

VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE
ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 3rd, 2024

Present: Deb Baesemann, Rachel Corwin, Amy Forecki, Katie Forecki, Jamis Bruening, Nicci Sternitzky, Debbie VanderHeiden

Guest: Kristin Lehmkuhl, Teja Shulhachint

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:32 pm. INtroductions made. Kristin's application to be approved at next Trustees meeting.
2. Minutes: No change in minutes from last meeting.
3. Treasurer report: totals reported to group along with pending costs.
4. Bird City WI: next meeting for Birders of the Grove is Jan 15th at 0900 in the Park View Room. Will be 3rd Monday of every other month at 0900. Renewal due in January—Bird City WI has merged into Bird City Network.
5. Bee City USA: Nearly every event we sponsor is in support of this designation. Application renewal due 2/28/24. Changes expected for renewal process. Will plan for Pollinator Week library window this year.
6. Book Club: Two book clubs remaining this season—Jan 24th - Josh Tickell's Kiss the Ground, and March 13th - Richard Louv's Last Child in the Woods. Will still be wine and cheese events. RSVP required. Decided that will continue doing just 4 books/year—everyone to download Bookclubs app to add suggested books. We will vote in a few months.
7. Invasive Species Task Force: Have 73 people signed up to receive weekly emails. If weather permits—will continue to meet in Jan, Feb, March. Discussed SEWISC Pull-a-thon in spring.
8. Lecture series: lectures set for this Jan 17th, Feb 12th, and Mar 20th. Discussed options for 2024-25 series—Eddie Daniels, Phil Chard, Julia Robson, Randy Powers. Consider collaboration with Sustainability Committee for lectures on recycling and sustainable fashion. Confirmed Eddie Daniels for November 2024.
9. National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification: Still working on our "Tag, You're It" challenge and mentorship program for other communities. Wauwatosa and Brookfield now registered. Looking for other community contacts that we can help champion the cause within their community—James working on Shorewood.
10. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: Achieved the Leaders Circle by completing 14 actions—planning to achieve Monarch Champion status by completing 24 actions in 2024.
11. Monarch Milkweed Map: Have officially reached 214 dots on the map! Goal is to work on attaining 300 dots in 2024. Still collecting beer 4 and 6 packs for the distribution of plants at the Beer Garden next summer.
12. Tree sale: spring sale will be done through Johnson Nursery—residents can purchase native trees, shrubs, and perennials that will be delivered to the village on April 27th.
13. Early Spring ephemeral sale: back by popular demand. Will be by pre-sale only and pick-up will be our April 27th Earth and Arbor Day event. Will make combined flats that include up to 8 varieties of native woodland plants.
14. Earth and Arbor Day celebration: April 27th event is planned to be a 4 part event with large drive through recycling, vendors, special activities, and a shop local portion.
15. Leave the Leaves and Composting: briefly discussed ideas to help educate residents on the benefits of leaf litter.
16. Library window: Amy and Katie have agreed to take over organization of window displays—discussed Leave the Leaves window, Earth and Arbor Day, Plant Sale, Invasive Species, Pollinator Week, Monarchs (Jennifer Morris), and WLS/ Book Club.
17. Other: Teja presented her work on trench composting and self watering systems. Group eager to have her have a table at E+A Day event.
18. Next meeting: scheduled for February 7th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
19. Adjournment: 7:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson