

MINUTES FROM NORTHFIELD VILLAGE CAUCUS MEETING (6/13/2024)

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM in the Village Park District conference room. A motion made by Kathy Estabrooke and seconded by Becky Newport to approve the minutes of our 4/10/2024 Caucus meeting was duly approved by a majority of Caucus members present. Those present were: Bev Smith, Nancy Blake, David Woodyatt, Michael Cohen, Mark Gantner, Becky Newport, Kathy Estabrooke, John Donnelly, Yvonne Hurlbutt, Chays Rubenstein, Patti Morrell, Sue Kelly, Jerry Mulick, Keith Reed and Ericka Foster. Guests present were our new Village Manager Patrick Brennan, and current trustees Charlie Orth (and his wife Kim) and Barnaby Dinges.

Patrick gave some information about his former positions in Highland Park and Kenilworth and how he has really enjoyed his position in Northfield; he reported that he has been spending time learning and evaluating the skills of Village staff and getting to know the culture of the Village; that the biggest problem so far is staffing of our police force since some of our recent recruits are young officers who came from the City of Chicago police force and some of these are returning to those jobs that pay higher wages; that the Village has improved the work schedules of our officers by giving them the option of working two 12 hour shifts with every other weekend not scheduled; that so far we have been able to have two teams of officers on both night and day shifts; that our officer pay is very competitive with our neighboring villages; and that in addition to approximately 20 officers the Village employs a few detectives and resource people.

Both Barnaby and Charlie (our guest trustees) reported that Patrick was a good choice for the Village and that so far the Village is running smoothly with him aboard. Barnaby then led an informative discussion regarding the Village Round-About project; how things get complicated when IDOT and Cook County get involved; and that the project could take 2 years to complete if it is approved. Other comments by Caucus members were that there is growing concern about the safety of the project and the lost of over 20 parking places in the area. Barnaby opined that there needs to be more research and discussion of this project before a final decision is made.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mark Gantner reported that the Caucus' bank account remains at \$836.36.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT: David passed out a proposed draft of the 2024 Village Caucus Platform with several changes that were suggested by various Caucus members. David recommended that these changes be considered and eventually voted on by the Caucus, although he mentioned that there were a couple of recent suggestions by Caucus members to put something in the Platform about Village environmental/sustainability efforts and that neighboring villages seem to have stronger statements/programs about environmental matters than our Village.

OVERSIGHT' David reported that IDOT has determined that within the next few years it has to raise a couple of bridges in Northfield on Edens highway by about 2 feet; that Northfield will soon be offering its police officers a more flexible pension plan with the Village's contribution being about 7% of an officer's salary; that the Village has some increased budgeted expenses in the last fiscal year, such as improvement in our chlorination system; that the cannabis facility has taken longer to open than anticipated resulting in lost revenues; and that the Village's written minutes of its meetings will be somewhat shorter in the future since the meetings will be on Zoom. David also reported

on whether the Caucus should continue to participate in Northfield's Wednesday evening "Master and Music" since the Park officials have discouraged our representatives from leaving our assigned tent at the Park, as opposed to letting them walk and mingle with the crowd to discuss possible Caucus membership. The consensus of the Caucus at this meeting was to not participate in this activity the rest of this summer but to reconsider this activity next year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION CALLED BY CHAIR BEVERLY SMITH FOR VOTING ON NEW MEMBERS AND PRESENTATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT. Beverly announced that Yvonne Hurlbutt and Nancy Blake have attended two recent Caucus meetings and presented their Caucus membership applications; after a short discussion about these applications a motion duly made by David and second by Patii Morrell to accept these two applicants as Caucus members was unanimously approved by the Caucus members in attendance. The Executive Session continued on by a report from the chair of the Caucus' Nominating Committee, Ericka Foster, who explained the Caucus' process and timeline in interviewing and selecting candidates for Village Trustee and Village President openings to be voted on later this year and that it is important for Caucus members to keep confidential the number and names of such candidates during the election period.

After Beverly closed the Executive Session, a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Becky Newport and seconded by Yvonne Hurlbutt was unanimously approved by the Caucus members in attendance and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED BY SECRETARY KEITH A. REED

Keith A. Reed - Secy - 6/13/24