

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**  
**CONSERVANCY COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Bodkin at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Commissioners present: Diane Bodkin, Nancy Munao, Corinne Chrystall,  
Michael Niedzinski  
Guests: Trustee Bernard Kerman, Deb Bachmeier, Aga Razvi, and Dustin Wire

**APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES:** Motion by Commissioner Chrystall, seconded by Munao.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None voiced.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chairman Bodkin welcomed Trustee Kerman, Deb Bachmeier from the Regency, and Aga Razvi from Cotswold Manor. Bachmeier is a Registered Nurse, instructor in the Certified Nursing Aide program at Harper College.

Bodkin reported that she and Commissioner Munao attended the “Pollinator Habitat , Monarchs, and Rusty- Patched Bumble Bee” webinar presented by the Illinois Association of Environmental Professionals last week. She stated that she and Munao felt the Conservancy is observing most of the conservation methods discussed in the presentation: planting a diversity of native plants to attract a diversity of insects for pollination and food source for birds, and actively working toward eradication of major invasive plants that are toxic to other plants and birds and robbing needed nutrients.

**AGENDA :**

**I. MAINTENANCE:**

**A. TREE MAINTENANCE:**

Bodkin announced that she and Commissioner Niedzinski trimmed the east half of the trees in the arboretum, and she and Commissioner Munao trimmed the west half of the arboretum trees last week. There are still some low Linden branches that need further trimming.

**B. TRAILS:**

Bodkin reported on the continuation of war on teasel in the Conservancy. She recently found and eliminated several tall stems in the Scarecrow field, chopping to the base and applying glyphosate to the stump. She reported that Ron DiMonte has sprayed and mowed the Butterfly Garden trail. Dustin Wire mowed the whole Butterfly Garden to help encourage and strengthen the wildflowers.

**C. SEDGE MEADOW:**

Dustin Wire explained to the new members the rationale for the intense, dense planting of sedges and forbs in the Reed Canary field to crowd out the invasive grasses.

The village has received a matching grant award from Openlands/Com Ed for \$500 for plants for an eradication program in the sedge meadow. The Conservancy will plant 400 plants, each in two separate 50' x 50' plots adjacent to the existing planted plot. The additional 50'x50' plot, already budgeted for planting before receipt of the grant, will serve as the matching task for the project. Wire has agreed to be the liaison to the nursery for purchasing the plants and supervising the planting. He has selected the regular monthly workday August 6 and August 13 to complete both plantings. Bodkin will ask commissioners, scouts, and garden club members to help plant. She stated she would like to have the grant planting completed to report at the August 10 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**II. CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**A. TREE NAME PLATES:**

Bodkin showed samples of the tree nameplates with the wire in place. Commissioners agreed that this coming Thursday around 1:00 p.m. would be good for the first hour of hanging. Bodkin will purchase the wire and have cut lengths already threaded through the plates for ease of placing on the branch. She will notify Niedzinski, Munao, and Chrystall, confirming date and time. She will invite the new commissioners for the second hour at a later date. . Commissioner Munao urged the commission to place an item on the agenda annually in July to check the growing space between the wire and each branch.

**B. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:**

Commissioner Munao reported Scout Jacobs states he is ready to start digging the foundations this coming Monday, July 24. He emailed Bodkin that he needed her to sign a fundraising proposal. She will meet him Monday to complete that requirement.

### III. PROGRAMS

#### A. GROUP USE OF PICNIC GROUNDS

Chair Bodkin formally introduced new commissioner Aga Razvi and asked him to introduce himself to the commissioners. He stated he is a retired professor of Soil, Water, and Waste Management from thirty- seven years at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. His Ph.D. is in Environmental Engineering and Soil Science. He has authored a book, Soil Science Simplified, currently used by gardeners. His home hobby is gardening. He is looking forward to helping the commission with writing more grants, instituting a summer intern program, and gaining more partnerships with educational institutions.

Razvi has applied to the village for a permit for a large gathering of his family at the Conservancy this coming Saturday, July 22. He has agreed to report on his experience at the next commission meeting with comments about features that went well and ones that didn't. This information will be helpful for future requests for large gatherings in the Conservancy.

