ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
August 5th, 2020

Present: Nicci Sternitzky, Katie Forecki, Amy Forecki, Lorinda Patzner, Deb Baesemann

1. **Call meeting to order:** Meeting brought to order at 06:30 pm.
2. **Minutes:** Last meeting minutes with no changes
3. **Treasurer report:** total balance $5600 (includes tree sales payments). SEED Club still owes $250
4. **BEHS SEED Club beds:** meeting at 11am every Sunday is working well. Signage is desired - Deb will work on getting something together. Will reach out the Barb from the Monarch Trail regarding milkweed seed saving/Fluff party.
5. **Tree Sale:** Have our first 4 orders so far! Discussed ideas for publicity and will get the sign permit to display at Village Hall tomorrow once sign is modified for price change. Amy will help work on library window display case—will request 2 weeks before end of sale. Amy will place Facebook marketplace ad for the sale. Will reach out the Elm Grove churches to see if they would like to purchase trees, have their parishioners buy them trees, and publicize the sale. Will get article written for EG Independent along with payment for small ad. Need to publicize that residents can buy/donate trees for the Village to help replace losses (assure article written to recognize everyone who donates trees to Village).
6. **Book Club:** Inaugural Book Club planned for Sept 17th. Discussed making plans for entire years’ books being read so that they could all be publicized at once.
7. **Bee City USA:** Need to finalize signage for the Village. Reviewed “No Mow May” idea and how best to proceed. Just getting the concept out there to the community is important—Slow Mow May? Discussed signage awards to residents taking Pollinator Protection Pledge through Xerces Society. Will work on possibilities for signage based on Ashland, OR Bee City program. Briefly discussed making a list of goals for 2020 and 2021. Reaching out to Jerod Mikkelson from Parks and Rec regarding the National Recreation and Parks Association “Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz” for this September.
8. **Lecture series:** first one planned for Sept 12th at 1030am at Village park in conjunction with FOEGL. Jodi Perrone helped set up both a kids program with August Hoppe and an adult program with Ron Hill speaking about the tree species choices for the Tree Sale.
9. **Mentor/mentee idea:** currently tabled
10. **Public Space maintenance:** discussed compiling the history of Elm Grove park. Will continue research on program. Working with Megan Muthupandiyan, who has a fantastic Instagram page @elm_grove_park to help promote community involvement and awareness. Will see how a local group called The Park People mobilize volunteers.
11. **Invasive Species Task Force:** Idea proposed at last week’s Monarch bed weeding that everyone is excited about. Will try to plan a Fall 2020 program possibly involving a buckthorn project. Zach Yiannis (SEED Club President) working to help organize—including group of students willing to work to help homeowners eradicate invasive species. Lots of ideas proposed including website organization or booklets to help residents identify invasive species, Invasive Species Awareness Week events, and garlic mustard events in the spring. Plan to do one big event and then return to weekly pulls like
we do for the monarch beds. Will investigate a speaker from the DNR to discuss invasive species as part of lecture series.

12. Propelling Students to Protect the Planet in Elm Grove: an idea proposed and written up by Zach Yiannis. Need to get parents/groups/educators at Tonawanda on board with our ideas—will reach out to Deb, Jodi, Lyndley regarding possibly set up group to discuss all of the ideas, including the Project Wingspan from the Pollinator Project that Amy is using in her classroom (pollinator garden at school with curriculum ideas). Decided we wanted to plan a big Earth Day event with as many different Elm Grove groups as we could including Parks and Rec—ideas included crafts for kids, pledge board or tik-tok challenge for high school students, scavenger hunt or geocache event, facts about Earth Day throughout the park, buckthorn bonfire at night, and garlic mustard pull during the day. Get library involvement and publicity as well.

13. Meeting with Village Manager: discussed topics for tomorrow’s meeting with Mr. David De Angelis, scheduled for 9am

14. Vision statement, membership: hoping membership and involvement is all COVID related. Will continue to address community involvement and participation.

15. Next meeting: scheduled for September 2nd at 6:30pm

16. Adjournment: 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nicci Sternitzky, Chairperson