



**THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS  
HAWTHORN WOODS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE MEETING  
2 LAGOON DRIVE, HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS  
FEBRUARY 24, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Ms. Pelak called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Bob Riddle, Lauren Vondrasek, Appaji Valavala, Margo Pelak, Megan Masana, Samina Imtiaz, and Karen Johanson. Absent were Beth Ann Dodge, Beryl Ibbotson, Farah Laman, Tosi Ufodike, and Tracy Allen.

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

Motion by Vondrasek, second by Masana to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 Hawthorn Woods In Bloom Committee.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Riddle, Vondrasek, Valavala, Pelak, Masana, Johanson, Imtiaz

Nays: None

Absent: Dodge, Ibbotson, Laman, Ufodike, Allen

Motion carried.

**III. COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Appaji Valavala introduced himself to the committee. It was noted Tracy Allen was also a new member; however, due to a conflict in her schedule, she was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Anne Carlson was on the Zoom call, and indicated she lives in the Village and would like to join the committee.

Beryl Ibbotson joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

##### **A. Chief Operating Officer**

Ms. Newton reported on the America In Bloom Symposium in the Sky, and our pursuit of other national accolades. She noted Ms. Vondrasek obtained bulbs from Hawthorn Gardens. The Village was also the recipient of the Green Community Award and Sustainability Planning Award through Audubon International. Ms. Newton reported the Village received a \$25,000 award from America In Bloom for Emotional Infrastructure at Meadowlark Park. She noted the Village has applied for the Governor's Hometown Award for volunteerism.

##### **B. Chief Administrative Officer/Village Clerk Report**

Ms. Lobaito reported that our newest committee member, Mr. Valavala, completed the Open Meetings Act training.

##### **C. Parks and Recreation Update**

Mr. Sullivan reported we are still seeking volunteers to adopt parks and cul-de-sac islands. He reported that there were 370 volunteer hours last year. Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the development of Meadowlark Park.

#### **V. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES/IDEAS**

##### **A. Flowers and Landscape**

Ms. Ibbotson reported daffodils will soon be blooming by the police department. Ms. Ibbotson and Ms. Johanson will do more plantings in the future.

##### **B. Celebrate Heritage**

Ms. Masana asked if she could obtain the judges recommendation notes as well as those of Patrick Raftery regarding church history. Ms. Newton said she would provide those notes.

##### **C. Monarch Butterflies/Pollinators**

Ms. Vondrasek was grateful for the donations from Hawthorn Gardens. She said she is working on the seed library for Village Hall and will contact Mr. Sullivan for the next steps. She is trying to secure milkweed.

D. Urban Forestry

See comments under Monarch Butterflies.

E. Fundraising and Special Events

Mr. Riddle indicated he will check with Bill Kock for milkweed packages.

The Hawthorn Woods In Bloom committee briefly discussed sharing perennials.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Riddle, second by Ibbotson to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Riddle, Vondrasek, Valavala, Pelak, Masana, Johanson, Imtiaz, Ibbotson

Nays: None

Absent: Dodge, Laman, Ufodike, Allen

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Lobaito  
Village Clerk