

Village of South Barrington

Cook County, Illinois
30 South Barrington Road
South Barrington, IL 60010

Village of South Barrington Conservancy Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Commissioner Bodkin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: In attendance:

- Commissioners present: Diane Bodkin, Nancy Munao, Michael Niedzinski
Absent: Corinne Chrystall

Guest: Dustin Wire

Approval of Minutes: May minutes were approved.

Announcements: The water hydrant repair is still ongoing. The company that is doing the work received a special part Monday and found that it didn't fit the hose bushing, so they need to reorder. It is not known when the part will be in and the hydrant will be in working order. She stated the urgency for water access is holding up the final plantings on the mound.

There is a mother Sandhill Crane on a nest she made in the middle of the large pond just beyond the observation platform.

Bodkin announced she would not be in town for the July 23 commission meeting. Niedzinski stated he could not be present for the regularly scheduled July 16 meeting and hoped it could be changed to July 23. Munao will chair in Bodkin's absence. Bodkin will discuss with Village Secretary to approve the date change. She will also get the agenda and the Scarecrow registration forms ready for Munao to distribute.

Project and/or Program	Follow-up Action Owner	Discussion
Scout Jagmin Progress	Munao to contact Jagmin for mugs and diagrams if he cannot attend the Regency meeting.	Munao reported Jagmin has erected partial forms on the platform. He will be sending photos and a diagram and some mugs for the presentation to the Regency in early July.
Park District sponsored Conservancy Walk June 16	Bodkin to contact Debbie Frederich at the Park District to let her know of our October 13 date for the Fall walk.	Munao reported on the Park District sponsored and publicized walk through the Conservancy on June 16. Munao and Bodkin served as guides. There were four hikers from the Regency and one from the Park District. Munao felt the event was successful even with a few visitors. The ones who came were very enthusiastic and eager to learn about the Conservancy. Two of the attendees offered to help weed the mound and did just that that afternoon. They were also interested in helping the scout with his

		<p>fundraising with the mugs at the Regency Clubhouse.</p> <p>Bodkin stated that the Park District said they would like to do another walk again in the fall for the fall colors. The Commissioners agreed on October 13.</p>
Bluebird Nesting Box Monitoring		<p>Bodkin reported there are tree swallow babies in five of the nesting boxes in the Conservancy. She will check on them in a week before she leaves town on vacation to check on progress. There are no bluebird nests or sparrow nests.</p>
Tree Status	<p>Niedzinski to cut the oak tree and to cut the broken linden branches near the pond.</p>	<p>Niedzinski asked if there were a plan to replace dead trees. There are two dead trees, the chinquapin oak and another tree. Bodkin responded that there is nothing in the budget this year for replacement, that the commission would have to anticipate it and put the expense in the budget for next year. We will need to cut the tree down and leave the stump area for this year. Niedzinski agreed to cut the two broken branches on the lindens back near the pond.</p>
Cart for Hauling	<p>All commissioners to help haul gravel and wood chips to the Wildflower Garden trail.</p>	<p>Bodkin reported she bought a cart for hauling the water containers. This cart will be good for hauling gravel to fill the Wildflower Garden trail depressions as well. Niedzinski offered his cart too. Commissioners and Dustin Wire agreed to help haul gravel and wood chips Thursday evening July 2 from 4-6 p.m.</p>
Second Spraying Invasives	<p>Bodkin to talk with Village Treasurer about Finances for seed mix and for the second spraying.</p>	<p>Wire announced it is optimum time for the second in a series of spraying invasives, cattails and phragmites. He recommends planting a prairie seed mix, sedges and an upland mix in the area now to start pushing out the reed canary grass. Wire estimated the project would need \$1000. Bodkin asked if it would be possible to do half the area now and half later, at \$500.</p> <p>Wire says the seed needs to go into the ground this fall to be ready for next spring.</p> <p>Wire stated the need for more boulders to go at the end of the boulder bridge by the Butterfly Garden trail, since the creek is skirting around the rocks and eroding the bank. Commissioners and Wire would also like to see some of the extra boulders that are presently in the far picnic grounds used for interest on the mound. Commissioners will have to come up with a good idea on how to move the boulders into place.</p>
PROJECTS: Need for new trail map	<p>Munao and Bodkin will work on polishing a sketch of all the trails as the first stage of the brochure.</p> <p>Bodkin will work on creating a poster for this occasion. Addendum: The Park District is having a community picnic July 4 at 12:30 for all South</p>	<p>Bodkin stated several residents have asked about a trail map in the Conservancy. There is one with the Tree Walk brochure, but doesn't include all the trails in the Conservancy. All commissioners agreed on the need for a new updated trail map for hikers, runners, walkers with distances and marker information</p> <p>Niedzinski announced the Coves Annual Picnic this year on July 12. He would like to see a poster that he could put up at the picnic to promote the Conservancy with the Coves residents. He asked Munao if she could attend the picnic and help answer questions about the Conservancy history.</p>

	Barrington residents. This also would be a great time to have the poster in place.	
New long term fundraising project	Commissioners to do more thinking about the project research and gathering ideas. Jagmin will be asked to leave an opening beside the stairs for the future addition of a ramp at that location.	Bodkin raised the topic of an asphalt path skirting around the east perimeter of the picnic grounds to come to a ramp up onto the observation platform. She felt it was important to think in terms of compliance with ADA requirements, as well as just making the Conservancy features more handicap accessible so that more people can enjoy the place. She stated envisioning this need for a fundraising project that could include the whole village, the garden club, and possibly Audubon. It will be a two or three year fundraising project and will need a scout to do the ramp, and some conferences with contractors to get costs and drawings.
Date for Scarecrow Trail	Bodkin will create a 2015 Registration form and give the list of the previous entries to the commissioners. Bodkin will prepare supplies for the craft feature of the Walk. Munao will research the Sunflower Horseshoe idea more specifically.	Due to Bodkin's absence in early October and the commissioners feeling they needed her to lead this project, the date for the event was agreed to be Oct 17-18. Commissioners will need to start soliciting for entries in mid or late July. They were urged to think of new organizations in town to approach. Munao suggested adding a craft activity to the event, having kids create the note cards done at KidFest. She urged that the craft project have several volunteers to help out. Bodkin also announced that she plans to have three judges again like last year instead of letting the attendees vote. It was suggested last year to have an art student as one of the judges. Munao suggested a new feature she had seen done elsewhere, a large horseshoe shape of an enclosure with sunflowers. These could be interspersed with willow branches to help give kids an enclosed space.
Create New Brochures		The commissioners agreed that a new updated brochure is needed. Various sections of the current brochure were assigned to Munao and Niedzinski and Bodkin. The plan is to work on the rewrites and have the draft ready for the Barrington High School art class at the start of school in the fall. Munao has the history of the Conservancy, Niedzinski has the history of the Commission. The paragraphs on the Cultural Center will be removed. It was agreed the Mission Statement is fine as is. Bodkin will produce photos for the brochure.

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Next meeting July 23, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson