



Village of Westchester

10300 ROOSEVELT ROAD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

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100th Anniversary Committee

Agenda

October 15, 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
 - 6:35 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 October 1, 2024 Committee meeting
 - Commissioner Alexander requested amendments to the 10/1/24 minutes. Chairperson Roback called for a **motion to amend the meeting minutes**.
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Alexander
 - **Second:** Commissioner Ladas
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Motion passess (5-0)** by voice vote
 - Commissioner Alexander proposed two amendments to the meeting minutes:
 - **Exhibit A, Item 9:** The cake will be presented at the Westchester 100th Birthday Party in the Park during the festivities on Saturday.
 - **Exhibit A, Item numbers that were not listed:** After clarification from the Chair that numbering of items in this Exhibit was a byproduct of the original agenda item numbering, it was agreed that annotations be added to the minutes for agenda items postponed, merged, or rejected to avoid any confusion associated with the intentional omission of sequential numbers in the list of

items, and Chairperson Roback agreed to revise the meeting minutes to reflect that agreement.

- No other amendments to the meeting minutes being proposed at this time, and after reiterating proposed changes, Chairperson Roback called for a **motion to adopt the meeting minutes with the above amendments**.
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Helgesen
 - **Second:** Commissioner Jordan
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
 - **Motion passess (5–0)** by roll call vote

Procedural note: Two future members of the Committee slated to be appointed, approved, and seated for the next meeting were present at tonight's meeting, but both had to leave after the first thirty minutes. In order to allow them the opportunity to introduce themselves, coordinate their schedules with the committee, and preliminarily share some of their ideas for the 100th Anniversary Celebrations, Chairperson Roback called for a **motion to amend the meeting agenda to move Public Comments (Item 7) before Old Business (Item 5)**.

- **Motion:** Commissioner Ladas
- **Second:** Commissioner Alexander
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Motion passess (5–0)** by roll call vote. Meeting agenda updated. See Item 7 below for a summary of public comments made at the meeting.
- By acclamation, future agendas will schedule public comments immediately after the Roll Call and before discussing New Business.

5. Old Business

- a. Clarify information that should be contained in shared spreadsheet of planned events and format for passing information to Village Staff, Elected Officials, and Planning Committee members.
 - After discussion, it was agreed that the Planning Committee will decide on associated dates and that Chairperson Roback will compile recommended events into a list with descriptions that the Committee will vote on at a future meeting and revise as necessary going forward. That is the list that will be transmitted to all parties listed in Item 5(a) on this agenda, as appropriate.
- b. Review list of Items from 10/1/24 meeting and assign dates of existing 2025 Village events to put into a shared spreadsheet.

- After discussion, it was agreed that this item had already been covered in the discussion of Item 5(a) above and the meeting continued by acclamation.
- c. Discuss responses of Modus Marketing Group to questions posed by the Committee.
- A brief discussion took place regarding the answers provided by Modus to questions posed by Commissioners; however, seeing as there are two Commissioners yet to be seated, and in a desire to have their opinions heard and their votes counted on the recommendation, it was agreed by acclamation that Commissioners would take until the following meeting to consider their own individual position on this item, then the final discussion and vote on whether to recommend Modus would take place at the next scheduled meeting (10/29/24) once all seven Commissioners had been seated.
 - Presentation information and responses to Committee questions will be made available to currently unseated Commissioners prior to that meeting.
- d. Update from Commissioner Helgesen regarding the Save the Prairie Society and a proposal to hold a future meeting at the Prairie House
- Commissioner Helgesen shared a detailed account of the impressive collection of Westchester historical artifacts and knowledge dating back to the 1840s that Patricia Reaves has accumulated over many years at the Save the Prairie Society. Chairperson Roback expressed concern that an effort be made to preserve and digitize this information if it has not already been done.
 - Commissioner Helegesen suggested that Patricia Reaves be invited to attend future meetings and that she may be amenable to hosting a meeting in November at which time she would give a presentation on the history of Westchester and share the knowledge she has curated, which was met with approval from all present.
 - Commissioner Alexander proposed a wine and cheese fundraising event to be held at the Prairie House in conjunction with the Save the Prairie Society, which was met with approval and will be added as **Item 24**, a standalone event, to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting of the Committee.
 - Commissioner Ladas and others proposed themed presentations from the Society to be given throughout the year of the 100th Anniversary, which was met with approval. Commissioner Alexander proposed a column to be added to the monthly Village newsletter in 2025 containing historical information to draw further interest to the 100th Anniversary, which was met with approval. Commissioner Ladas proposed that photographs and other historical materials could be used in promotional materials for the 100th Anniversary events, which was met with approval. These suggestions will be combined and added as **Item 25** to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. Future Meetings

- a. Planned dates: Finalize October 29th, 2024 as the next meeting date
 - After discussion, this meeting date is finalized and the next meeting will take place on 10/29/24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room.
 - b. Discuss and set future meeting dates for November
 - After discussion, a provisional date has been set for a meeting on 11/14/24. Please note that this meeting will take place at the Save the Prairie Society (11225 Constitution Drive) provided they can accommodate that date/time, and this will be a special meeting with a presentation from Patricia Reaves on the history of Westchester.
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.*
- **See procedural note above.** Public comments took place prior to discussing old business.
 - Chairperson Roback invited the two future Commissioners to come forward to the podium, introduce themselves, and provide a brief description of their ideas for celebration activities, with the caveat that items can and should be sent directly to him for addition to the next meeting's agenda where they will be discussed and voted on for recommendation.
 - **Bill Ernst**, longtime resident and retired business owner, introduced himself and discussed a proposal for creating and distributing signage to be offered to local businesses and placed in the window announcing that Westchester is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, which was met with the general approval of all present.
 - **Rosann Nicholson**, longtime resident and retired teacher, introduced herself and discussed a proposal to bridge the gap between schoolchildren and senior citizens by creating a drama workshop where students will practice, learn, and then later perform scenes at senior events recounting the trials and tribulations of the founding and history of Westchester, which was met with the general approval of all present.
 - **Leann Pettis** suggested a centennial logo with a prairie theme as part of the design to be created by a local graphic artist residing in Westchester, which was met with the general approval of all present.
 - No further members of the public wishing to speak, the public comment period was closed 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 Helgesen
- **Second:** Commissioner Jordan
 - **Ayes:** Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Helgesen, Commissioner Jordan, Commissioner Ladas, Chairperson Roback
 - **Nays:** None
- **Motion passes by voice vote (5–0).** Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.