

MINUTES OF NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING (10/3/2019)

Members present were: Marco Aiello, Marsha Balsamo, Thomas Bolling, Shelley Cohen, Genie Cooper, Barnaby Dinges, Ericka Foster, Mark Gantner, Bill Gould, David Miller, Jerry Mulick, Keith Reed, Larry Russell, Bev Smith, Dennis Smith, Cricket Trutter Hauff, David Woodyatt.

Those current members absent were: Al Chircop, Kathy Estabrooke, Dave Fullerton, John Kemper, Jeannie Scully. Those past members resigning were John Green and John Howard. Thus, we currently have 23 Caucus members, 18 of whom were present for this meeting along with two guests—Tom Whittaker and Charles Orth, both Trustees of the Village. Upon motion made by Dennis Smith and seconded by Cricket Trutter Hauff, the minutes from the April 2019 Caucus meeting were approved.

The Financial Report was given by Mark Gantner who said the amount in the bank is the same with no expenses or revenue since our last meeting. The Membership report was given by Marsha Balsamo who introduced Shelley Cohen and Barnaby Dinges. Both have attended at least two Caucus meetings and submitted their bios to the Caucus. They (along with our two guests) were excused from the room and upon motion duly made and seconded, they were accepted into Caucus membership.

There was no Nominating Committee Report, but that Committee will be meeting before our next Caucus meeting next January to update everyone on their tasks for 2020.

The Caucus then considered the Bylaw changes that had been duly submitted to them at least 30 days before this meeting, as required by the current Bylaws. The following changes were unanimously adopted after proper motions, seconds and discussion:

1. Caucus Terms. Amend Article III, Section 2 to read: “The term of each Caucus member elected at the January Annual Meeting shall be two years commencing with the first quarterly meeting after the election and ending two years later.”
Amend the second sentence of Article IV, Section 1 to read: “Each officer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Caucus at the Annual Meeting, shall serve a term of two years commencing with the first quarterly meeting after the election and ending two years later and shall have the duties customary to persons holding such offices.” (Marsha moved and Marco seconded.)
2. Caucus positions. Add the following to the second paragraph of Article II: “The Caucus may take a position on issues facing the Village which may relate to the Caucus Platform.” (Ericka moved and Larry seconded.)
3. Caucus Executive Session. Add the following to Article V, 3rd paragraph: “The Chairman may also determine that a discussion needs to be held in executive session.” (Bill Gould moved and Cricket seconded.)
4. Deleting old dates. In Article VI, Section 6, delete the three references to “currently expiring in 2011 and 2012”. (Dennis moved and Tom Bolling seconded.)
5. Caucus record keeping. Add a heading “Article X – Rules” and amend current paragraph 5 to read: “The Caucus shall maintain records, including bylaws, platform and meeting minutes in a physical or electronic manner.” In addition, delete the last sentence of the 3rd paragraph in Article IV, Section 2 relating to maintaining records/materials at the Winnetka/Northfield public library. (Larry moved and David Miller seconded.)

6. Voter Precinct Data. In new Article X, delete current paragraph 6 and replace it with the following: "The Caucus will periodically review population data to determine an optimum pro-rata distribution of Caucus membership among the election precincts. The Caucus will strive to achieve this distribution but it is not a requirement." (Larry moved and Jerry Mulick seconded.)

OTHER BUSINESS: With regard to past Caucus records, Jonathan mentioned that Caucus minutes and other historical documents were retained by him on a flash drive when he was Chair of the Caucus, which now has been transferred on to our current Chair.

David reported that the Village Trustees recently honored 3 of Northfield's law enforcement personnel at a Trustee's meeting—two for breaking into a car to prevent a suicide and one for helping with the unexpected delivery of a baby in a resident's home.

There was a discussion of the recent Clarkson Park band structure being considered for the NW corner of the Park, but that it still hasn't been officially approved. Apparently if it is approved in a timely manner there is a State grant that would pay for a substantial portion of it. It was reported that the Park hosted 27 events over the summer, most of them with music. There were no complaints from the residents about the noise from these events, in fact there were many positive comments about how these events brought the community (especially the kids) together and that the Village should be encouraged to expand on these events. It was reported that the Village is looking into hosting an Arts Festival at the Park. Apparently, the food vendors at these events have been pleased with their sales.

The local issue involving the Village Library was discussed. It seems that the transfer of employees between Northfield and Winnetka, employee departures and proposed changes to our Library's structure and layout are the main issues. Jon reported that we do have two representatives on the joint library board (Jon and Bill Gould).

Next Village Board meeting is set for October 15 at 7:00 PM, with the Board meeting with residents in a "committee of the whole" at 5:30 PM that date to discuss the Village's Comprehensive 20 Year Plan. There is also a similar meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Plan on October 22 at 7:00 PM at the Northfield Senior Center. You can also get information regarding the Plan on the Village's website.

Dave said that the next Caucus meeting will be mid to late January and that all Caucus members should review our Platform and get suggested changes to him before that meeting.

The last item reported on was that the developer of the 7 acre "triangle" between Wagner and Bracken Lane (south side of Willow) has pulled away from the project and is trying to find a buyer for the property. In the meantime, some storm sewer work on the property that the Village had approved as part of the developer's plan has proceeded and that is what you see on the south side of Willow as you go by the property.

There being no more business, a motion by Bill Gould and second by Marco Aiello was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by Keith Reed, Caucus Secretary.

