

## **NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING**

**July 20, 2017**

Those Caucus members present were: David Aul, Marsha Balsamo, Frank Charhut, Jonathan Don, Mark Gantner, Bill Gould, Keith Reed, Cricket Trutter-Hauff and David Woodyatt. Guests were John Goodwin, Village Trustee; Kim Stricker and Marco Aiello, potential new Caucus members.

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

The agenda was approved upon motion by Marsha Balsamo and second by Crickett Trutter-Hauff.

A presentation was made by John Goodwin, a new Village Trustee. John has been a resident of Northfield for about 30 years. He reported that he was given a very informative orientation for the Trustee position and that he was very impressed with the Village staff. He said that the “middle part” of the process to become a trustee was a little burdensome and that the Village attorney, Buzz Hill, was very helpful in guiding him through it. He suggested we consult with Buzz who is willing to work out some procedural points to expedite the process. He reported that the Village is improving its technology program and equipping trustees with iPads. He mentioned that he is now the Trustee Liaison to the Northfield Next and Go Green Northfield groups. Northfield Next is an organization of business and community leaders collaborating to promote community and economic development. It is still active although it hasn't met recently due to leadership transition. Go Green Northfield has been formed recently by four Village residents who are suggesting initiatives such as regulating oil base driveway coatings and establishing more electric car charging stations like the one now at Walgreen's.

John also reported on developments regarding the proposal to develop the 7 acre triangle of land surrounded by Willow Road, the Old Willow Road easement and Bracken Lane. There have been several meetings so far with Village Commissions. The Village Architecture Commission is providing recommendations and soliciting public opinion. The Planning & Zoning Commission is reviewing potential issues regarding drainage, traffic, turn lanes, density and street/sidewalk designs of the project. Public comments were also expressed at the meeting on July 17. The currently proposed development indicates 21 homes. The anticipated average selling price is around one million dollars. The developer is taking the various suggestions under consideration and will meet again with the P&Z Commission at its next session on September 5. Ultimately the Village Board will vote on the proposed development, considering the Commissions' recommendations and public opinion.

In answer to a question regarding the AT&T property on Winnetka Avenue, John said that the proposal is still pending a review and vote by the Village Board. Issues involving the floodplain are apparently being addressed by the developer. John encouraged anyone with questions to contact Steve Gutierrez, Community Development Director.

Frank Charhut reported that the Caucus treasury is still \$1,605.66.

Bill Gould reported on the activities of his Survey committee, now consisting of Kathy Estabrooke, Cricket Trutter-Hauff, Frank Charhut, and Marsha Balsamo. The Committee believes a typical Village-wide survey would not be worth the cost—the last one had only a 5% return rate. Bill suggested a couple of approaches to seeking community opinion while making the Village residents more aware of the Caucus's existence and its function. The additional benefits of reaching out to the residents are the discovery of potential Caucus members and Trustee candidates, and to solicit contributions. We discussed the idea of dividing the Village into 4 or 5 geographic areas and developing a way for those groups to give input into the current Platform or at least give their thoughts on 10-12 questions developed by the Caucus. The Committee's timetable would not modify the current Platform until after the next slating of candidates. Other Caucus members were encouraged to join the Committee.

Jonathan Don reported that he is still looking for one or two Northfield residents who would like to serve as liaison on the Winnetka Caucus's Library Committee. Jon also is seeking some volunteers with website development/maintenance experience to help with our Caucus website. Under the discussion of New Business it was commented that the Village's Police Department is very concerned about the number of residents who leave their cars unlocked, and in a few cases, with the keys in them. The Village is having a rash of "professional" thieves rifling through unlocked cars in the Village.

Marsha Balsamo reported that Kathy Estabrooke is soon undergoing surgery and circulated a card to send her. We all wish her well.

Our two new potential members, Kim Stricker and Marco Aiello, then left the meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, they were unanimously voted into Caucus membership.

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Marsha Balsamo and seconded by Bill Gould was approved and the meeting adjourned just shortly after 8:30. The next regular meeting of the Caucus is set for October 5, 2017 at 7 PM at a location to be announced later.

Prepared by Secretary Keith A. Reed