**NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING**

**October 5, 2017**

Those members attending were: David Aul, Thomas Bolling, Frank Charhut, Al Chircop, Jonathan Don, Kathy Estabrooke, Ericka Foster, Mark Gantner, Bill Gould , John Howard, John Kemper, Jerry Mulick, Keith Reed and David Woodyatt. Guests were: Alan Kossof and Jane Goldenberg from Northfield Now, Tom Terrill from the Village Board, and Caucus prospects Dave Fullerton and John Cherveny.

Chair Jonathan Don called the meeting to order at the Village Library meeting room at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the July 20, 2017 meeting and the agenda for this meeting were approved upon motion made by Tom Bolling and second by Jerry Mulick.

A presentation was made by Alan Kossof and Jane Goldenberg on current developments with the Northfield Now project. Jane, while a Village Trustee was the co-founder of this volunteer, community group with former Northfield resident and Trustee, George Warga. It has been in existence for about two years. Its purpose is to be a forum for all Northfield businesses and community leaders to promote community and economic development. It has 40 Village businesses participating in the group and has recently printed its second edition of the pamphlet “Northfield Now!” which lists these businesses. Anyone is welcomed to attend its meetings and to participate in its goal of ”showcasing our Village as a friendly, convenient, distinctive and increasingly accessible place to dine, shop and live.” At the end of last year, the group was very successful in planning and holding the Village holiday festival with about 250 people attending. The same festival is planned December 9, 2017 from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, but the planners will be expecting a much larger crowd this year. Due to unexpected demand last year for the horse-drawn sleigh ride, the planners have doubled the number of such sleigh rides 100% (from one to two sleighs)--which means we will probably be snowless in December!! It will be held in Willow Park and the Park District will play a bigger role this year than last when no one was sure how many people would participate. The Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce participates in Northfield Now, but that group also represents Winnetka businesses as well as Northfield, and not all of Northfield’s businesses are part of the Chamber. Thus, Northfield Now is more local to Northfield than the Chamber. Northfield Now has a Facebook page with about 150 followers and more are expected. The Village has been very cooperative in assisting Northfield Now. Medline has been contacted regarding the services offered in Northfield and its employees are increasing their usage of Village businesses. It has about 2000 employees and continues to expand its operation here. The Caucus members thanked Alan and Jane for their efforts on this project.

Treasurer Frank Charhut reported that our bank account remains at $1605.66, the same as it was for our last meeting.

Jon and Keith reminded the Caucus that two new members joined us last meeting-- Kim Stricker and Marco Aiello. Two prospects were attending this meeting: John Cherveny and Dave Fullerton—both of whom will be considered for membership at our next meeting.

Al Chircop and former Caucus member (now Village Trustee), Tom Terrill, led a discussion on how the Village Board would like to clarify and streamline the election procedures required of our slated prospects in order to qualify to be Village Trustees. Some of the current procedures such as filing deadlines, number of signatures required on Trustee petitions/applications and Cook County involvement, have been very ambiguous and a real burden on those trustee candidates selected by the Caucus. Northfield is a “home rule” community and the Village can, through referendum, clarify and simplify this process so that the legal requirements are better defined. The Village attorney, Buzz Hill, has helped make these clarifications at other villages in the area. Upon a motion made by Al Chircop and second by Kathy Estabrooke, 12 of the the 14 Caucus members present voted in favor of the proposed draft referendum language to have “the Village of Northfield continue its non-partisan system of electing its President and trustees, but to do so where the number of nominating signatures required for ballot eligibility would be set at 40 registered voters in the Village of Northfield and no primary election would be required.” The 2 dissenting members present indicated that they would have voted in favor of the entire resolution, if the the number of required nominating signatures be set at 50 versus 40.

Bill Gould reported on the progress in developing a Village survey to help the Caucus review its Platform statement. Assisting Bill in this project are Kathy Estabrooke, Frank Charhut and Cricket Trutter Hauff. They will have a draft of proposed questions by our next Caucus meeting.

Other reports consisted of a reminder that the Caucus needs a liaison for the Winnetka Caucus’s Library Committee. Interested candidates would be more than welcomed. It was also pointed out that some Northfield residents are also served by the Winnetka Park District. Dave Aul has volunteered to help update and maintain our Caucus website and should be able to save us the cost of hiring outside services. There was a discussion of the recent Village Board meeting on September 19th soliciting resident views on the Village opting out of the paid sick leave and minimum wage ordinances enacted recently by Chicago and Cook County. Since the Trustees are holding their own hearings on this issue, the Caucus decided that it need not take a position on this matter at this time.

Upon motion made by Bill Gould and second by Al Chircop, the Caucus voted to adjourn the meeting at about 8:35. The next regular meeting of the Caucus is set for January 25, 2018 at a location to be announced later.

Prepared by Caucus Secretary Keith A. Reed