

Northfield Village Caucus

October 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Mendrek, Chair at **7:05** pm.

Caucus Members present at the meeting were:

Jim Appel	Kathy Fishman	David Woodyatt
Frank Charhut	Jane Goldenberg	
Al Chircop	William Gould	
Margaret Cothran	Jim Henderson	
Dave Detlefsen	Cricket Hauff	
Jonathan Don	Tracey Mendrek	
Kathy Estabrooke	Patrick O'Donoghue	
Linda Garard	Keith Reed	

Guests:

Jeremy Nieman
Emilian Geczi
Thomas Terrill
Allan Kaplan

Tracey Mendrek presented the agenda. Frank Charhut moved to approve, Jim Henderson seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Previous meeting minutes were presented. Jim Appel moved to approve with one name correction, Dan de Loys seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Guest Introduction: Tom Terrill #23 Jeremy Nieman #44, Emilian Geczi #44 and Village Trustee Allan Kaplan.

Allan Kaplan addressed the Caucus with an update on what the Board has been working on since our last meeting. The topics he gave updates on were:

- Sales Tax rises
- Pension Liabilities
- Red Light Photo Cameras
- Opening of Fields Volvo Dealership
- New Liquor code is in place
- Storm sewer work is in progress
- Anne Kane's replacement is on board – Community Development Director, Steve Gutierrez, his former position was River Forest Administrator

Tracey asked Allan, since we are about to embark on another round of nominating, if he knew enough about the process and the issues at hand before taking on the job. Allan answered that he understood the Caucus and the Caucus process. The Administration did a great job helping to acclimate. He knew Home Rule was a sensitive issue but it is something we need to work with.

Frank Charhut asked if the Comcast issue (Comcast has to have a written operation agreement which the Village Board has been working on) was resolved. The last contract lapsed 8 years ago. The new deal is for 10 years

Allan gave us an update on the Ash Tree removal/plantings. Dave Detlefsen asked if any of the trees had been replaced yet. Bill Gould said some are being replaced now and some will be replaced in the spring depending on the variety planted.

Further Caucus Business:

The next Village Board meeting and the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting is October 18, 2011. The Trustees are happy to see many of the Caucus members attending. Understanding the issues will help Caucus Member recruit and nominate future Village Board candidates.

We are responsible to appoint a Winnetka/Northfield Library Board member to the Winnetka/Northfield Library Board and a Winnetka Caucus member to sit on the Library Committee of the Winnetka Caucus. The latter entails 3 meetings a year and more if it is a nominating year. The term is 3 years. Tracey asked to contact her if anyone is interested in the post.

We are also responsible for appointing a Winnetka/Northfield Library and Winnetka Park District Caucus Member to the Winnetka Caucus.

Financial Report as submitted by Treasurer Ruth Lucchesi delivered by Tracey Mendrek:

\$2,609.53	Beginning Balance
151.02	Caucus member donations & interest
(46.00)	Post Office Box
<u>(727.16)</u>	Website
\$1,987.39	Current Balance

Next big expenditure will be the survey and advertising the survey.

Secretary Report submitted by Kathy Estabrooke:

Currently our website doesn't have our contact information available to our residents. It only lists our names and our precincts. In the event that our residents would like to contact us, we are asking that you designate how you wish to be contacted. Home, business or cell phone or email address. I am passing the membership listing. Please designate on the listing how you would like to be contacted. If you don't want to be contacted you may opt out. However, I hope that you will think long and hard about this option. As a Caucus member you are the representative of your precinct. I believe that by definition, it's important that the residents have a way to contact us.

Fundamental Change of By-laws regarding Conflict of Interest delivered by Al Chircop:

Al Chircop presented a motion to approve the attached Conflict of Interest form. The genesis of the form is to flush out any potential conflict that Caucus Members might have that relate to Caucus business. It is important to note that we are a volunteer group in a small community. Most of us are volunteering on other committees as well. This motion is not meant to discourage Caucus Members from volunteering. Since this has been brought before the Caucus it needed to be addresses. Al noted that we error on the side of transparency. After a spirited discussion the motion carried 11-3.

Committee Reports:

Keith Reed – Membership The three new people are in attendance tonight. I will be getting a meeting together with my committee shortly.

Mike Sollitt – Finance The Committee has not met because there is no specific business to consider.

Bobbie Moore – By Laws The Committee has not met because there is no specific business to consider.

Jim Henderson – Platform The Platform Committee met on September 21, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the committee with the current Platform and how this Platform was created.

When the Village residents passed Home Rule, the current Platform was presented to the Caucus to discuss if the Platform needed to be revised due to the change. It was decided that the Platform did not need revising that it was already reflective.

Jim Appel commented that no change should be made to the Platform that is not based on a survey. By-laws and Rules don't need a change based on current information.

Al Chircop – Nominating Current charge is to find nominees for Trustees and the Library Board.

Pivotal points - The Survey must be delivered, returned and compiled. The Platform is created from the Survey. The Platform is the basis for creating criteria for who we select.

In order to do all of this, we need membership on the committee. The committee needs to think of residents who we should be opening dialogue with.

We also need to think about who should be on the Nominating Committee. We look to Jim Appel, Linda Garard and Patrick O'Donoghue for their leadership. The officers, of course, will be involved, but Al would love to see more members.

Kathy Fishman – Survey They are in the process of creating a rough draft. They have been meeting with the Village Staff and the Village Board for their input. They are looking into Survey Monkey and Zoomerang as a delivery mechanism. They are expecting to send out the survey on 1/10 with a week turnaround.

Our next meeting date is to be determined. It will probably be the second week in January.

The floor received a motion to end the formal portion of the meeting. It was seconded, meeting adjourned. The tour of the Police Department and presentation by Chief Bill Lustig followed.

Respectfully submitted as amended,

Kathleen A. Estabrooke
Secretary – Northfield Village Caucus

Conflict of Interest Disclosure as submitted by Al Chircop September 15, 2011

“The Northfield Caucus recognizes that individuals who are volunteer members of the Caucus have other involvements and activities in the Community, some of which are for economic compensation. Some of these activities may also espouse views that are contrary or at significant variance with the Platform. In recognition of these potential conflicts, the Northfield Caucus expects of its members:

1. Disclosure by a Caucus member of a “relationship” which creates a conflict of interest or may have an appearance of a conflict of interest or has the prospect of embarrassing the Northfield Caucus.
2. Disclosure by a Caucus member of a paid activity resulting from a Platform position.
3. Disclosure by a Caucus member of a paid or non-paid activity by the member or their immediate family of an activity that is counter or non-supportive of Platform position.

Disclosure will take two forms: an early confidential disclosure to an Officer of the Northfield Caucus and secondly, a requirement to disclose the conflict if determined to be so, in any public position (including meetings of the Caucus) taken by the individual on the subject.

Caucus Members will be asked to disclose annually their membership on committees/groups that have an interest in Village government on or before the 10th day of January. Examples of these types of committees/group are, but not limited to, Planning and Zoning Commission, Village Center Task Force and Illinois Department of Transportation Community Advisory Group (CAG).”

I have the following real or apparent conflicts of interest with the following organizations:

Signed: _____ **Date** _____

All information will be kept confidential and on file with the Secretary of the Northfield Caucus.