

Village of Elm Grove
Beautification Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2023

Present: Deb Baesemann, Katie Forecki, James, Lange, Lorinda Patzner, Becky Rintelmann, Nicci Sternitzky

Guests: Stacy Barry-Coffey, Eva McCormack, Debbie VanderHeiden, Megan Davis

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:32 pm.
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes.
3. Treasurer report: totals reported to group and spreadsheet pulled up for review
4. Bird City WI: next meeting for Birders of the Grove is September 11th at 0830 in the Park View Room. Reported on Birdathon and backpack for library.
5. Bee City USA: Nearly every event we sponsor and hold is in support of this designation. Application renewal due 2/28/24.
6. Book Club: Four book clubs next season—Sept 20th - Dan Egan's The Devil's Element, Nov 15th - Michael Pollan's The Botany of Desire, 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.
7. Invasive Species Task Force: Have 49 people signed up to receive weekly emails. Beautification Committee has official membership in SWISC. Discussed doing more work at Veteran's Park in the upcoming weeks, the formation of a "Friends of Veteran's Park" group, and professional advice on removing invasives and encouraging more native plants. May have collaboration with Elm Grove Garden Club.
8. Lecture series: Becky and Raul set up and demonstrated speaker and microphone set. Group agreed that recording lectures is helpful for those that cannot attend and should continue. Will assure Luke Cashin is still willing to record for us.
9. National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification: Have completed 30/30 points for our 2023 recertification. Wauwatosa recently registered. Working to mentor Brookfield, Pewaukee, and possibly St. Francis. Discussed other communities and how to best encourage them to work on the certification process. Will see if we can do presentations for the local Wild Ones chapters.
10. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: our village president took the pledge on 3/8/23 committing to 24 of the 29 actions. Have completed 17 of them, but the remaining 7 will take a lot more time and energy. Packet with Monarch cookie from La Tarte bakery in Tosa, a jar of Amy's honey, the Mayors' Monarch pledge booklet, and a letter from the committee delivered to each of the trustees and village manager, but have not gotten any feedback from them. Will continue working throughout the winter and into next year on completion of our goal to become the 9th Monarch Champion Community in the nation by completing all 24 actions.
11. Monarch Milkweed Map: Have officially reached 209 dots on the map! Brainstormed ways to increase with milkweed giveaways and sales. Consider High Interest Day monarch program in 2024, with milkweed giveaway. Megan had great idea to use Beer "Garden" as means by which to disseminate information and plants—collaboration with Third Space brewing? Discussed collection of beer 4 and 6 packs for the distribution of plants.
12. Fall tree sale: have sold 39 trees. Library window taken down last week, sign at recycle center, ongoing Next Door and Facebook posts. Ideas to publicize at Oktoberfest in future.
13. Library window: scheduled to do Leave the Leaves window from Oct 1-14. Ideas provided by members for what to include.
14. Other business: Stacy Barry Coffey discussed collaboration on upcoming village projects that are in alignment with the committee's mission to increase native plantings.
15. Next meeting: scheduled for October 4th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
16. Adjournment: 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson