



**THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS  
SPECIAL AMERICA IN BLOOM COMMITTEE MEETING  
2 LAGOON DRIVE, HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS  
FEBRUARY 27, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Newton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Bob Riddle, Samina Imtiaz, Farah Laman, Tosi Ufodike, Beth Ann Dodge, Lauren Vondrasek, Megan Masana, Melissa Romeo, Susan Bender, Laurel Kaiser, Richard Kirshner, and Margo Pelak. Absent was Patrick Raftery.

Also present were Chief Operating Officer Pamela Newton, Chief Administrative Officer and Village Clerk Donna Lobaito, and Parks and Recreation Director Brian Sullivan.

The members of the committee introduced themselves to all present.

**II. COO REPORT: A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE VILLAGE'S INVOLVEMENT WITH AMERICA IN BLOOM**

Ms. Newton introduced the staff, and provided an overview of the Village's efforts in the redevelopment of Brierwoods Park with grant money provided through Canadian National which was distributed through the America In Bloom organization. After touring our Village and Brierwoods Park, AIB suggested the Village enter their national competition. The Village received a national award for our population size. The Village has been invited to compete internationally as a result of our national win. The AIB judges will be returning this summer to see how we have improved upon last year's rating. The Village is working towards a Dark Skies Initiative designation as well as an Audubon Community designation.

**III. ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN 2018 IN LEXINGTON AND 2019 SYMPOSIUM IN ST. CHARLES ILLINOIS ON OCTOBER 3-5**

Ms. Newton invited the members of the committee to attend the 2019 symposium.

**IV. REVIEW OF 2018 REPORT**

Ms. Newton provided a review of the 2018 report and identified some of the areas in which the America In Bloom judges ranked the Village low. Ms. Newton spoke about the need to add flowers, maybe something identifiable to Hawthorn Woods like the daffodils in Long Grove. Locations for flowers were discussed.

**V. DETERMINE AREAS OF PLANNING INTEREST**

Ms. Newton asked the members to think about where their interests lie for planning purposes. Mr. Sullivan reported on the Village's partnership with Openlands to purchase Meadowlark Park, and the Morten Arboretum urban forestry grant. Mr. Kirchner spoke of private enterprises and sponsorships for the committee's initiatives.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS**

The Committee spoke about an Adopt-A-Park program with floral plantings, but recognized the lack of water at most parks. They also discussed an Adopt-A-Cul-de-Sac program, and Mr. Sullivan distributed a list of all cul-de-sacs in the Village.

**VII. OPEN MEETINGS ACT TRAINING REQUIREMENT**

Ms. Lobaito informed the Committee of their obligations and requirements under the Open Meetings Act. She informed the Committee members that they were all required to successfully complete the Illinois Attorney General's online Open Meetings Act training and forward their certificates to her.

**VIII. NEXT STEPS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Newton said the Committee will split into separate work groups, and members should think about where their interests and talents lie.

**IX. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Barn. Ms. Newton said a Chair and Vice-Chair will be identified to lead the Committee.

Ms. Newton opened the floor for discussion.

Ms. Laman indicated Hawthorn Trails was in need of an entrance sign and berming by the sign. Ms. Romeo asked about the logistics of planning for the AIB judges in July with the next meeting being in April. Ms. Newton said the next two months will be spent working in smaller work groups. She will email the committee members to determine their interest.

Ms. Newton said that in 2019, flower boxes will be installed at Village Hall, annuals will be planted at the aquatic center, an Adopt-A-Park program will be implemented with two planters being installed at each park sign, an Art in the Park program will be launched, and Mr. Riddle indicated he has some farm implements to be installed in some of the parks.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Kaiser, second by Ms. Dodge to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote.

Ayes: 12

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1

Motion carried.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Lobaito  
Village Clerk