

Village of South Barrington
Conservancy Commission
Tuesday, July 19, 2011
Minutes

Call To Order

Commissioner Koty called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Others present: Village President Frank Munao, South Barrington Park District Director Jay Morgan, and Photographer Diane Bodkin.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lustig motioned to accept the minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting as written. Discussion: Typographical errors were noted and corrected as follows: the word “the” in line 27 was changed to “a” and the word “the” was changed to “they” in line 48. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Niedzinski and carried by voice vote.

Future Programming.

Dr. Koty introduced Jay Morgan from the South Barrington Park District and thanked him for agreeing to meet with the Conservancy Commission. Mr. Morgan highlighted the activities surrounding the Park District’s “Art in the Park” program which served approximately 60 children. He stated that 112 children registered but only a little more than half actually participated, adding that if the program were scheduled around the 4th of July that he expected to have more participation. He noted that the program was a success but would like to see it expanded for next year.

Commissioner Munao briefed Mr. Morgan on the idea of co-sponsoring events with the Park District for future programming that would benefit both organizations. In the beginning, she suggested “piggy-backing” on Park District events. For example, if the Park District sponsored an “Art in the Park” event, the Conservancy could offer its Tree Walk at the same time and both events could be marketed together in the Park district brochure. Mr. Morgan was amiable to this idea.

Commissioner Lustig asked if the Park District had any other nature-based programs planned for this year. Mr. Morgan recalled that they currently have planned an outdoor science program for children and stated that he would have to check with his staff to identify any other programs. He doubted that the programs could be dually promoted in this brochure due to the time constraints for printing the fall brochure but was open to ideas for next year. Commissioner Lustig asked Mr. Morgan about the possibility of marketing the Conservancy in the Park District brochure, by advertising the tree walks,

46 for example. Mr. Morgan replied that the fall brochure is finalized but that it could be
47 done in the spring brochure.

48
49 Discussion ensued about the commonalities between the Conservancy and Park District.
50 The main stumbling block hampering co-sponsored events is that the Conservancy is
51 primarily intended for the exclusive use of South Barrington residents and the Park
52 District is open to surrounding municipalities. Mr. Morgan admitted that many of their
53 members are residents of Barrington, Inverness, and Hoffman Estates. Commissioners
54 agreed that it has been difficult to recruit volunteers and draw visitors exclusively from
55 South Barrington and in fact residents from other communities have visited the
56 Conservancy. Village President Munao confirmed this by stating that he has found empty
57 beer bottles on Conservancy property after the soccer games that take place on the
58 adjacent Park District property. Commissioners discussed ways to market the
59 Conservancy to South Barrington residents. Mr. Morgan suggested staggering a program
60 fee schedule that would charge fees to non-residents and charge lower fees or no fees to
61 South Barrington residents.

62
63 Village President Munao also stated that the organizations often possess different
64 focuses; the Park District's outdoor programs seem to be focused on sports activities
65 while the Conservancy focuses on nature programs.

66
67 Mr. Morgan stated that he will consult with his staff about upcoming nature-based
68 activities. He stated that it is too late to co-sponsor anything for this year because they are
69 finalizing their fall programming right now and the advertising material and registration
70 information will be printed in the next few days. He was enthusiastic about planning for
71 next year though, especially nature programs for children. He stated that the Park District
72 has an excellent relationship with Rose Elementary School and that maybe a school
73 program could take place at the Conservancy.

74
75 Dr. Koty suggested co-sponsoring a field trip event with the Park District. She stated that
76 she has been on many nature-based bus trips and that might be a way to attract more
77 interest in Conservancy programs. She suggested a bus tour of the Morton Arboretum, for
78 example. Discussion took place about the logistics of hiring a bus company and what fees
79 would have to be charges to cover expenses. President Munao stated that he favored a trip
80 where individuals drove their own cars.

81
82 President Munao updated commissioners on his research about planning an overnight trip
83 to one of the Illinois state parks. Some suggestions included Starved Rock State Park in
84 Utica and White Pines State Park in Oregon. He stated that both are historic nature
85 landmarks, both have organized nature activities as well as hiking trails, and both have
86 eating and lodging accommodations. He stated that to reserve rooms in quantity they
87 would have to plan for next year as this year is already booked. President Munao stated
88 that White Pines Inn offers a dinner theatre program and that he and Mrs. Munao are
89 planning a trip there this fall. He will report back to the Commission his findings.

90

91 Commissioners discussed other possible day trips and overnight trips. Mr. Morgan stated
92 that the Park District has sponsored many same-day bus trips but has not done an
93 overnight trip. He stated that the cost of renting the bus and paying the driver's expenses
94 is prohibitive on an overnight trip. Dr. Koty stated that the South Barrington Garden Club
95 has taken several same-day bus trips and reported that they are educational and
96 interesting. President Munao recommended organizing a trip (either day or overnight) but
97 to ask people to drive themselves to the destination instead of renting a bus.
98

99 Commissioners discussed other ways of getting the word out about the Conservancy.
100 Photographer Diane Bodkin stated that the flowers are in full bloom now and she offered
101 to take pictures of them to publish in *South Barrington Life* magazine along with an
102 article describing the Conservancy. Dr. Koty and Recording Secretary Mary Lampugnano
103 agreed to write the article. It is too late to meet the deadline for the summer edition but
104 they will work on an article for submittal in the spring.
105

106 Ms. Bodkin stated that she is on the Board of Directors of the Citizens for Conservation
107 (CFC). She stated that the CFC has received grant monies to rid certain areas of invasive
108 plants. She offered to bring back to the CFC Board any Conservancy questions or issues
109 for discussion. Dr. Koty noted that he CFC hosts a plant sale program including plants
110 that are indigenous to Illinois. She suggested the Conservancy as a possible site to hold
111 the sale.
112

113 Ms. Bodkin stated that there will be another photography class for children. The first one
114 was a complete success even though enrollment was low. Commissioner Niedzinski asked
115 about having a photography class for adults. He stated that he promoted the children's
116 program with many of his neighbors and some asked him about an adult class. Ms.
117 Bodkin said she thought this was a good idea and agreed to ask her husband to teach the
118 class.
119

120 Commissioner Munao asked for ideas on what program that Emily Murrin, daughter of
121 Commissioner Jerry Murrin, might teach. Since Commissioner Murrin was absent from
122 the meeting, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
123

124 Dr. Koty stated that she talked to members of the South Barrington Garden Club about
125 planting a vegetable garden at the conservancy and they are interested. President Munao
126 brought up issues of plowing and watering since there is no running water there. Dr. Koty
127 suggested importing water via truck similar to the way that homeowners associations
128 water the flowers in subdivision common areas.
129

130 Ms. Bodkin suggested that they ask the Garden Club to sponsor a beautification project at
131 the Conservancy.
132

133 Old Business

134
135 Commissioner Niedzinski asked the mayor if they could make plans to plant 1/3 of the
136 proposed landscaping on the mound as discussed at the June 16 meeting. President

137 Munao stated that he has not yet given the landscape architecture plans provided by the
138 Commission to Village Landscape Architect Ann Viger. He stated that he wanted her to
139 review that plan and identify the appropriate species for the plantings. Commission
140 Niedzinski asked if they may go ahead with the planting once the species have been
141 selected stating that the goal is to do the fall planting in September. President Munao
142 agreed.

143

144 New Business.

145 None.

146

147 Adjournment

148 Commissioner Munao motioned, and Commissioner Niedzinski seconded, to adjourn the
149 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

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152 The minutes of the July 19, 2011 Conservancy Commission are respectfully submitted,

153 Mary Lampugnano

154 Recording Secretary