

CONSERVANCY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Bodkin at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

- Commissioners present: Diane Bodkin, Nancy Munao, Deb Bachmeier, Corinne Chrystall, Aga Razvi
Guests: Trustee Hina Patel

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Razvi, seconded by Commissioner Munao, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None voiced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Chairman Bodkin welcomed Trustee Hina Patel.
2. Bodkin announced she would be out of the state from October 6-18. She stated commissioners would need to cover the second week of the Scarecrow Event, to continue the watering of the sedge meadow, and to attend the Board of Trustees' meeting October 12 when the scout volunteers will be recognized.
3. Bodkin reminded the commissioners about the BACOG water testing this coming week. She urged the commissioners to pick up their test kit and be sure to turn it in at the Garlands on October 11. She stated she would like Commissioner Razvi to meet the BACOG Director Janet Agnoletti to find an opportunity for his knowledge to help the Barrington Water Resource Committee.
4. Bodkin announced she and her husband received a \$50 donation to the Conservancy from the Chicago Area Camera Club Association award for using photography for native conservation education and for post processing techniques. She said she would like to use the funds for additional wildflowers on the mound and in the Pollinator Garden.
5. Bodkin displayed the recent brochure from Openlands/Com Ed Green Region Chicago that cited the award to the Village of South Barrington for sedge plantings.

6. Bodkin reported an educational tour of tree identification at Stillman Nature Center with Director Mark Spreyer. She circulated a handout she received with a flow diagram for determining a tree in question and then suggested the possibility of using this teaching technique for the proposed soil and water class that Commissioner Munao and Razvi are planning. Razvi stated he has similar materials and methods from his past teachings.

AGENDA :

ITEM #1: Sedge Meadow Report

Trustee Patel was briefed on the background, theory, and current status of the Sedge Meadow. Commissioner Chrystall initiated a new method of watering the 800 plants, using extensive lengths of water hose. Commissioner Razvi volunteered to help water the plants, and add more hose if needed, and a special sprinkler. Bodkin also asked Razvi to check the arboretum trees with her to determine watering needs for the three trees that are showing signs of severe stress from the extended drought. Razvi and Chrystall will water Friday at 6:30.

ITEM #2: Eagle Scout Project

Bodkin gave a progress report on the Eagle Scout ramp project, stating that the foundation posts are in place, as are the understructure of the frame, the gravel, the weed mat, and some of the wedge boards that meet the platform. Bodkin added that she was impressed that the scout protected the open area with a tarp to prevent possible accidents from visitors to the site. Trustee Patel suggested putting photos of the project up on the screen at the Board of Trustees meeting when the scout comes to present his completed project. Bodkin added that the fundraising efforts for the third phase of the project, the asphalt path, will begin after the ramp is complete, so it can be shown to potential donors. Chrystall stated the desire to have educational signs, possibly with a humorous slant, posted on the trails and on this path as well. Bodkin added that many of the Openlands grants included signage for the proposed projects.

ITEM #3: Entrance Mound and Needs

Commissioner Chrystall reminded the commission of the plan to gather seeds from existing plants: Dropseed, Echinacea, Butterflyweed and spread to fill in open areas on the mound. Commissioner Razvi re-stated his offer to help with planting lupines for a 'catchy' front slope to the mound in early spring. He expects the plants to bloom in late May. Razvi also offered to map out and survey the front area for the envisioned serpentine stone stream. Razvi will talk

with Natalie Karney, Village Engineer, about the availability and use of surveying equipment.

ITEM #4: Scarecrow Event Progress

Bodkin reviewed the list of items to be completed for the event.

She reported that Morton Mease, of MICC Chicago, donated the shingling of the two hut roofs, completed in time for the scarecrow event. Bodkin sent a handwritten thank you note to Mr. Mease. The roofs are a pleasing wood tone brown to blend in with the setting. Chrystall stated she needed help placing the street signs around the neighborhoods. Razvi and Bodkin volunteered to help. Commissioner Bachmeier volunteered to get permission for signs to be placed around the Regency.

Bachmeier reported that her granddaughter was excited about being the storybook reader for the event. Bodkin reported the judges will be Bob Lee, fundraiser for Ride for 3 Reasons and Barrington leader, Juli LaRocque, administrator of Citizens for Conservation, and Ania Gugulska, a girl scout who helped with the sedge meadow planting. Commissioner Munao added that she had heard from the request for an art student from Middle School. Gifts to the judges will be mugs with quality chocolate. Chrystall announced the prizes would be chrysanthemums with holders and small pies or taffy apples. Razvi reminded Bodkin to be sure to send thank notes to all the participants, not just congratulations to the winners.

Mayor McCombie will purchase the pies for refreshment, and Chrystall will supervise the creation of the bistro in the forest and the serving of the pies.

Bodkin reported several high school and middle school students have volunteered to help with setting up exhibits Saturday morning and with greeting visitors.

OLD BUSINESS: None voiced.

NEW BUSINESS: Bodkin distributed a list of assigned tasks for all commissioners. Some tasks were immediate for the scarecrow event and some were ongoing for later. Commissioner Razvi agreed to be on the committee to work with Village Treasurer Michelle Bodie to create a new "Policy of Use of the Conservancy." Commissioner Munao agreed to be on the committee to revise the "Tree Walk" brochure and meet the deadline of the April 2018 Arbor Day Celebration. Dustin Wire's assistance will be needed to get the trails and paths and tree locations correct for the brochure.

All commissioners were alerted to attend a called meeting sometime in winter to help revise and update the existing general Conservancy brochure.

Commissioners voiced interest in creating a quarterly newsletter for educating residents about the Conservancy and its benefits. Suggested activities were: an evening walk on the trails, an organized picnic in the picnic area with a walk for health, news about new signs on the trails, trees and flowers in bloom, and of course, the progress on the ramp to the observation platform and the benefit of observing birds on the pond, etc.

Bodkin announced she would like to take new Commissioners Razvi and Bachmeier on a tour of the conservancy grounds late October or early November. Trustee Patel asked to be notified about the time and date for the tour; she would like to join the walk if possible after 5 p.m. Bodkin will notify her when the date is set.

Bodkin will send photos of the scarecrow event, the sedge meadow plantings, and the ramp projects to the Village in time for the November Board of Trustees meeting, November 9, 2017.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Razvi, seconded by Munao. No opposition voiced, motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next commission meeting will be Thursday, October 19, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bodkin

Chair, South Barrington Conservancy Commission