



Village of Westchester

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100th Anniversary Committee Meeting Minutes September 12, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. 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
JEANNIE HELGESEN
JULIE JORDAN
MAGDALENE LADAS
ANDREW ROBACK

1. Call to Order
 - By Commissioner Roback
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
 - Present: Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Commissioner Roback
 - Also Present: Trustee Benline, Trustee Slavic, Village Manager Barry Krumstok, Assistant Village Manager John Schwarz, Administrative Services Coordinator/Deputy Village Clerk Annie Canavan
4. New Business
 - a. Formal election of a chairperson
 - As discussed in the last meeting, the commission needed to elect a chairperson. There was a general consensus to elect Andrew Roback at the last meeting. **Commissioner Roback called for a motion to elect himself chairperson of the Committee.**
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Ladas
 - **Second:** Commissioner Alexander
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Commissioner Roback
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Motion carried: 5-0**
 - b. Training and policies
 - Assistant Village Manager John Schwarz filled in the Committee on the training courses and materials that will be distributed to Committee members in the next several days. Village staff will receive an automatic notice via email when training materials have been completed.
 - c. Review and discuss centennial idea submissions - Exhibit A
 - Discussion took place to determine a process for winnowing down initial ideas. Consensus was reached that a voice vote of a majority of commissioners in favor would advance each agenda item in Exhibit A (and additional proposals added as supplemental items), otherwise the idea would be tabled until a later time by majority vote, or the agenda item will be struck as either rejected or as a duplicate of another agenda item.

- Agenda items were voted on as standalone events or as “enhancements” to existing Village events whereby the Committee will coordinate with event planners and work to incorporate a 100th Anniversary aspect or addition to those events.
- See annotations on Exhibit A for discussion notes and status of each item in that agenda.
- Note that Commissioner Helgesen had to depart the meeting at 7:36 p.m. and the meeting continued in her absence; at that point, the majority required to advance items changed to 3–1 (instead of 3–2). See annotation in Exhibit A.

5. Old Business

a. Consultant assistance

- i. Pricing
- ii. Introduction/presentation on September 17
 - Assistant Village Manager John Schwarz shared details regarding the upcoming presentation from the potential consultant, Modus Marketing Group. Lisa Moline from Modus will come to the scheduled meeting on September 17th to discuss their work on the Berkley Centennial celebration and propose marketing ideas.

b. Fundraising

- During discussion of fundraising, Village Manager Krumstock suggested that the consultant’s presentation to the Committee would include a discussion of fundraising. **Chairperson Roback moved that further discussion of fundraising be tabled** in order to hear the September 17th presentation.
 - **Second:** Commissioner Ladas
 - **Discussion tabled without objection**

c. Volunteers

- The Committee had a brief discussion about volunteers. During the course of discussion, it was agreed that no volunteers have yet been recruited. Chairperson Roback suggested that all persons involved in 100th Anniversary planning and discussions encourage Westchester residents to volunteer for activities going forward, which was met with general approval.

6. Future Meetings

a. Topic requests

b. Dates

- After scheduling discussions, the following dates were proposed by the Committee for future meetings:
 - Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, October 1st at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 15th at 6:30 p.m.
- **Chairperson Roback motioned to accept the above dates** as the upcoming schedule of meetings for the Committee.
 - **Second:** Commissioner Alexander
 - **Schedule adopted without objection**

7. 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.*

- No members of the public were present wishing to speak at this time.

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.

- **Motion:** Chairperson Roback
- **Second:** Commissioner Jordan
 - **Motion is carried by voice vote**

Exhibit A
Centennial Idea Submissions
Notes from Committee Discussion on September 12, 2024

1. Party in the Park (All-Day Festival)

- Car show
 - **Approved unanimously**
- Town picnic with picnic tables, checkered tablecloths, and food trucks (instead of a potluck)
 - **Approved unanimously**
- Old-fashioned games and prizes (e.g., egg toss, three-legged races, obstacle course, potato sack races, jump rope and hula hoop contests)
 - **Approved unanimously**
- Pie-eating contest
 - Party to donate pies for the contest will be determined at a later date.
 - **Approved unanimously**
- Craft-making stations
 - **Approved unanimously**
- ~~Activities for kids, adults, families, and seniors~~
 - **Struck from agenda unanimously** as a duplicate item already addressed on agenda
- ~~Encourage sign-up for teams in advance, but allow participation on the day~~
 - **Struck from agenda unanimously** as a duplicate item already addressed on agenda

