

## Northfield Village Caucus

April 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Tracey Mendrek, Chair at **7:00** pm.

Caucus Members present at the meeting were:

Bill Gould	Mike Sollitt	John Kemper
Barbara Moore	Linda Garard	Ruth Lucchesi
Jonathan Don	Bettina Karlove	Tracey Mendrek
Mary Rhodes	Judy McDaniel	Keith Reed
Kathy Estabrooke	Dan de Loys	Jim Henderson
Jane Goldenberg	Dave Detlefsen	Cricket Trutter Hauff

Fred Gougler and Terry Gottlieb attended as guests. Two Village Staff members (Stacy Sigman, Anne Kane) attended.

After a motion and a second the Agenda was approved.

After a motion and a second the Minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

Committee Reports:

Keith Reed, Membership Chair, presented David Selzer, 803 Happ Road, Precinct 9<sup>th</sup> to the caucus for approval as a new member. David was unanimously approved. We have 4 open positions on the caucus. He asked that we canvas our neighbors for candidates.

Kathy Estabrooke, spoke about the new website, explaining that it is a work in progress. We are waiting for Paypal to be added to the site and asked that each member take an in depth look at the site and make suggestions. Tracey reminded us that it is a blog not a dynamic website so we might not be able to do everything members present but we will do our best. Bobbie Moore asked that we upload the By-laws as amended during our January meeting.

Ruth Lucchesi, Treasurer, reported that our finances are in fairly good shape. However, with the survey coming up additional revenue will be needed to replace funds spent on the development of the new website.

Mike Sollitt, Finance Chair reminded the group that the Board will be voting on the FY2011/2012 Village Budget on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and encouraged us all to attend.

Jim Henderson gave a brief overview of the platform, how it is created and its purpose.

Tracey on behalf of the Nominating Committee, explained that this is the most important job that the Caucus has and that it is very important for us to start looking for viable candidates.

Since this was our first 2011 meeting, each member introduced themselves and told the group a little bit about themselves.

Fred Gougler, Village President; Stacy Sigman, Village Manager and Anne Kane, Community Development Director each gave a portion of the "State of the Village" presentation.

Fred Gougler:

- Due to economic instability in 2009 coupled with the financial instability of the Village the Board decided that status quo was not an option. They created a Financial Task Force. The findings lead the Board to bring Home Rule up for Referendum to strengthen the Village by bringing a level of financial flexibility.
- Home Rule was adopted but no new taxes have been implemented. Redflex cameras brought in more revenue than budgeted and the Board is sympathetic to those who were not in favor of Home Rule, so they will have time to study the best way to implement.
- Willow Road – The Board wants the most favorable solution. Ideally the 2005, 3 lane solution both for safety and esthetic reasons. CAG (Community Advisory Group) is just an advisory group. Ultimately the Board believes that IDOT will make the final decision. Northfield is investing resources on the technical side to educate the CAG in design issues including storm water solutions. The Village is hopeful that we will end up with a favorable outcome. The next CAG Meeting is on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We are encouraged to attend.

Stacy Sigman:

- Stacy thanked us for taking the time to visit and understand our government.
- The Village is looking into maintaining and/or improving our current level of Police Service with a 911 Blue Center in conjunction with Winnetka and Kenilworth. All Police calls will be dispatched from a central location for all 3 municipalities. This will also include a centralized jail for nights and weekends.
- We currently enjoy a Red Center for all fire calls and are looking into the possibility of sharing equipment such as ladder trucks with Winnetka.
- We share building and health inspection services with Winnetka/Wilmette/Northbrook. Gives us commonality and a major cost savings.
- Working towards a common bidding process with surrounding communities which will offer us economy of scale.
- Storm water – The Village currently maintains our ditches, but there has been no infrastructure changes. The storm water study identified 250 projects – all of which have been completed. We still have local problems. The Village is conducting a secondary review to include how to fund.
- Construction Projects – Winnetka Ave was to be reconstructed but because of the economy it will be resurfaced for now. It is on the County's radar to be reconstructed and they are working with us to see what would work best.
- Bike Path – All the connecting communities are working together. The railroad wants a lot of money for the right of way. The Village has asked for a Grant for this project.
- School Safety Grant has been awarded but the monies have not been distributed by the State. A safe speed monitor will be a part of this program.

Anne Kane

- The Economic Development Committee is proactively looking for development. Strategically looking for industries that generate tax revenue.
- Interviewing our current merchandisers asking what are we doing well for them and what are we missing.
- New development - Volvo dealership, Happ Inn expansion, Little Peach, Bodine Electric
- Gas station sites – BP: the grass is growing, no potential buyers at this time. Only Banks seem to be interested at this time. Edens Bank: grass isn't growing. Edens still owns the site and isn't interested in selling.
- Hibbard Gardens – After vetting James Realty came in with a proposal but the owner filed for bankruptcy, so the proposal is on hold. Once the court settles the bankruptcy the proposal will probably come up before the Zoning Board.

- Emerald Ash Borer – of the Villages 2600 trees – 421 are Ash. Expect all will need replacing in the next few years. We have a \$14,000 grant to replace 70 and \$56,000 in the budget to replace an additional 120. Trees removed will be replaced.

Linda Garard asked why we haven't implemented the restaurant tax described in the Home Rule presentations. Fred explained that the Village is studying it. They don't want to have businesses leave because of it.

Kathy Estabrooke asked what can be done about disheveled properties. Stacy answered. No new ordinances have been adopted relative to this issue. There are current ordinances that can be enforced so to call the Village with specifics.

#### Order of Business – Tracey Mendrek

- The importance of all Caucus Members attending as many Board Meetings and Meeting of the Whole as possible. To better understand Village Business and to watch the current Board Members interact.
- Please canvas your neighborhood/precinct for Caucus Members.
- Soliciting funds to sustain the Caucus. We are looking for ways to increase our operating funds.
- Discussed various ways to collect resident's email address
  - Business cards with the website address
  - Post cards, posters

#### Committee Volunteers –

##### By-Laws Committee –

- Bobbie Moore, Chair
- Finley Maxsom

##### Communications Committee -

- Ruth Lucchesi
- Kathy Estabrooke

- ❖ Survey Committee
  - Kathy Fishman, Chair
  - Bettina Karlove

##### Finance Committee –

- Mike Sollitt, Chair
- Bettina Karlove

##### Nominating Committee –

- Al Chircop, Chair
- Patrick O'Donoghue
- Linda Garard

##### Platform Committee –

- Jim Henderson, Chair
- Kathy Estabrooke

**Next Caucus Meeting: July 13, 2011 7pm Northfield Public Works**

After a motion to adjourn was accepted and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10p

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Estabrooke  
Secretary – Northfield Village Caucus