

NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING

January 26, 2017

Present were: Jonathan Don, Cricket Trutter Hauff, Frank Charhut, Tom Bolling, Dave Woodyatt, Erika Foster, Bill Gould, Marsha Balsamo, Bettina Karlove, Peter Rolwes and Keith Reed. Guests were Diane Charhut, Tom Terrill and Mark Gantner.

Chair Jonathan Don called the annual meeting of the Caucus to order in the Northfield Branch Library meeting room shortly after 7:00 pm.

Upon motion by Cricket and 2nd by Marsha, the agenda was approved.

Keith gave the membership committee report. He passed out the list of 20 proposed Caucus members for two year terms (2017 and 2018) and explained how it was compiled and why certain past members decided not to continue. (Such list attached hereto.) Upon motion by Marsha and 2nd by Cricket, the bylaw rule of vote by precinct was waived. Upon motion by Keith and 2nd by Cricket, the proposed list was unanimously approved. There was a discussion about the importance of adding new members and several names were presented to the membership committee for consideration.

Jon presented the proposed slate of officers: Chair-Jonathan Don; Vice Chair-Marsha Balsamo; Treasurer-Frank Charhut; and Secretary-Keith Reed. Upon motion by Bill and 2nd by Cricket, the slate was approved.

Upon motion by Marsha and 2nd by Frank, the minutes of the October, 2016 were approved. Frank gave the Treasurer's report and said that the current balance in our bank account is \$1613.66, down from \$1686.65 last year due to our post office box expense and website domain privacy fee.

Tom Terrill was asked to give some remarks as a slated Village Trustee. Tom commended the Caucus for being effective and representative of the community. He presented a problem with the slating process with the need to get 56 signatures on a petition after being nominated. Then he was incorrectly told by the Village administration that he had to go to the State of Illinois Building in downtown Chicago to obtain notarization for his completed petition. The Chicago office then redirected him to the Old Orchard courthouse to properly file for the election. From Skokie he was sent back to Northfield, who finally notarized the petition. He suggested that the Caucus review this process and make sure that it's streamlined for the future. Jon said that this would be done and apologized for the inconvenience. Tom has been impressed with the orientation he has received and information that the Village has passed on to him about Trustee duties and responsibilities (especially Stacy Sigman and Fred Gougler).

Frank reported on his research of survey methods and his discussions with the survey firm that ran the recent Winnetka survey. He suggested that the questions be reduced and made more general. He reported that a survey could cost \$1700-\$2000; that there are about 2500 households in the Village; and that our last survey was returned only by 10% of these households. There was a discussion about the need for a survey, cheaper ways to get survey information and the real need to publicize the Caucus and what it does for the Village. Suggestions were that we have a table/tent at such Village events as the Farmer's Market, Rib Fest, Park District programs, etc.; and that we try to recruit more young people to the Caucus who tend to socialize more through their children than older residents.

Jon said that he would continue to get speakers for future Caucus meetings. Suggested speakers were Stacy Sigman, Steve Noble, the Village engineer; and someone from the Chamber of Commerce, mosquito abatement, police or fire departments. Jon mentioned that Northfield Now has been very active in introducing Medline employees to the Village. It has prepared a very professional and informative brochure about the Village. The next meeting of that group is February 17th and the Caucus should keep informed of their activities. Assuming Joan Frazier will be our new Village President, she will probably engage with that group. Jon also recommended that Caucus members attend Village Board meetings, and especially the "meeting of the whole" which is held at 5:30 pm the day of each Board meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month). Jon also reported that the new consolidated 911 emergency program is saving some money for the Village.

The Caucus reviewed the bio of Mark Gantner who applied for Caucus membership and indicated at the end of the meeting that he still desired to become a member. Mark was excused from the meeting and upon motion made by Keith and 2nd by Marsha, he was unanimously approved as a new Caucus member.

Upon motion by Marsha and 2nd by Frank, adjournment of the meeting was approved.

Prepared by Keith A. Reed, Secretary