

# ACACIA TIMES

**Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association**

**June 2020**

What's inside:

Email blast form for Acacia information.

Information regarding issues with dogs and violations of Village ordinance is included in this newsletter.

Acacia wide garage sale is scheduled.

**Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

**Next Acacia Regular Board Meeting, July 14, 2020**

**Acacia Association 111 Cascade Dr., Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

**Website: [acacia-ihp.org](http://acacia-ihp.org)**

**Email: [acaciaihp@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaihp@gmail.com)**

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Acacia email blast sign up:**

We are encouraging everyone to sign up for emails from Acacia. This is an efficient way for us to get information out to residents quickly and this is especially necessary right now as things can change rapidly. Examples would be news about pool, playground and basketball court opening; opening of clubhouse for daily business, any emergency announcements from the village, etc.

We **will not** share this list with anyone and it **will not** be used for solicitations, advertising, etc.

To do this you will need to complete an Email Signup Form. There is one included in this newsletter or you can get one on the Acacia web site ([acacia-ihp.org](http://acacia-ihp.org)) under Association Forms.

### **Acacia Garage Sale:**

The Acacia Garage Sale will be Friday July, 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday July, 25<sup>th</sup>. Please call or email the office if you want to be included on the map of participants.

### **Reminder:**

With so many of us staying at home we have had an increase of residents embarking on home improvement projects and an increase of rule violations. PLEASE take the time to read the Rules and Regulations posted on our website so you don't get fined for not following stated Rules and Regulations. And make sure you complete ALCC Request for Approval for any outside projects.

Thank you to Carol and John Polacek for organizing the parade honoring all those that graduated this year. And thanks to everyone that participated – drivers, those that cheered in their yards and IHP Police for leading the parade.

Next Acacia Board Meeting is Tuesday, **July 14, 2020** at 7pm at the clubhouse.

**The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting**  
**June 9, 2020**

The Board of Directors meeting of Tuesday, June 9, 2020 was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Eckert.

Directors in attendance were: Pres. Eckert, Sec'y Brandush, Tres. Polacek, V.P. Kalinoski, McMillin, Boyd, Kwiatek, and Voyles.

**Home Owners comments/questions:** Laura and Camille asked about landscaping and weeding. The Grounds Director responded that there is a cycle the crew follows for trees. Beary Landscaping will be coming back to kill the weeds that were not killed when they came out originally. They are only treating weeds on common property not resident's property. A service request can be put in if necessary.

Approval of Minutes of the May 12, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. Polacek/Brandush. 8/0/0 Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report: John Polacek:** On the Treasurer's Report Page, you can see that the Assessment Collection was \$84,945. With other sources of income, we show a Total Income for the month of \$85,967. Total Expenses were \$89,091 leaving a Net Ordinary Income of \$-3,124. We had a Capital Reserve transfer of \$6,000 leaving us with a Net Income of \$-9,124. We are now spending some of our Operating Reserves to balance the expenditures.

The accounts receivable currently stands at \$3,644.68. **12** members have Past Due Accounts. We continue to do all the law allows to collect the outstanding balances. In May, 16 members had late payment fees and/or interest applied.

Currently 232 members use the ACH, automatic bank withdrawal. ACH insures no late payment fee and no interest charge. ACH also saves the office time and money. Please consider this. 60% of Acacia Homeowners use it. Join the crowd! There really are no dangers. Acacia withdraws only the Assessment on the 20th of the month. If there are other charges, you receive a separate statement. When members do not pay on time, there is a cost of collection. Therefore, a \$25 fee is charged the first time you are late escalating to \$50 thereafter. Avoid those charges with ACH.

Overall, we are in good financial condition. We have two funds – Reserve fund Balance and Operating Fund Balance. They now stand at:

Reserve Fund	\$210,653.64
Operating Fund	<u>\$860,110.15</u>
Total	\$1,070,763.79

The COVID-19 Pandemic will affect the activities and costs at Acacia but we do not have the details yet.

I move that we accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Polacek, Kalinoski 8/0/0  
Motion passed.

**Clubhouse Director's Report: Peggy Rose Kwiatek:** The Clubhouse will remain closed during the pandemic, but Kim will be there to answer phone calls and emails from the residents.

**Recreation Facilities Director's Report: Amy Eckert:** Ben, Lyn and I met to discuss options for opening the pool once we get final guidelines from the Department of Public Health. Guidelines came out and no pool opening until Phase 4 in Illinois. This date is set for end of June as of right now. We may still need to have some limits on number of users, social distancing etc.

This is what we looked at:

- Reservation system (online) – 2-hour time blocks during open hours – ½ hour between time blocks for sanitizing all common areas. This should make the pool available for more residents during each day.
- There may be a limit on the number of people that can be at the pool at one time – this is determined by the deck area we have available. We would be limited to 28-30 people if we need to follow current guidelines. We will make changes to that number if the guidelines change during Phase 4.
- All residents will be required to leave the pool area when specific time block is over. Failure to do this will result in pool privileges being rescinded for the rest of this season.
- Markings on pool deck where chairs can be placed keeping 6' distance, consider not putting out our chairs since they cannot be sanitized easily (except for the white plastic ones) or residents can bring their own chair if they want
- No noodles supplied by us – you can bring your own
- No volleyball, basketball, group games, etc. in pool
- No guests at this time – hopefully we will be able to allow guests if things open up more
- Face masks/covering required when checking in and leaving pool and when on deck if unable to maintain 6' distance
- No face mask/covering while in the water
- Attempt to stay 6' distance while in water
- The smoking area will be located outside of the pool deck area.

These are based on what we know now – things may change once we get guidelines from Public Health and enter Phase 4.

We also need to meet as a committee and determine what we want to do for pool passes for this year. When that decision is made, we will publish the information on website and also email it to those on the email list.

Jose, Pasquale and crew are working on getting the pool ready. As of today, it has been drained and they are cleaning it with acid wash to remove the stains. This should be complete in the next day or so. Once that is done it can be filled and then water will need to be treated so it is safe to swim in. This should be done well before the pool can open according to Department of Public Health.

Pool chemicals for the shortened season have been ordered at a cost of \$4,829.96 (budgeted for) and some equipment needed to be replaced/ordered – 2 rescue tubes and a bulletin board.

We also talked about whether or not we should have residents sign a waiver before they can use the pool. I contacted our lawyers and the response was:

*While I think a waiver could be useful, I can also see a court considering it invalid as it is against public policy. As you can imagine, there are a number of legal issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown that have yet to be litigated, so we have few answers. While we could consider preparing a waiver for participants to sign, I would not recommend the Board make a decision under the belief that such a waiver will sufficiently limit their risk.*

Maybe we could just have a statement noting the risks of COVID-19 that needs to be signed when reservation is made.

Board understands implications of waiver and would like either a waiver or statement of potential risks to be signed/agreed to by anyone using the pool. I will contact our lawyer to have one written.

The tennis and pickle ball courts are now open. To get to the courts you need to follow the sidewalk on the west side of the clubhouse and enter the courts through the gate on the west side. PLEASE make sure to lock the courts when you are finished playing. If you already have a key to the courts it will open this gate and if you need a key please contact the office. You can get a key with a \$10.00 deposit and proof that you live in Acacia.

As of now the basketball courts and playground are still closed. Hopefully when we get to Phase 4, they will be able to be opened.

**Grounds Maintenance Director's Report: Jack Brandush:** We finally received the final quote from Tru Green for weed control around all common ground bushes, trees, flower beds, etc. and here are the results:

Beary Landscape Mgt.	\$3000
Tru Green	\$4000
Weed Doctor	No Bid



I made an electronic motion to contract Beary Landscape Management for weed control around all common ground bushes, trees, flower beds not to exceed \$3000. Electronic vote accepted 8/0.

Beary completed the weed control, but we may have to call them back to reapply herbicide in some areas that the weeds survived.

Removed 30 tree stumps by Family Tree Werks, Acacia Grounds Crews cleaned and removed the wood chips and replaced black dirt in those areas.

We have been receiving a number of requests from homeowners for tree removals in common areas. We have many trees that are dead or "half dead" that need attention. However, our budget dictates that we can only remove a limited amount of those trees. I am proposing that the policy should be that the first priority is to remove a completely dead tree or one contributing to a safety issue anywhere on the Acacia common property. The next priority is to remove any other diseased trees or "half dead" trees in the area where the trim cycle for large trees is taking place. This is the area where our crew cannot reach the branches for trimming and our contractor trims those trees and can evaluate the condition of those trees. As always, diseased trees on private property will be removed at the request of the homeowner with the owner paying half the cost.

