

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 5th, 2023

Present: Deb Baesemann, Jamis and Maggie Bruening, Katie Forecki, James Lange, Becky Rintelmann, Nicci Sternitzky

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:38 pm.
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes.
3. Treasurer report: totals reported to group, paid for shrubs but haven't collected all money, haven't paid for lecture recordings yet
4. Bird City WI: next meeting for Birders of the Grove is May 8th at 0900 in the Park View Room, reviewed activities planned for E+A Day including Great Wisconsin Birdathon, three separate guided walks around the park pond (Lisa Becker, Kelly Mathwick, and Sam Dusek), make and take bird feeder and a raffle giveaway. With money earned from Birdathon, will look into partnering with the library to see if we could purchase binoculars and bird guides for check out. Bird City WI is transitioning to Bird City Network which will unite all programs in the US, Mexico, and Canada.
5. Bee City USA: yearly renewal completed 2/11/23, our initial certification was 4/1/20. Nearly every event we sponsor and hold is in support of this designation.
6. Book Sale: will bring last 6 Doug Tallamy books to upcoming lectures and events.
7. Book Club: Next last one until fall is 4/19/23— *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Discussed decreasing from 6 per year to 4 per year with two in late 2023 and two in early 2024.
8. Early/Woodland plant sale: Ordering finished at 31 flats. Planning for 5/5 delivery with 5/6 pick-up and payment. Will see how distribution goes before deciding on whether or not to perform again next spring.
9. June 3rd plant sale: order placed includes 7 herbs, 57 perennials, 5 grasses for a total of 104 flat of plants (1474 plants total), 3 varieties of milkweed purchased that will be free with \$10 purchase. Will be part of Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article on upcoming native plant sales. Will place ad in EGNI again this year.
10. Shrub sale: decided to order more shrubs than previously—have 6 varieties to choose from, total of 200— American elderberry, gray dogwood, Rugosa Rose, Black Chokeberry, June serviceberry, and Nannyberry viburnum. 173 shrubs sold already. Sold out of elderberry and viburnum. Plans confirmed how to best organize shrub distribution at E&A day—will separate, label, and package on 4/28.
11. Lecture series: Luke Cashin doing recordings for us. April lecturer replaced with John Harrigan, head gardener at Parkside 23. Restaurant provided a \$75 gift card for us to raffle off at the lecture. Have all 6 lecturers for next year set.
12. National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification: Governor's office has approved resolution—to be presented at our Earth and Arbor Day celebration by the LT Governor. Still working on our "Tag, you're it" challenge to all neighboring communities. Brookfield has a team compiled and will hopefully be registered soon, Wauwatosa is working on getting a team. Already have 24/30 points for recertification for 2023—still urging village residents to certify their properties.
13. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: village president Neil Palmer took the pledge on 3/8/23 committing to 24 of the 29 actions. If successful, Elm Grove will become only the 9th municipality in the country to earn the Monarch Champion designation. Google document created to keep track of progress on actions. Lots of discussion about actions. Will be working with Mother's Day Out preschool on Watertown Plank to put in a monarch bed and initiate a curriculum around monarchs. Working on light pollution education will help meet criteria for this and Bird City WI.
14. Earth and Arbor Day celebration: discussed making zero-waste event given food trucks willing to handout computable service items. Reviewed vendors/booths. Discussed music—Monroe, Jamis, and Bill Armstrong will play for 3 hour event. Library bulletin board reserved from 3/27 to 4/10 to publicize event. Becky proposed

idea for nature themed basket for our Beautification Committee table with all members donating nature themed items. Deb obtaining 2nd water cooler and water bottle display from WCGT to encourage reusable water bottles. Possible fashion show highlighting thrifted clothing from our St.Mary's thrift store discussed. Brookfield East Honor Society and Brookfield Central Key Club volunteering to help with set up, take down, and staffing the recycle, trash, and compost bins to help with education of village residents. LT Governor's ceremony at noon confirmed.

15. Park and Creek clean up: Trustee John Schindler already planning a April 22nd creek clean up in conjunction with his Riverkeeper duties—planning to work together to expand the clean up to all of the Elm Grove Underwood Creek area, the park, and the village. Planning for group photo—Deb arranging for drone shot with “Monet” bridge in background. Sweet Water planning adult and children's watershed workshop in Community room and O'Neill Room starting at noon. Village manager Dave deAngelis, Marek Landscaping, Johnson's Nursery to present with watershed model demonstration for adults and children. Likely food or snacks provided.
16. Fall tree sale: discussion about how best to run the fall tree sale.
17. Buckthorn Buy Back program: although a great idea; decided to table for another date
18. No Mow May: voted to purchase 50 more signs (total of ~143); focus on “The More You Know, The Less You Mow” portion of the concept. Google form sign up complete https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSez0fw9imSmS_hVStEuv-N3jtSsS-08Zojyuyqy98e8IAyk5A/viewform
19. Next meeting: scheduled for May 3rd at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
20. Adjournment: 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson