerable interest in becoming a Caucus member and that this would be followed up.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Ericka reported for Al Chircop and stated that the next election for 3 Village Board trustee positions and the Village President position will be held 4/6/21. The time table leading up to that election will be—9/20/2020 notice to Village residents regarding date of Biennial meeting introducing our candidates; 9/23/2020 deadline to receive applications; September 28, 29 and 30/2020 for Caucus interviews of candidates; 10/22/2020 Village Biennial meeting; 12/7/20 candidate petition deadline. Three of our current Board trustees and our Village President could all run for another term,

although it is likely that one of our trustees will choose not to do so. We expect to have several candidates apply for these positions. The Nominating Committee will make sure the candidates be aware of the type of campaign activity that will be expected of them if they are selected by the Caucus. Dave reported that in the last election, the 3 Caucus candidates paid for their own yard signs and that we had a couple of volunteers who printed our campaign leaflets.

PLATFORM CHANGES: 1. Last 2 sentences in Purpose section to read “The Caucus addresses specific actions or policies in the Platform when they find a clear majority of residents surveyed support a particular action or policy. The Caucus expects Trustee and Village President candidates endorsed by the Caucus to concur with the Platform prior to slating.” Marsha moved and Dennis seconded motion to approve which was unanimously passed.

2. Change title of Part A to “Administration”; in the 2nd sentence of the 1st paragraph in Part A (1) delete “in addition to using local access cable television channels”; and change the last two sentences of Part A (1) to read: “It is important that each Village Trustee, as well as the Village President and the

Village Manager, attend a Caucus meeting annually in order to share thinking and seek input from Caucus members and residents on Village issues. Village Trustees and Village President acknowledge their duty to follow the clear majority opinion of Village residents, while respecting the rights of all.” Dennis moved and Marsha seconded motion to approve which was unanimously passed.

3. In Part B (1) change the first paragraph to read: “The Caucus strongly encourages the Village Board, as well as its various commissions, to follow the Comprehensive Vision Plan, the Village Center Design Study, the Design Guidelines and the Northfield Road Corridor Plan when refining zoning and other requirements, and to continue to project the small town character of the Village”. Ericka moved and Dennis seconded motion to approve which was unanimously passed.

4. In Part B (4) change 3rd sentence to read “Since this plan is a living document, timely updates should be performed reflecting changes in problem areas, technology, regulations, potential floodwater projects and funding sources and the Village Board should periodically provide a detailed update to Village residents regarding same.” Barnaby moved and Keith seconded motion to approve which was unanimously passed.

5. In Part C, change date in first line from 2012 to “latest”. Jeannie Scully moved and Cricket seconded motion which was unanimously passed.

OTHER VILLAGE MEETINGS: Jonathan reported that the new Comprehensive Plan is going to be considered by the Village Zoning Commission on March 2nd. Dave said that he has attended all of the Board meetings and Committee of the Whole and that Steve Noble is retiring as Village CFO 5/31/2020; that the Wintrust building is supposed to be completed by July—that they ran into some EPA and water problems; that the Village Pension fund assets are in good shape because of the stock market performance; that the Village is studying our water billing to see if we should change the breakdown between residential and commercial rates and how these rates are set; that the Heritage Trail Store is moving from Wilmette to the 190 Northfield Road building; that there is grant money to pay for much of the Clarkson band shell; that grant money is being sought to help finance the newly proposed Village bike trail; that the Village Board officially passed a resolution opting out of the cannabis dispensary program; that the Board is considering replacing the footbridge directly west of Mariano’s; that the next

meeting of the Village Board is Feb. 18 with the Committee of the Whole meeting that evening at 5:30; that there is an open house at the Senior Center on Feb. 20 from 4-7 PM for the Village and State to explain the upcoming Happ Road project; and that the Village is sponsoring a “budget workshop” March 3rd at 6:00 PM for residents to learn more about Village finances with the new fiscal year commencing April 1.

A motion made by Marsha and seconded by Jonathan to adjourn was unanimously passed and the meeting ended at 9:00.

Minutes prepared by Keith Reed, Caucus Secretary