

Village of South Barrington
Conservancy Commission
Tuesday, August 17, 2010
Minutes

Call To Order

Dr. Koty, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Eileen Koty, Suman Behal, Jerry Murrin and Nancy Munao,
Absent: Michael Niedzinski, Darryl Lustig and Melissa Gordon. Quorum was present.

Others present: Kathleen Wilson

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Munao motioned to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2010 meeting.
Seconded by Commissioner Murrin. Discussion: Commissioner Behal noted that
discussion about the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum that took place at the July 20
meeting was not included in the minutes. She directed that the minutes reflect that
discussion and stated that she will contact the museum for information regarding possible
future programs at the Conservancy. She will present her findings at the next meeting.
Motion to approve the July 20, 2010 minutes with additional note about discussion of the
Peggy Notebaert Museum carried by voice vote.

Dr. Koty stated that she will not be able to attend the August 21, 2010 meeting and asked
Commissioner Munao to chair the meeting.

Dr. Koty welcomed Kathleen Wilson to the meeting. Ms. Wilson attended to help
brainstorm about future programs at The Conservancy.

Conservancy Update

Dr. Koty stated that *South Barrington Life* Magazine did not get the article regarding The
Conservancy grand opening event in time to publish it in their August issue. Dr. Koty
wrote the article and submitted it directly to editor Joan Davies for publication in the
September issue.

Commissioner Murrin expressed concern about the lack of follow up and its effect on
establishing enthusiasm and support for The Conservancy. He stated that he was under
the impression that the article was already submitted to *South Barrington Life* and
regretted the missed opportunity to publicize The Conservancy immediately after the
grand opening. He also stated that if the Friends of The Conservancy survey has not yet
been completed and emailed to those visitors at the grand opening event that now is the
time to complete this task.

45 Dr. Koty stated that the South Barrington Garden Club has donated a bench to The
46 Conservancy. She will draft a thank you letter for the mayor's signature to be sent to the
47 Garden Club.

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49 Plan for Future Programs

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51 Ms. Wilson stated that she could get a brass quartet if the Commission decided to put on
52 an Oktoberfest in the fall. Dr. Koty responded that the mayor would have to be consulted
53 and his approval needed before the Commission could commit to a program. She noted
54 that the logistics involved in planning a large event such as Oktoberfest in the limited
55 time of 7 weeks would prohibit them from considering it for this year. The
56 Commissioners discussed it for next year and all agreed that Oktoberfest 2011 is a good
57 idea. Ms. Wilson agreed to attend the February 2011 meeting to begin preparation for the
58 event. The Commission discussed Oktoberfest activities in other communities and what
59 activities would be appropriate for South Barrington. They agreed that a traditional "beer
60 and brats" theme was plausible and talked about various music venues that would work.
61 Commission Munao suggested organizing a nature walk that concentrated on the fall
62 colors of the foliage. The discussion was tabled until the February 2011 meeting.

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64 Commissioners discussed the need for a permanent shelter at The Conservancy. This
65 would eliminate the need to rent tents for future events. They acknowledged that this is
66 an expensive proposition and funding is an issue. Dr. Koty suggested that they consider
67 sponsoring fundraisers that would not only acquire the money for a permanent shelter but
68 also serve as a way to get the word out about events at The Conservancy. One idea was
69 that the South Barrington Garden Club could sell mums as a fundraiser.

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71 Ms. Wilson stated that they needed a plan for publicity that includes as many people as
72 possible. She suggested recruiting Barrington High School students to volunteer as part
73 of their required community service requirement for school. They could assist with
74 distributing the conservancy survey to residents. She also suggested involving other
75 youth oriented groups to assist such as the Boy Scouts. Another idea would be to have
76 float from The Conservancy at the Barrington High School homecoming parade.

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78 Commissioner Murrin suggested that they concentrate on simple events to attract visitors.
79 The Commissioners discussed several small venues that would work including

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- 81 ■ Teen group adjunct to plan teen activities such as a nature hike for teens;
- 82 ■ Art/jewelry exhibit at The Conservancy where items could be displayed and sold
- 83 ■ An "Art in the Park" event
- 84 ■ Musical groups in the park. Invite residents who play an instrument to join and have
85 an impromptu concert that includes them in "bring your own instrument" day

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87 Commissioner Behal stated that these are good ideas but at issue now the follow up to
88 raise enough support from residents make sure that these events take place and are
89 successful. Commissioners agreed that communication with residents and other "Friends
90 of The Conservancy" is vital to the success of all future programming. They agreed that

91 the place to start is with a survey that can be emailed to potential “Friends of the
92 Conservancy” members. Commissioners discussed and listed several questions the survey
93 should contain. The survey should thank visitors for their support and pose questions that
94 elicit their opinions and recruit volunteers, including

- 95
- 96 1. What future programs would you like to see included at The Conservancy?
97 (musical concerts, art exhibits, organized nature walks, etc.)
 - 98 2. What interests/talents do you wish to contribute? (music, nature walks, tactile or
99 jewelry art, special events, other)
 - 100 3. Can you think of any possible enhancements to the natural beauty of The
101 Conservancy?
 - 102 4. Do you have any ideas for enhancements? Would you consider volunteering on
103 enhancement, maintenance or conservation projects?
 - 104 5. What would you like to see at The Conservancy that isn’t already there?

105 Commission Munao volunteered to send an email to all Friends of the Conservancy as
106 well as the grand opening attendees who gave their email address. In it she will announce
107 that the survey will be coming soon. She will also coordinate with Commissioner Gordon
108 about a timeline for completing the survey.

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110 Old Business

111 None.

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113 New Business

114 None.

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116 Adjournment

117 Commissioner Behal motioned, and Commissioner Munao seconded, to adjourn the
118 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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122 The minutes of the August 17, 2010 Conservancy Commission are respectfully
123 submitted,

124 Mary Lampugnano

125 Recording Secretary