



**THE VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS
HAWTHORN WOODS IN BLOOM COMMITTEE MEETING
2 LAGOON DRIVE, HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS
OCTOBER 25, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Ms. Vondrasek called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll call indicated the following members were present: Bob Riddle, Beryl Ibbotson, Lauren Vondrasek, Appaji Valavala, Farah Laman, Pam Scaletta, and DiAnn Meagher. Absent were Samina Imtiaz, Sally Folkes, Megan Masana. (Chairperson Vondrasek, explained that member Pelak had informed he she was resigning from the HWIB Committee and member Masana has not responded to emails regarding committee activity).

Trustee Liaison Present: James W. Kaiser

Also present was Parks and Recreation Director Brian Sullivan.

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

None this month.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED JUNE 28, 2023

Motion by Riddle, second by Valavala to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2023 Hawthorn Woods In Bloom Committee.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Ibbotson, Vondrasek, Riddle, Laman, Valavala, Scaletta, Meagher

Nays: None

Absent: Imtiaz, Folkes, Johanson, Masana

Motion carried.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. Parks and Recreation Update—Brian Sullivan

Mr. Sullivan updated the committee on attendance and participation of the Village Staff, COO Pam Newton, Park Superintendent Ryan Mathy, and himself in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Sullivan introduced Trustee Kaiser who informed the committee that we had won the best of Class National Award for under 10,000 in population and displayed the award. He also mentioned that Ryan Mathy had been recognized as a candidate for the Community Champion Award. He further indicated that it was an honor to be so selected out of the national submittals. Sullivan then informed the committee that COO Newton was at present looking to tentatively set April 13, 2024 following the “Bark in The Park”

special event to dedicate the new Leo and Naomi Burnett Garden in Community Park. The border area and sign installation have been completed this week. Sullivan added information that 130 new trees secured through the Earmark Grant from the US Department of Agriculture and the Morton Arboretum had recently occurred bringing a total addition to the village's shade canopy of over 180 trees in 2023. Sullivan reminded the members about the Village's Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, November 25, 2023 in the barn, right after Thanksgiving.

V. COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES/IDEAS

A. Flowers and Landscape—Beryl Ibbotson

Ms. Ibbotson reported that everything was going well and looking good in the Police Garden.

B. Celebrate Heritage—Megan Masana

No report this month.

C. Monarch Butterflies/Pollinators—Lauren Vondrasek

Ms. Vondrasek reported that she had witnessed a number of butterflies in and around our parks and plantings this fall. She also complimented the village staff on the Party in the Park festivities. She thanked all committee members and volunteers for their assistance in weeding and planting this past year. Ms. Vondrasek also commented that she would like to plant Cheyenne Spirit at each park sign in 2024.

D. Urban Forestry—Lauren Vondrasek

Ms. Vondrasek noted the Leo and Naomi Burnett Garden will need mulch.

E. Fundraising and Special Events—Bob Riddle

Mr. Riddle provided a report on popcorn sales at the Party in the Park. A total of \$124 was collected as a free will donation as no charge for water or popcorn was assessed. All the popcorn was donated by Bob and Jolue Riddle. Bob reported they ran out of popcorn by 7 pm. Bob said he did not know if we had more attendees or not this year at Party in The Park but it appeared to him that certainly more families attended.

F. Garden of the Month—Karen Johanson

Ms. Johanson was absent. Ms. Vondrasek and DiAnn Meagher stated that the September GOM was handed out and it was a beautiful home on Cardinal. Sullivan stated the news coverage and photo would appear in a future edition of the weekly eblast to all residents. Ms. Meagher reported the sub-committee is working on contestant selection for decorated gardens/house with Halloween fall themes. Also, that Karen had hip replacement surgery on this date. All wished her well and a speedy recovery.

G. Public Relations

Ms. Pelak has reportedly resigned from the committee and her responsibilities are being handled by Sally Folkes. Ms. Vondrasek praised the brochure for its readability, information, and concise nature. Bob Riddle echoed those sentiments. Further discussion ensued on directions that the future pieces would include adding a QR code to the brochure.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Vondrasek and staff liaison Sullivan will brainstorm with Village COO Newton and follow up via email prior to our next meeting regarding future goals and direction for the HWIB Committee.

Bob Riddle thanked Hawthorn Gardens for their donation of dozen pumpkins.

Ms. Vondrasek spelled out the use of those donated pumpkins in holiday decorating in several parks. Additionally, she highlighted again the decorating contest and working with Amy Mason on the possibility of adding a Holiday version.

Discussion took place about meeting in a more intimate single table format and the possibility of hosting a remote meeting in the spring in a park setting near a Garden.

Discussion took place about the volume of work Volunteers from the committee are asked to perform and the need to recruit new volunteers and various approaches and organizations to include in future recruitment efforts.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Riddle, second by Valavala to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Riddle, Vondrasek, Valavala, Ibotson, Scaletta, Meagher, Laman

Nays: None

Absent: Imtiazzi, Folkes, Masana

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56.

The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sullivan
Director of Parks and Recreation