

## MINUTES FROM NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING (4/24/23)

The in-person meeting was called to order at Clarkson Park at 7:00 pm by our new Chair Beverly Smith and the following current Caucus members were present: Becky Newport, David Woodyatt (our outgoing Chair herein referred to as David W.), David Miller, Kathy Estabrooke, Cricket Trutter Hauff, Jerry Mulick, Mark Gantner, Ericka Foster, Beverly Smith, Michael Cohen, John Goodwin and Keith Reed. Guests were current Village Trustees Charles Orth, Matt Galin and Tom Whittaker (who left the meeting early). Other guests were Carol Ritchell, Laura Felicione, Carolyn Torres Kelley and Dennis Culloton.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2023 MINUTES.** After a motion to approve was made from the floor but before the motion was seconded, Caucus member Kathy Estabrooke moved that certain language be added to clarify the next to last sentence in the Oversight Committee paragraph that mentioned the discussion of the "Record Article regarding the Village President." Since we had just started the meeting which had a long agenda, David W. suggested that Kathy write out her additional language and present it at the end of the meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Ericka Foster reported that the Caucus bank account contains \$863.86 which is about the same amount that was in it at the time of our last meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Ericka reported that the Caucus address for our Facebook page is "<https://www.facebook.com/NorthfieldVillageCaucus>" and that she is in the process of creating an Instagram page. Michael Cohen reported on the Village's progress with rebuilding the wooden bridge over the Middle Fork Creek just West of Mariano's. The time required and the cost apparently exceeded the predictions due to the new design of the bridge—rather than being a total wooden bridge as in the past, the middle section over the Creek is now made of metal with wooden approaches on the West and East sides.

Michael and David reported that the Village gave the new owners of U Dawg U a waiver on having to install some lead piping on the property; that the trustees finally reached an agreement on a new budget for next year; that the Village achieved a surplus this last year over its budget; there was an increase in pay to certain fire department employees in order to keep them competitive with our neighboring towns; the Village is still considering the pros and cons of televising its meetings; and the Village water rates were increased 2 ½%.

**SURVEY PROGRESS:** David W. complimented Michael Cohen and Marco Aiello on their excellent work and advice on our Caucus survey, as well as the contribution made by Caucus member Larry Russell. The Caucus members are also very appreciative of all the time and effort David W. has spent on this survey project and being a very active and diligent leader of our Caucus for the last 4 years. David W. explained how simple it is for our residents to fill out our Caucus survey—they just go on the Northfield Caucus Website and then click on the blue letters "Take the Survey". He also explained that a



resident can take the survey by going to "[bit.ly/northfieldcaucussurvey](https://bit.ly/northfieldcaucussurvey)". He reported that he was able to get the Northfield Living publication to publish a notice of our survey and its access information.

There was a general discussion about the survey that has already been taken by about 75 residents and the importance of trying to get at least 500 or so responses. Suggestions how to achieve this goal were-- developing a handout which can be given to residents instructing them on the importance of the survey and how it can be taken; and distributing such handouts at our Village churches, library boards, schools, park districts, garden clubs, Homeowner Associations and to our neighbors. You have to be a Village resident in order to get into the survey and the survey will only let each resident take the survey once. It was suggested that the Record publication be contacted to see if they could give the survey some publicity. The consensus of those present is that the Caucus needs to do whatever is possible to "get the word out about the survey".

**INTRODUCTION OF FOUR POSSIBLE FUTURE CAUCUS MEMBERS:** Chair Beverly, along with assistance from Caucus members Ericka, Kathy and Becky, did a great job in arranging for four Village residents to introduce themselves at the meeting as potential Caucus members. LAURA FELICIONE—is a practicing attorney who does legal work for Cook County government, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Illinois Development Finance Authority, and is on the board of several educational groups, including Our Lady of Perpetual Help Grammar School and Northfield Community Nursery School. DENNIS CULLOTON is both an attorney and a communication and media adviser and has done work for several Illinois governors and Chicago mayors and for several years was the public affairs executive for Blue Cross /Blue Shield of Illinois. CAROLYN TORRES KELLEY has done lots of work in marketing, market research and early childhood education (she was former president of Northfield Community Nursery School.) CAROL RITCHELL—due to the shortage of time Carol, who is known by several Caucus members, simply said that she was interested in serving on the Caucus and "to do what is in the best interest of the Village of Northfield".

**APPROVAL OF 2/22/23 CAUCUS MINUTES;** At the end of the 4/24/23 Caucus meeting, Kathy Estabrooke raised and the Caucus discussed the story in the Record publication regarding the Village President. Kathy then moved to amend the next to last sentence in the Oversight Committee paragraph of the 2/22/23 minutes to read as follows—"Kathy Estabrooke raised that since the Caucus slated the role, it was important to discuss the situation raised in the Record Article". Such motion was duly seconded and a majority of the Caucus members present approved such revision to the minutes of the 2/22/23 meeting.

The meeting continued until about 8:40 pm. At that time a motion to adjourn by Dave W. was duly seconded and passed by the majority of those Caucus members present.

Minutes prepared by Caucus Secretary Keith A. Reed