**I make a motion to have Family Tree Werks remove two totally dead trees, one diseased tree in the trim cycle area, one diseased tree on private property (will receive one half cost reimbursement), and one tree on private property (will receive full reimbursement) for not more than \$2465. Acacia will receive \$592 in reimbursement. Brandush, Eckert 8/0/0**

Again, as always, if a tree on common ground needs to be trimmed, our crew will trim it if they can reach it. Larger trees will be trimmed by our contractor based on the trim cycle. If a homeowner decides to trim a tree on Acacia common property, they may be responsible for that tree.

With all the rain that occurred in the month of May, the crew had a tough time keeping up with cutting the grass, but I think they are doing a great job. Tru Green applied the first application of weed control.

Acacia Grounds Crew completed 10 work orders.

Several residents have asked if plantings at entrances can be updated to add some color to them – some have volunteered to help plant and/or donate plants. If you are interested in helping with this please contact the office and your information will be forwarded to Grounds Director.

**Townhome Maintenance Director's Report: Ben Boyd:** Cedar purchased \$8,800. Carpenters have clubhouse ready to paint. Crews are working on Cherrywood - carpenters at 1-9 Cherrywood - stucco at 1-9 Cherrywood - power-washing 21 -29 Cherrywood.

Crew completed and passed OSHA training.

I move to accept a quote by Silhouette to replace 15,246 sq. feet of driveways for a sum of \$39,639.60. Competitive bids were \$ 42,400 and \$ 73,726.

Boyd, Kwiatek 8/0/0 Motion passed.

I also move to accept bid to sealcoat 137,333 sq. feet and crack filling for \$13,286 by A and M Asphalt competitive bids were \$ 20,637 and \$ 19,975.50.

Boyd, Brandush 8/0/0 Motion passed.

I was informed by Jose that clubhouse is prepared for painting. Crew found a lot of bad cedar and they are also experiencing more than usual cedar rot on Cherrywood.

Motion to accept quote from Inside/Out for painting of clubhouse at a cost of \$7,950. Electronic vote taken. 8/0/0 Motion passed

Motion to accept quote from Inside/Out for painting of townhomes at a cost of \$750 per townhome. Electronic vote taken. 8/0/0 Motion passed.

**Village Relations Director's Report: Sharon Kalinoski:** Report on May 14, 2020 IHP Village Board meeting:

Only the mayor, administrator, police chief and office staff physically attended. Other board members and residents were on Zoom. The mayor says we should continue to wear masks, keep social distance, and stay home if sick. As of May 14, there were 29 Covid-19 cases in IHP along with 6 deaths, most of which were at the Briar Place nursing home. (Since then I know at least one Acacia resident has also died of Covid-19),

Acacia Drive sidewalk: Still waiting for state approval of Strand Engineering submission; should get options at the end of June, discuss at July meeting, and vote on it at August meeting with construction to take place in 2021.

Census results are 77% complete for IHP; please complete your survey.

Face masks are required when entering businesses in town. Staff is working on guidelines for outdoor dining.

Explanation of water rates: IHP pays Countryside \$6.31 per 1000 gallons. On our new water bills we will pay \$11.37 per thousand gallons plus .70 per 1000 gallons for sewer. We also pay a flat rate portion on the bill: \$12.30 per mo. for sewer, \$34.71 per mo. for water. These are for replacement and maintenance of water mains.

In early May some residents in Acacia suddenly lost water flow midday. This was due to a brief drop in pressure caused by an issue at the pump house during hydrant testing.

Discussion and vote on contractor licenses: they are only required when a building permit is needed. Water Heater replacement permit is \$65 to cover an inspection fee; this is a safety issue.

Discussion of bids received for village wide trash hauler contract, will be covered at a "town hall" meeting on May 20. Much of it does not apply to Acacia.

Discussion on drafting a new ordinance to allow police to charge fines for towing impounded cars and minor offenses that the state's attorney won't prosecute. It is for the intent of making money.

