

**Northfield Village Caucus
January 28, 2016**

Minutes

Members attending at Northfield Library Meeting Room:

Jonathan Don	Cricket Hauf	Jerry Mulick
Frank Charhut	Al Chircop	Tom Terrill
Ken Bley	Marsha Balsamo	Kathy Estabrooke
Tom Bolling	Keith Reed	Peter Rolwes
Erica Foster		

Guests:

Bill Vaselopulos

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Jonathan Don

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Cricket Trutter Hauf; Second: Al Chircop

Vote: Approved by voice, no dissents

2. Approval of October 2015 Minutes

Motion: Marsha Balsamo; Second: Kathy Estabrooke

Vote: Approved by voice, no dissents

3. Northfield Plan & Zoning Commission - Bill Vaselopulos, Chair

Guest speaker Bill Vaselopulos explained his role as Planning and Zoning Commission Chair and gave a brief insight into how the system works and what the goals are. The committee strives to retain a diverse membership with useful experience. The commission reviews land use for proposed development, requests for zoning classification changes, revisions to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Special Use Applications. To help avoid unnecessary expenditure of time for the applicant and Village Board, the Commission provides pre-hearing advisory meetings prior to the formal presentation. The primary focus is on the impact to the community of the proposed project.

4. Treasurer's Report - Frank Charhut

The Caucus Treasurer reported that the Caucus's fund balance is \$1613.66 after the last disbursement of \$60 for our post office box.

5. Membership Committee Report - Keith Reed, Chair

Keith Reed reviewed past members no longer participating in the Caucus. A revised roster of individuals proposed for the 2016 membership was presented and approved.

Motion: Keith Reed; Second: Ken Bley

Vote: Approved by voice, no dissents

6. Nominating Committee Report - Al Chircop, Chair

Al Chircop stated that the positions to be filled this year are the Village President and three Village Board Trustees. The Nominating Committee will be looking for members to participate on this committee and support this Caucus function. The activity will be phased as follows: April-July, Solicitation of Candidates; July -August, Active Engagement; and Candidate Interviews, September 7-9, 2016

7. Communication

- Press Release: A press release regarding the Platform and Caucus activities was shared with the *Winnetka Current* and the *Winnetka Talk* for future publication.
- Website: Jonathan Don reviewed the budgeted cost for the Caucus website. Security software will be installed to block hackers and prevent undesired attachments. Routine maintenance will also be performed. The total estimated cost in 2016 is \$600. Next year the Caucus will receive a biennial bill for hosting, domain registration and domain privacy. Including a budget for routine maintenance, the total projected cost for the website in 2017 is \$600.
- Survey: The Caucus By-Laws require a survey be performed not less often than once every eight years. The last survey was conducted in 2012.

8. Fundraising

In view of the cost to maintain the website, the post office box, and pending survey, Jonathan Don stated that thought should be directed to fund raising. Although the current fund balance might not compel immediate action, a plan must be developed to cover future expenses. Kathy Estabrooke was commended for her fundraising efforts last year.

9. Meeting Reports - Boards, Northfield Organizations, Caucuses

Frank Charhut discussed items addressed in past Village Board meetings and handed out a summary Financial Status Report. Frank provided information available on the Village website regarding the upcoming infrastructure referendum. Enthusiasm was expressed by members for the Village Caucus to support the Referendum. An inquiry would be made to the full membership to determine if there was a consensus.

Jonathan Don reported on his liaison activities with the Library Committee of the Winnetka Caucus. At the Winnetka kick-off meeting, the Caucus Chair discussed the 1915 objective of the caucus system to "overcome divisiveness and politics."

10. New Business

Keith Reed presented three new prospects for membership, introducing Erica Foster and Peter Rolwes who were in attendance. David Aul was present at the last Caucus meeting. Motion: Keith Reed; Second: Frank Charhut
Vote: David Aul, Peter Rolwes, and Erica Foster were accepted as members, no dissents.

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Al Chircop; Second: Marsha Balsamo

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by
Cricket Trutter Hauff,
Acting Secretary for Patrick McCarthy

Next Caucus Meeting: **Thursday, April 21, 2016**