#### B. ENTRANCE MOUND:

Commissioner Chrystall voiced her frustration at the amount of weeding continuously needed on the entrance mound. She is meeting with Midwest Goundcover next week for some ideas for permanent eradication of the weeds.

New Commissioner Razvi suggested using vinegar as a less expensive, environmentally safe method.

Ron DiMonte, who has been hired to spray the mound, states he has already done so several times. Chair Bodkin will talk with him and ask him to hold off a while to see if the vinegar works. Regarding new flowers for the mound, Razvi suggested lupines. Chrystall said she would also like to see asters.

Chrystall will present a plan for the remaining forbs on the mound at the August commission meeting.

She also described the planned stone stream on the front incline of the mound, using river rock and boulders and stones nearby. The winding path down the side of the mound will be aesthetic, erosion control, and a stairway to the top for ease of maintenance. She plans to create this artistic project in late summer. Chrystall also voiced her vision of taking children on walks through the mound and the prairie to learn about the native plants.

**C. SOIL AND WATER PRESENTATION FOR DISTRICT 220 SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Munao reviewed her outline for her summer school science program on soil, water, and erosion. Some of her points were: our soil came from massive movements of glaciers carrying gravel and stone from thousands of years ago; disturbed soil can invite many unwanted living things; and erosion causes runoff of good soil and can degrade our water supply. She described 'horizons', digging a deep hole so kids can see multi layers of soil and take some samples back to the classroom to study. New commissioner Razvi added that he has slides and pictures to add to the presentation. Munao explained to be a field trip, the whole class grade must attend: summer school can be a smaller group, only the ones who have signed up to attend.

**D. BLUEBIRD NESTING BOXES:**

Bodkin reported most of the 10 Eagle Scout boxes have been cleaned out. She would like to reposition several of the boxes so as not to have to wander through chest high grasses. For this summer season, there has only been one bluebird family with three fledglings to report, and about ten nesting boxes with tree swallows. Fran Frain will be responsible for his twenty boxes.

**E. SCARECROW EVENT PLANS**

Bodkin reminded commissioners of the need to start soliciting previous entry organizations to give them enough months to ponder and get ready. Munao stated she had already made contact with Dr. Shandley, Pinstripes, PIC Theater, Mathnasium, Hoffman Estates Animal Hospital, and GiGi's Playhouse. Bodkin gave Chrystall and Bachmeier a copy of the 2017 Application form to give to the organizations they visit. The theme this year will be "It's About Time!" The titles must include the word "Time".

The Mayor has requested that the Scarecrow walk be up for the two weekends and the week in between. Bodkin also announced she would like to contract Gordy the (Soap)Bubbler again this year for about \$300 as a draw for the children. He was scheduled to come last year but canceled because of rain. Bodkin will check his availability for Sept 30. Bodkin will secure the two outside judges, and Munao will talk with middle school officials to secure a mature, articulate art student. Munao agreed to visit Pinot's Palette in the Arboretum. Bachmeier will talk with some Regency residents to see if there can be one exhibit from all.

Current assignments are:

**CHRYSTALL: BMO Harris, Barrington Ladies Bunco, LL Bean  
Toll Brothers**

**MUNAO: Holy Family Catholic Academy, GiGi's Playhouse,  
Ryco Landscaping, Pinstripes, Mathnasium  
Hoffman Estates Animal Hospital, Dr. Shandley  
Noah's Ark Christian Academy, PIC Theater**

**BODKIN: Arboretum, Autumn Leaves, Police Dept,  
Park District, Village Hall Staff,  
Papadakis Photography and Bravo Talent,**

**BACHMEIER: Regency and The Woods**

**Others: \*PIC Theater, Toll Brothers, Regency and Woods.  
ANY Subdivision Homeowners Associations,  
Pinot's Palette, and other Arboretum Stores  
Sherwin Williams Paint, CVS, Anna Shay, Scouts**

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business discussed at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.  
Next meeting will be August 17, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Bodkin, Chairperson

Following the adjournment of the commission, Commissioner Michael Niedzinski stated his desire to resign, due to business travel and other new commitments that are demanding his time. He has been on the commission since 2006. Commissioners commended him on a job well done through the years. Arrangements will be made to host him for dinner in the coming weeks. He will send a formal resignation letter to the commission, to the Mayor, and the Village Secretary, in time to present at the August 10 meeting of the Board of Trustees.