

Village of South Barrington
Conservancy Commission
Tuesday, October 19, 2010
Minutes

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

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

Others present: Village Administrator Mark Masciola.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Murrin motioned to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2010 meeting. Discussion: Line 25 was edited to replace the word "August" with the word "September" to read "Dr. Koty stated that she will not be able to attend the September 21, 2010 meeting..." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Niedzinski and carried by voice vote.

Dr. Koty introduced to commissioners newly hired South Barrington Village Administrator Mark Masciola. Mr. Masciola told commissioners that his professional background comes from the Village of Hanover Park where he served as the Assistant Village Manager for many years. He is happy to be in South Barrington. Mr. Masciola stated that he is a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America and looks forward to the possibility of planning Scouting service projects at The Conservancy.

Dr. Koty asked each commissioner to introduce him/herself to Mr. Masciola including a brief biography. The commissioners exchanged introductions.

The Commission discussed ways they could utilize the services of the Boy Scouts and coordinate their service projects. Mr. Masciola suggested that they organize an outing where the Boy Scouts could remove unwanted plant species from the Conservancy. Commissioner Munao suggested that they tag trees for future tree walks.

Mr. Masciola suggested that the Village of South Barrington apply for "Tree City USA" designation. He stated that this program worked well for the Village of Hanover Park and could benefit The Conservancy. The requirements for Tree City USA designation include a tree ordinance passed by the Village, a proclamation passed by the Village to celebrate trees, preferably on Arbor Day each year, and a minimum of \$2 per capita be spent on tree maintenance in the Village. Mr. Masciola stated that the \$2 per capita maintenance is already being spent by the Village so that requirement is already fulfilled. He added that the deadline for application for Tree City USA is December 31 of each year for the following year. He also stated that there is precedent within the Village for tree conservancy. David Pierce, former Village Manager, had applied for a BAGOG grant to

recognize South Barrington for their efforts at conserving the tree and plant population from the Klehm property before housing construction began. The Village organized a volunteer drive to give away trees and plants to residents rather than have them demolished to make way for housing construction. The drive was very successful.

The Commission discussed the possibility of having an Arbor Day celebration at the Conservancy. Dr. Koty stated that the South Barrington Garden Club currently celebrates Arbor Day each year at Rose Elementary School. They provide plants to school children. She suggested that the Garden Club be approached about conducting a program, perhaps a tree planting, at The Conservancy. Commissioner Niedzinski questioned how they would handle the post-planting maintenance if trees were to be planted. Mr. Masciola suggested that the Village might be able to add it on the contract the Village currently has with the tree-trimming contractor. Dr. Koty asked Mr. Masciola to discuss this with the mayor and report back to the commission.

Commissioner Niedzinski reported to the commission that he spoke with Lee Goebbert about donating the pumpkin farm's left over trees and/or shrubbery at the end of the season. He cautioned that nothing has been finalized yet, but if Goebbert's does donate, then volunteers will be needed to help plant them. The Commission discussed the possibility of having the Village landscaper plant them.

Discussion turned to how to landscape and what to plant on the monument. Mr. Niedzinski stated that that no final plans have been made at this time, rather, he is waiting to see what kinds of plants will be donated.

Dr. Koty informed commissioners that Suman Behal is resigning from The Conservancy Commission. She stated that Suman was a valuable asset to the commission and recommended that they send her acknowledgement and appreciation of her good service. Discussion took place about who might be available to replace Commissioner Behal. Dr. Koty stated that she would like to see an arborist on the commission. Commissioner Lustig suggested that they find an arborist through the internet and begin a search there.

Mr. Niedzinski left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Commissioner Munao stated that she has not completed the survey to be sent out because she has not been able to get the list of email addresses of the Friends of the Conservancy from Commissioner Gordon. Commissioner Lustig stated that he will try and make contact with Commissioner Gordon. Commissioners agreed that it is important to get the survey out to residents so as to create a medium for publication of future events that will take place at The Conservancy.

Plan for Future Programs

Commissioner Murrin stated that The Conservancy needs to organize activities at The Conservancy that offer a balance between entertainment venues and educational experiences about nature. He strongly recommended that at the next meeting, they

finalize the list of events for calendar year, set the dates on the 2011 calendar, and publish it in *South Barrington Life Magazine*. He also suggested that they publish a map of The Conservancy highlighting the hiking trails.

The commissioners discussed some ideas for future programs including an Arbor Day celebration as suggested by Mr. Masciola. They also discussed having planting days, 3 Saturdays in the spring, and invite residents to help plant the trees/bushes.

Commissioner Murrin suggested that commissioners review the list of ideas for future events (which are listed in previous meeting minutes) before the next meeting and, at the next meeting, choose which ones they will commit to for next year.

Old Business

Commissioner Murrin updated commissioners about the culvert from the pond. He stated that he noticed that it was raised. Dr. Koty agreed stating that it was raised in an effort to get more water.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Murrin motioned, and Commissioner Munao seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The minutes of the October 19, 2010 Conservancy Commission are respectfully submitted,

Mary Lampugnano
Recording Secretary