2. Roaring '20s Gala

- Acknowledge Westchester's founding year (1925) with a 1920s-themed party
- Ticketed event with a caterer (buffet or heavy appetizers)
- Live music and dancing (e.g., Elmhurst University Jazz Band as an option)
- Prohibition-era theme if alcohol-free, or include alcohol if allowed
- Guests encouraged to dress in Great Gatsby-style outfits
 - After discussion and clarification from Trustee Liaison Benline, the proposed event was amended to make the theme of the Celebrate Westchester Gala put on by the Westchester Chamber of Commerce "The Roaring '20s," which was approved by acclamation.
 - Commissioner Helgesen proposed that a Westchester band would be preferred by the Committee to provide live music for the event. After discussion, this proposed addition was approved by acclamation.
 - Proposed by Chairperson Roback that all items under this section be approved as a block, which was approved by acclamation.
 - **Approved unanimously.**

3. Ice Cream Social

- Could be part of an end-of-school year or back-to-school event, or standalone event
 - o Trustee Liaison Slavic added to the discussion that local vendors would provide concessions at this event and that tickets would be sold for samples. Vendors had already shown interest for a prior event canceled due to the pandemic.
 - o After discussion, this event was amended from a standalone event to an enhancement on an existing event, which was approved by acclamation.
 - o **Approved unanimously.**
4. Music Through the Decades Concerts in the Park Series (Park District)
- Concerts featuring different decades of music
 - Consider Ocean's Rat Pack for 1950s-1960s music (Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr.)
 - Other artists to cover the 30s-40s with big band/swing music, and 70s-present
 - o During discussion, commissioners agreed that a wide variety of music should be represented.
 - o After discussion, it was agreed unanimously that further discussion of this item be **tabled** for two weeks in order to give Village staff the opportunity to coordinate with the Park District.
5. Cruise Night/Parade of Vintage Vehicles
- Parade of vintage vehicles on a planned route, ending in a parking lot (e.g., behind PNC)
 - Spectators can watch from sidewalks or gather at the end location to view vehicles
 - o After discussion regarding logistics and expense of street closures, this event was proposed by various persons present as an enhancement of the existing Fourth of July parade. Amended proposal approved by acclamation.
 - o **Approved unanimously**
 - ~~Enhance with live music and food trucks~~
 - o **Struck from agenda unanimously** as a duplicate item already addressed on agenda
6. 5 to 6 Major Events
- Participate and enhance existing events such as:
 - o ~~GGG Garden event~~
 - **Struck from agenda unanimously** as a duplicate item already addressed on agenda
 - o Christmas event
 - After discussion by various committee members, it was agreed that this item would be amended to be an enhancement on the Chamber of Commerce Christmas party and/or the Winter Wonderland event, and the amendment was approved by acclamation.

- **Approved unanimously**
- Food Truck event
 - Proposed as a standalone event. After discussion, it was agreed by Committee members that this event may need to be paired with another standalone event or should be discussed as an enhancement to an existing event yet to be named.
 - With the above in mind, proposal to **table** agreed to unanimously.

7. Funding Efforts

- Each committee member tasked with securing 5 business donations
 - Discussion of fundraising was **postponed until agenda item 5b** (Old Business: Fundraising) in order to continue with evaluation of proposed events.

8. Westchester Fest (3-Day Event)

- Commissioner Ladas proposed an extension of celebrations for the Party in the Park to continue on Sunday. Concerns were expressed by Trustee Liaisons and Village Staff that associated costs may exceed available funds and that attendance may not be sufficient to justify an additional day. Commissioner Ladas suggested additional fundraising to cover costs.
- After discussion amongst all present, Chairperson Roback attempted to summarize the concerns raised and proposed that this event be tabled until such time as a plan of events for the third day of activities and a review of additional funds is proposed, at which time the Committee will review and discuss this agenda item again, which was agreed to by acclamation.
- This item was voted on in combination with item 14 on Exhibit A (Taste of Westchester)
 - Proposal to **table** agreed to unanimously.

