



Village of Westchester

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100th Anniversary Committee Minutes

October 1, 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
 - 6:40 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
 - **Present:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Absent:** None
4. New Business
 - a. **Motion to approve the minutes** from the September 17, 2024 Committee meeting
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Jordan
 - **Second:** Commissioner Ladas
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Motion passess (5-0)**
 - ~~b. Motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2024 Executive Session~~
 - Under advisement from Trustee Liaison Slavic and in accordance with the OMA, Chairperson Roback called for a **motion to drop this item from the agenda.**
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Ladas
 - **Second:** Commissioner Jordan
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Motion passess (5-0). Agenda item dropped.**
 - c. Committee roles and responsibilities
 - Administrative Services Coordinator Annie Canavan distributed a memorandum to the Committee advising members of their roles and

responsibilities as well as the project flow and decision-making process for selecting activities for the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

- After much discussion about the process of decision making and pathways of funding, the Committee agreed to compile all items from this meeting in the minutes as a recommendation to the Village Management, President, outside consultant (should one be hired by the Village), as well as the Special Events Committee for their review.
- It was agreed that questions would be sent to Chairperson Roback for Village staff to forward to Modus Marketing in advance of the next meeting.
- Further, it was agreed that all items recommended in this meeting would be put in a spreadsheet with dates that can be shared with Village staff and pertinent committees and tax entities for review and planning purposes.

5. Old Business

- a. Review and conduct second round of voting on items from September 12, 2024 meeting with any proposed additions to determine interest and feasibility of proceeding with those items. Additions will be limited to enhancements of existing items, not separate standalone events. At this time financial considerations and concerns should also be raised. Committee members will volunteer to take responsibility for each agenda item. Additions should be proposed during discussion and the Chair will read the item with additions prior to a vote. Items with a majority vote in favor will proceed. Items without a majority vote in favor will be removed from future consideration. **See Exhibit A.**
 - See **Exhibit A** for notes and discussion on all events/proposals that were voted on at this meeting.
- b. Review and conduct voting on all tabled items from September 12, 2024 meeting in a similar fashion to 5(a) above. **See Exhibit A.**
 - See **Exhibit A** for notes and discussion on all events/proposals that were voted on at this meeting.
- c. Status of pending Committee member appointments
 - Administrative Services Coordinator Annie Canavan and Trustee Liaison Slavic shared two new members are expected to be appointed to the Committee at the October 8th Village Board Meeting.

6. Future Meetings

- a. Planned dates: October 15, 6:30 p.m.
 - This meeting will take place as scheduled.
- b. Discuss and set future meeting dates for October and November
 - Since new members were expected to be appointed to the Committee and their schedules are unknown, and some Committee members had obligations in October that may impact their ability to attend a meeting on the typical days, a provisional date of **October 29th** was agreed to provided a quorum will be present. The date will be finalized at the next meeting.

- Chairperson Roback suggested that only one meeting be held during December and that it take place prior to December 15th so as to not conflict with the holiday and travel plans of those who wish to attend, which was met with acclaim from all present.
- At 7:50 p.m., Commissioner Helgesen had to depart. The meeting continued.

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 present wishing to speak, the public comment period closed with no comments offered and the meeting continued.

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:** Commissioner Helgeson
- **Second:** Commissioner Alexander
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Motion passes by voice vote (4–0).** Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Exhibit A
Centennial Idea Submissions
Second round of voting, proposed additions, and volunteers from Committee

Items from September 12, 2024. Note: Items that were tabled have a bracketed note. See 9/12/24 minutes for summary of past discussion on each item. All items without a note were approved unanimously on 9/12/24.

Agenda item numbers are a carryover from the 9/12/24 meeting. **Amendment (approved on 10/15/24):** Please see the agenda and minutes from that meeting. Items not voted on in this agenda carry the label “Intentionally Blank” followed by an explanation as to why they were not considered. **[End of amendment]**

1. Party in the park, including a ~~car show~~, town picnic, old-fashioned games and prizes, a pie eating contest, and craft-making stations.
 - The car show was removed from this item as classic cars will be featured during the Fourth of July Parade. Struck from the recommendation by acclaim.
 - Commissioner Alexander suggested rebranding this item as the “Westchester 100th Birthday Party in the Park” and including all of these items during the day on Saturday, which was met with acclaim by all present.
 - Commissioner Alexander suggested that Kathryn Hahn, who was born in Westchester, be invited to attend and be honored at the event, and Chairperson Roback suggested making her the guest of honor or presenting her the key to the city, both recommendations being met with acclaim.
 - Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**
2. Roaring 20’s Chamber of Commerce Gala
 - After discussion, questions of attendance were answered (the event is usually well attended) and it was agreed that the event should move to the Alpine Banquet House or another Westchester venue that is sufficient to hold all those persons who wish to attend.
 - Commissioners Ladas and Helgesen offered to help coordinate.
 - Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None

- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

3. Ice cream social

- It was proposed that this item be merged with the 100th Anniversary Birthday Party in the Park (Item 1 above) and take place during the day on Saturday.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

