

D. Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1.0 ROLL CALL: Chair: D. Hanson; Members: S. Kastern, D. Paulus, B. Voss; and Village Board Liaison: K. Meleski

2.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 2.1 Minutes Approval – None to approve.
- 2.2 Communications – Two communications were received via the website. The first communication was regarding can recycling. Don Schwartz put together a list of collection sites for Friends of HC Park & Pool. D. Paulus forwarded this list in response to the first communication. The second communication was from a person concerned with bird conservation and the feral cat population. D. Paulus sent her a copy of the brochure which we distribute at special events, the library, and the Village Hall. He also invited her to our meetings for further discussion on what might be done to address her concerns.
- 2.3 Public Input – None.
- 2.4 Village Board Liaison Report – K. Meleski reported that our new Village Administrator has been implementing several cost saving measures. The 2017 budget process is underway. The lack of minutes from committee meetings has been a concern during previous audits and it would be beneficial to correct this as soon as possible.
- 2.5 Committee Budget – D. Hanson is not sure of who to contact at Village Hall given the changes in personnel.

3.0 PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

- 3.1 Environmental Committee Website & Facebook – Both communications received by the committee in the past month were via website, which is noteworthy. The Website will be undergoing some changes as the software is requiring an update.
- 3.2 CD and Battery Recycling – Nothing new to report.
- 3.3 Bird City/IMBD/Bird-a-thon – We received a check for \$127.50 from the Natural Resources Foundation as a result of the funds raised during the Bird-a-thon.
- 3.4 Vacant Lots/Orchard – Orchard is doing very well with the exception of two trees. One of the trees is definitely dead. A second tree has very tiny leaves. A visiting arborist thought that this particular tree may have a problem with root stability. He suggested that this particular tree may benefit from staking. D. Hanson will check with the arborist on staff at Victory Gardens regarding the timing of pruning.
- 3.5 Grange Woods Nature Trail/Grants – This project will need to take priority during the winter months.
- 3.6 Fire Station Lawn Care/Rain Garden Project – S. Kastern will check with Z. Fowler regarding the possibility of aerating before seeding this fall. D. Paulus is willing to donate fertilizer.
- 3.7 Grange Avenue Pond – D. Hanson has not yet received a response from Dave Fowler, MMSD. It is possible that he has retired. She will check with other contacts. Other committee members are welcome to explore other options.
- 3.8 Additional Signs for Tree & Bird City – There are two sites which have all three signs. We have ample Bee City Signs. We still need more Bird City and Tree City signs.
- 3.9 Bee City/ Pollinator Week/ Pollinator Garden/Grants – Phyllis Styles, Bee City, sent an email regarding the conference call held last week. They are working on a sign regarding pollinator gardens. This would be ideal for our pollinator garden on Parnell. We could also add signage indicating the HC Environmental Committee and Hawthorne Garden Club as sponsors. There have already been Monarch butterflies utilizing the garden. D.

Hanson witnessed a female monarch laying eggs on the milkweed. She collected nine eggs; raised the eggs; and released five female and four male butterflies. Monarch eggs and caterpillars have many predators which are why raising the eggs is encouraged for conservation practices. D. Hanson also spoke with an arborist about removing the buckthorn around the Pollinator Garden.

- 3.10 Mayors' Monarch Pledge – D. Hanson submitted a report outlining that which we have already done in the community. We still need to obtain a proclamation from our Village President. D. Hanson intends to collect milkweed seed from the Stahl-Conrad Homestead to donate to Monarch Watch, which propagates the seeds into plants. She also hopes to reserve some seed to give away at our Arbor Day Celebration 2017.
- 3.11 Garden Initiative – Commercial Award goes to Plum Tree Apartments. Floral awards go to 12221 W. Rockne Ave and 5225 Allenwood Lane. The vegetable garden is located at the corner of Upham and Abbott. D. Hanson will follow up with exact address.
- 3.12 Village Newsletter – February, May, August, and November - Committee members are encouraged to think of November topics prior to our next meeting.
- 3.13 Storage Space for Committee Materials – Mike Martin stated that storage at the DPW would be problematic because the gates are often locked and he is not willing to give out any more keys. K. Meleski suggested looking into the AV Room at the Library since the cable broadcast is being discontinued.

4.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Meeting October 11th, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded (B. Voss, D. Paulus) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.; motion unanimously approved.