



Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

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100th Anniversary Committee

Minutes

February 20, 2025

Village Hall Board Room

Village President
GREG HRIBAL

Village Clerk
SOPHIA COLLINS

Trustees
GIA MARIE BENLINE
PETER MARZANO
ROBERT MORALES
EVIE SLAVIC
NICK STEKER
VICTORIA VANN

Village Manager
BARRY KRUMSTOK

Assistant Village Manager
JOHN SCHWARZ

Village Attorney
MATTHEW WELCH

Committee Members
BETHANNY ALEXANDER
BILL ERNST
JEANNIE HELGESEN
JULIE JORDAN
MAGDALENE LADAS
ROSANN NICHOLSON
ANDREW ROBACK

1. Call to Order
 - 6:35 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
 - **Present:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Ernst, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Absent:** Commissioner Nicholson
 - **Meeting Note:** Chairperson Roback called for a **motion to allow Commissioner Ladas to participate via phone:**
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Ernst
 - **Second:** Commission Alexander
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Ernst, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Motion passes (5–0) by voice vote**
4. Public Comments – *Respect for the duties of the Committee and for the democratic process will be adhered to – in this regard, civility and a sense of decorum will be strictly followed. All speakers must address their comments to the Committee. Comments that are personally condescending will not be permitted. Please state your name before commenting. To give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting at the designated time, all comments under Public Comments are limited to three (3) minutes and each speaker will only be permitted to speak once, unless further time is granted by the Committee.*
 - There being no members of the public present wishing to speak, the public comment period was closed and the meeting continued.
5. New Business
 - a. Motion to approve meeting minutes from the February 3, 2025 meeting
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Helgesen

- **Second:** Commissioner Ernst
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Ernst, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Motion passes (6–0) by voice vote**
- b. Discussion on selecting Grand Marshal(s) for the 4th of July Parade as well as for the Party in the Park
 - The names of the following Westchester residents were suggested as potential Grand Marshals by Committee members during the course of the discussion: **Carl Letor, Jean Klotter, Bill Ernst, Raymond Svejaoha, Noreen McKenna**
 - Commissioner Helgesen asked if we should limit selection to one person. Commissioner Ladas stated that she believed there was no need to limit to one person and that we should assemble a pool of candidates, which was met with acclaim. It was collectively agreed that all candidates should be brought to the Committee by May 1st.
 - The question of whether to name all persons “Grand Marshall” was raised, and Commissioner Ernst asserted that all persons recognized should have the same title, which was met by approval of all present.
 - It was agreed that preference should be given to longtime members of the community over persons who have recently moved here but are nearing their 100th birthday.
 - As such, this **item was tabled** until such time as a list of potential candidates has been compiled.

6. Old Business

- a. Updates regarding banner design/costs
 - Chairperson Roback reported the quote from FedEx as \$77.88. He also reported that he had asked the staff and general manager if FedEx would be willing to donate the banner, and is awaiting a response.
 - Administrative Services Coordinator Annie Canavan offered to obtain quotes for the banner from the following local businesses: Minute Man, Alisun, and Ashanti. Commissioner Helgesen will obtain the quote from UPS.
 - Commissioner Alexander was in contact with Drew and Patricia at the Save the Prairie Society and shared that they have sent several historical pictures. Her proposed design was “Westchester Then and Now,” with vintage photos from the 1920s on one side, current photos of the village on the other, and the centennial logo in the middle. Commissioner Helgesen suggested that the prairie flower motif constitute a border at the bottom of the banner on either side of the logo. The design concept was received positively by the Committee, and Administrative Services Coordinator Annie Canavan offered to create a preliminary draft for the next meeting.
- b. Event subcommittee updates

- Chairperson Roback shared an update on the work that he and Commissioner Helgesen have done on Voices of Westchester, including questions to be asked to participants regarding their experiences in Westchester and their message to future residents. They plan to interview residents, potentially at the library (waiting on email response), and have five or so marquee interviews around 10–15 minutes, interviews with other residents of around 5–10 minutes, and some one-off interviews consisting of a single question collected at special events associated with the 100th Anniversary of about one minute in length.
 - Commissioner Ernst suggested adding a question about what the interviewee has done for the community, which was well received by the co-chairs and other Committee members
 - Chairperson Roback asked if a release for audio recordings would be needed for interviewees. Administrative Services Coordinator Annie Canavan said that she would check with the Village Attorney.
- Commissioner Alexander shared updates about Celebrate Westchester. The art-deco-themed invitation is finished, there will be a digital photo booth, and the cost to attend is set at \$75. The programming includes a video montage on the story of Westchester. Cards will be placed at the tables for people to provide a favorite memory of Westchester. Specialty cocktails and drink tickets will be included with the meal, and wine that was generously donated by Alpine will be at the tables. The invitation will go out in the March Village newsletter.
 - Chairperson Roback suggested that a digital photo booth also be available at the Birthday Party in the Park, which was well received.
- Commissioner Alexander also shared that she has contacted the representation of acclaimed actress Kathryn Hahn (born in Westchester) inviting her to attend and be honored at the Birthday Party in the Park.
- Commissioner Alexander brought up the prospect of a luminaria associated with the historical electrification of the Village, known as “The Night the Lights Came On” in Westchester. Trustee Liaison Slavic noted that Oak Park had a similar luminaria event. Commissioner Alexander indicated that a resident would be present during public comments at the next meeting to elaborate on this proposal. Trustee Liaison Benline noted that materials for the luminaria were provided to the residents in the Oakbrook Terrace event.

7. Future Meetings

a. Schedule upcoming meeting dates

- Monday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room

8. Adjournment

The Village of Westchester will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in

a program, service, or activity of the Village of Westchester, should contact the office of the Fire Chief, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL, (708) 345-0433, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

- **Meeting Note:** Commissioner Ladas' phone call was disconnected prior to adjournment at some point during the discussion of 6(b) on the agenda.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Helgesen
- **Second:** Commissioner Jordan
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Ernst, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Motion passes (5–0) by voice vote.** Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.