4. Music through decades concert series [tabled from 9/12]

- The general consensus of the Committee was once again to prefer local talent when selecting bands to play and that there should be a variety of music from throughout the decades.
- Chairperson Roback called for some attempt to reach out to Oh Boy Records and that part of the event include a tribute to John Prine, local resident and mail carrier in Westchester, which was met with acclaim.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

5. Parade of vintage vehicles in Fourth of July parade

- Commissioner Ladas suggested that a centenarian resident (or someone near that age) should be selected as the Grand Marshall of the parade and ride in one of the vintage cars, which was met by acclaim of all present. It was the recommendation of the Committee to give notice calling for nominations for Grand Marshall via the Village newsletter and weekly email.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

6(a). Other Events: Enhancement of Chamber of Commerce Christmas party and/or Winter Wonderland Event

- After discussion, it was agreed that at this year's Christmas events (2024), the goal would be promoting the 100th Anniversary and generating interest and excitement. The Committee agreed that a future Christmas event is too distant to make specific recommendations at this time, only that the events at the end of 2025 would serve as a closing to the 100th Anniversary celebrations that took place over the course of the year.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

6(b). Other Events: Food truck event

- After discussion, the Committee noted that there may be insufficient restaurants with a food truck in the Village, and that this event should be rebranded instead as a "Showcase of Village Restaurants" at the Party in the Park on Saturday (**see Item 1** in this document).
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

7. **Intentionally blank:** Item was removed from voting at 9/12/24 meeting for the following reason: *This item was a fundraising issue, not an event enhancement proposal, and it was discussed elsewhere in the agenda.* See 9/12/24 meeting minutes for more details.

8. Expansion of Party in the Park to include a third day and Taste of Westchester [tabled from 9/12]

- Commissioner Ladas proposed that existing activities be extended into Sunday.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Ladas
 - **Nays:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Chairperson Roback
- **Recommendation rejected (4–1)**

9. Eli's commemorative cheesecake

- The Committee agreed that a local vendor should be preferred, and that any type of commemorative cake is recommended (not just cheesecake).
- **Amendment (approved on 10/15/24):** The cake will be presented at the Westchester 100th Birthday Party in the Park during the festivities on Saturday. **[End of amendment]**
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

10. Historical exhibit in Village Hall and time capsule

- Chairperson Roback clarified that the addition honoring veterans would be solely an effort to include history about those who served, not a separate initiative or event.
- Several attendees mentioned a collaboration with the Library.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

11. **Intentionally blank:** Item was removed from voting at 9/12/24 meeting for the following reason: *Duplicate item already addressed on agenda.* See 9/12/24 meeting minutes for more details.

12. **Intentionally blank:** Item was removed from voting at 9/12/24 meeting for the following reason: *Duplicate item already addressed on agenda.* See 9/12/24 meeting minutes for more details.

13. **Intentionally blank:** Item was removed from voting at 9/12/24 meeting for the following reason: *Item was unanimously rejected in a voice vote.* See 9/12/24 meeting minutes for more details.

14. **Intentionally blank:** Item was removed from voting at 9/12/24 meeting for the following reason: *Duplicate item merged with Item 8 and voted on in this meeting (see Item 8 above for details).*

15. **Intentionally blank:** Item was removed from voting at 9/12/24 meeting for the following reason: *Duplicate item merged with Item 10 above.* See 9/12/24 meeting minutes for more details.

16. St. Joseph High School remembrance

- By acclaim, the Committee recommends merging this item with Item 10.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

17. **Intentionally blank:** Item was removed from voting at 9/12/24 meeting for the following reason: *This item was postponed on the 9/12/24 agenda in order to hear the presentation from the marketing consultant and is a de facto merger with Item 23 on this agenda (see notes on that item).* See also 9/12/24 meeting minutes for more details.

18. Save the Prairie Society Event Enhancement

- Commissioner Helgesen noted that this could occur at Prairie Fest, and offered to reach out to the organizers to inquire about interest.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

19. Children's essay contest

- Chairperson Roback clarified that the essays would be collected at some point during the year, judges would be empaneled, and an award would be given at the 100th Anniversary Birthday Party. Trustee Liaison Slavic suggested holding the contest in spring, similar to the design contest for the village sticker.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

20. Drawing contest for younger children

- The same criteria for Item 19 are applicable here, and by acclaim, this item was proposed to merge with Item 19.
- The themes and details of both contests are to be determined at a later date.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:

- **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
- **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

21. StoryCorp effort to record recollections of longtime residents.

- It was agreed after discussion to rebrand this item “Voices of Westchester” and make it open to all ages and all residents. Proposals were made to work in conjunction with the Library, as staff there are in the process of compiling a book about Westchester. These recordings would be placed in the digital time capsule previously discussed with Item 10 above.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

22. Commemorative bench or marker celebrating Centennial.

- There was no additional discussion on this item.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

23. Banner for events highlighting important moments in village history.

- It was suggested that this item be expanded to include all promotional items for events and be considered alongside those.
- Chairperson Roback called for the vote:
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Recommendation passess by voice vote (5–0)**

Commissioner Helgesen had to depart after voting (see minutes above).