9. Eli's Cheesecake

- Commissioner Ladas clarified that this is a recommendation for a 100th Anniversary commemorative cheesecake as an enhancement to the ice cream social or another Village event to be determined at a future date.
 - **Approved unanimously**

10. Historical Exhibit and Time Capsule

- Newsletter, business cards from town, school mementos, pictures, lists of officials and commissions in a time capsule
 - Chairperson Roback also proposed a digital time capsule as an addition to above proposals.
 - This item was voted on in combination with item 15 on Exhibit A (Historical Society).
 - **Approved unanimously**

~~11. Car Show~~

- ~~As part of an event~~
 - **Struck from agenda unanimously** as a duplicate item already addressed on agenda

~~12. Food Truck Festival with Music~~

- **Struck from agenda unanimously** as a duplicate item already addressed on agenda, specifically item 14 (Taste of Westchester). See item 6 for discussion notes.

~~13. Fireworks~~

- The general sentiment of those in attendance was that, while a fireworks show would be appreciated by all, funding and location concerns precluded one at this time.
- **Struck from agenda unanimously** as rejected.

14. Taste of Westchester

- Proposal to **table** agreed to unanimously in combination vote with item 8 on Exhibit A (Westchester Fest [3-Day Event]). See item 8 for discussion notes.

15. Historical Society

- Set up a display case for the new Village Hall
 - **Approved unanimously** in combined vote with item 10 on Exhibit A (Historical Exhibit and Time Capsule).

16. St. Joseph's Remembrance Day

- After discussion, Commissioner Jordan proposed tabling discussion until a more detailed description of a specific time and manner of remembrance could be prepared for future discussion at an upcoming meeting.
 - Proposal to **table** agreed to unanimously.

17. Special edition logo

- Assistant Village Manager John Schwarz brought to the Committee's attention that this item would be pertinent to the discussion of consulting assistance.
- Discussion of special edition logo was **postponed until agenda item 5a** (Consultant Assistance) in order to continue with evaluation of proposed events.

At this time, additional proposals for events were entertained and voted on by the commission. They are numbered in sequential order continuing from the previous list of items.

18. Save the Prairie Society Event Enhancement

- Commissioner Helgesen proposed a to-be-determined enhancement to an existing Save the Prairie Society event and shared that Patricia Reaves of that

organization is enthusiastic about a 100th Anniversary component to their events.

- **Approved unanimously**

At 7:36 p.m., Commissioner Helgesen had to depart. It was agreed that all remaining proposals would require at least three Committee Members in favor to advance.

19. Children's essay contest

- Chairperson Roback proposed a contest for children along the theme of "What will be the best thing about Westchester in 100 years?" or another appropriate theme to be approved of by the Committee at a later date.
- After discussion, it was agreed that the contest should be open to all children who reside in Westchester.
- **Approved unanimously**

20. Drawing contest for younger children

- Chairperson Roback proposed a contest similar to item 19 (Children's Essay Contest) for younger children to draw a picture along a theme to be discussed and approved of by the Committee at a later date.
- **Approved unanimously**

21. A StoryCorp-type effort to record longtime residents' experiences living in Westchester

- Chairperson Roback proposed an effort to record the experiences of senior citizens living in Westchester.
- After discussion, the item was amended to open recording to all longtime residents, not just senior citizens, and the amendment was approved by acclamation.
- Commissioner Alexander proposed that the effort be ongoing and suggested a partnership with the library.
- **Approved unanimously**

22. A small commemorative bench or marker to commemorate the 100th Anniversary

- Chairperson Roback proposed a commemorative bench or plaque to be placed somewhere on Village property. After discussion, Chairperson Roback clarified that this proposal could encompass any type of commemorative marker to be determined by the Committee at a later date.
- **Approved unanimously**

23. An eight- or ten-foot banner that contains a timeline of important events in the History of Westchester

- Chairperson Roback proposed a banner that could be displayed at 100th Anniversary events and enhancements as well as preserved in commemoration of the occasion at an appropriate location. Roback also volunteered to help research/assemble content and design the banner, final artwork of which would be approved by the Committee at a later date.

- **Approved unanimously**

At this time, having discussed all proposed event items, discussion returned to the agenda items.