Village attorney spoke about projected revenue loss due to pandemic. He is looking at raising revenue through new taxes on gaming, streaming, and rideshare services.

I see that the Village Hall finally got new chairs for the audience... look forward to using them.

**Architecture and Landscape Director's Report: Diane Voyles:** For the month of May there were 20 requests for new projects and 1 inspection of a completed project. ALCC requests are still being processed. Please drop your requests in the clubhouse mailbox. Most requests are approved the following weekend.

Letters are going out to address decks in poor condition that were identified during the all Acacia inspection. We are looking at decks that need to be painted/stained and decks that are in poor condition. Homeowners who receive letters are being asked to address their issue within the next 12 months. New decks must be painted within 12 months. Deck color is documented in the 2020 rules and regulations.

Dogs: Several homeowners have expressed concern with some dogs living in Acacia. Acacia Rules and Regulations stipulate that all dogs must be leashed on a rope that is no longer than 8 feet. Dogs must be attended by their owner and owners must pick up after their pet in all cases. These are very similar to village ordinances for Indian Head Park. If



you believe a homeowner is violating IHP regulations, please fill out an incident on the IHP web site. (information on how to do that is included under New Business).

Beginning today reimbursement for painting of front doors will be: \$75.00 or actual cost of painting door, whichever is less. Residents need to complete form for reimbursement and submit with receipt to be reimbursed. Reminder – you must have approval from ALCC before you paint your front door.

**Welcome Baskets: Peggy Rose Kwiatek:** Welcome basket deliveries will now continue but I will be using the Clubhouse “after hours” to meet and greet the new residents.

If you have recently moved to Acacia and have not received a welcome basket, please call Peggy Rose at 708 505-4733.

**Office Report: Amy Eckert:** Gia has turned in her resignation to accept a different position – her last day will be Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. I talked to Kim asking if she would be interested in working full time and she said she would. During Executive session I will present options for this new position for her.

Diane asked when we could open the clubhouse for residents to come in during work hours. She suggested that anyone entering the clubhouse would be required to wear a mask/face covering when in the clubhouse and that all business would be conducted without entering the office. This would also be required of Board members when they come in to sign paperwork, check mailboxes, etc.

Note: resident noted that we would most likely need to increase our cleaning/sanitizing to a daily basis if we open clubhouse at this time. We will need to look into this before we make the decision.

**Homeowner Forum: Jen** - I’ve been told the pool is going to open and so I’m wondering all of the details with that. But I’m also hearing rumors that it will be some sort of reservation thing with limited capacity so I’m wondering how that will affect assessments.

If it is reservations, how will the sign-up work and will people be limited?

Can you please ask the board what is being done about the assessment fees since the pool has not opened and even if it does it will be limited capacity?

Marcia – Cherrywood Court

Will there be a time limit or sunning or swimming to allow others to come to the pool?

Board Response:

We are planning to open the pool according to the Department of Public Health guidelines. This means, as of now, we can open when Phase 4 goes into effect. The preliminary plans are reported in the Recreation Committee report. Please note that these plans may change as we get more specific guidelines from the Department of Public Health.

As for reservations if we need to limit the number of people at the pool at any time, we are looking at using an online reservation system so that reservations can be made at any time during the day/night. Details will be given to all residents once the decision is made.

The reservation plan we are looking at would have several time blocks during the open pool hours with time between blocks for sanitizing common pool areas. This is so that there can be time available for more residents to use the pool daily.

As for assessments we can't change assessments for this year. As stated in April minutes if we have monies not spent on the pool at the end of the season, we have options – lower assessments next year, put more money into Capitol Reserves monthly, use any monies to make repairs to common properties per results of Reserve Study.

*Betty – Elmwood Drive*

*Will we be receiving an updated list of residents? Old list is currently unusable. To save costs and to allow for easy updates, put on 8.5 x 11 paper. Thank you.*

Board response:

Current phone book was printed in September 2017 – this is a costly item and not even 1/3 of residents have come in to get one. This is something we need to look into – ways to update without printing it every year as we have changes often during the year.

**New Business:** For all dog complaints that violate the Village ordinance please file complaint/concern with the village of IHP. These issues may include: dogs out without a leash, dog waste that is not picked up, dogs that are unattended, dog attacks, excessive barking, etc.

You can call the non-emergency police number 708-246-4534 from 7:00am to 3:00pm and/or file a complaint/concern on the Village website.

Here is the information on how to file on the Village website:

Go to [indianheadpark-il.gov](http://indianheadpark-il.gov)

- click on Residents on top banner
- from drop down menu choose Concerns & Compliment
- under Administration choose General Inquiry or Request
- complete the form and submit

You can create an account or you can file as a guest.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session: Eckert, Kalinoski 8/0/0 motion passed

**Executive Session:** Motion to close Executive Session and return to Open Session –Eckert, Kalinoski 8/0/0 motion passed.

During Executive Session the Board approved the following:

Employment Contract for Kim Brusak as full-time year-round Office Manager.

Approval of overtime for crew members if needed to complete work during season. This may be needed due to smaller number of crew members.

Board voted to ask Joe Consolo to fill the open Board Member position until next election in February 2021.

Board decided to ask Mike Probasco if he would be interested in joining the Recreational Committee as a resident member.

Motion to close Open Session – Eckert, Polacek 8/0/0 motion passed.

## E-MAIL INFORMATION AND PERMISSION

Effective January 1, 2020 we will no longer be mailing the Acacia Times to residents. It will be published on our website, [acacia-ihp.org](http://acacia-ihp.org), we can e-mail it to you or you can stop in the office and pick up a copy.

We will also add you to our e-mail list so that you will receive information from Acacia about upcoming events, notices (snow plowing, etc.) and information from the Village of Indian Head Park.

**We will never use e-mail addresses for advertising purposes nor will your e-mail address be shared with anyone else.**

If you want to be on the e-mail list please complete the form below and return it to the office. If you have any questions please give the office a call.

**You only need to return this form if you currently receive Acacia Times in the mail.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like the newsletter and information sent to the  
e-mail listed below

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we will read newsletter and information on Acacia website

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up a copy at the office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address (please print clearly)

## Positive Vibes

*Race Day – but not a typical race day. On Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Kevin was scheduled to run the Chicago 13.1. When it got cancelled, he decided to run a half-marathon on his own - so he created his own route through our neighborhoods. The Start/Finish line was his driveway and Jen and the kids were his roving water station.*

*He was running for his mom and the Imerman Angels Charity. Imerman Angels is such a great charity because their “product” is HOPE. They match a victim of cancer (patient, caregiver, child of cancer patient .it does not matter how they are connected to cancer) with a survivor of the same type and stage of cancer. The Mentor “Angel” is their personal guide to help them through it all. A living, breathing reminder that recovery IS POSSIBLE.*

*Kevin raised \$1100.00 for the charity.*



*Thanks to everyone for their support throughout the run and those who waved to me when they saw me on the route.*

*It ended up being a very PERFECT day.*

**Positive Vibes:** We would like to add positive news from our residents to the Acacia Times. If you have something to celebrate, please send us the information so we can include it.

**Acacia Attic:** With many of us cleaning out, we would be happy to list items that you might want to sell or give away and we will add it for 1 month.

Please send anything to us no later than the date of the Board meeting so that it can be included.



**\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\***

The inclusion of any advertising in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of any advertiser by The Acacia Association.



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**INCOME TAX PREPARATION**

**\*\* deadline extended to July 15, 2020\*\***

**Sharon Kalinoski, CPA**

**Acacia Resident – IRS authorized e-file provider for over 20 years**

**1040, partnership & S-corp forms**  
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Interior  
Wood  
Grain  
Dark  
Oak



Interior  
Wood  
Grain  
Light  
Oak



Exterior Bronze

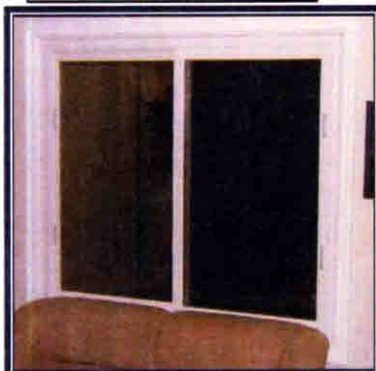


Other color combinations  
available upon request

Exterior Cocoa



Actual Acacia Project  
Photos





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