

ACACIA TIMES

Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association

January 2021

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Resumes for Board of Directors Candidates

Yearly Election Notice

Request for Absentee Ballot Form

Email Sign-Up Form

Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Next Acacia Regular Board Meeting, February 9, 2021

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

Website: acacia-ihp.org

Email: acaciaihp@gmail.com

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2021 monthly assessment is **\$230.00**.

Please be sure to wear reflective clothing or carry a flashlight when walking. It can be difficult to see people when it is dark out. Stay safe!

Food Drive in Acacia January 28, 2021. See the flyer in this newsletter for details.

Reminder: Homeowners are responsible for contacting the office to report any issue with their lamppost. Lights need to be operable and on every night with standard white bulbs.

Election Information:

The election takes place on February 23, 2021.

Please see the information in this newsletter for details.

Next Acacia Board Meeting is Tuesday, **February 9, 2021** at 7pm at the clubhouse.

**The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting
January 12, 2021**

The Board of Directors meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 2021 was brought to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Eckert.

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

Approval of Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. Polacek, Consolo. 8/1/0 Motion passed.

Home Owners comments/questions: Jay from Nacona asked for a follow up to his email from a few months ago. Ben will follow up with this.

Treasurer's Report: John Polacek: For December 2020, the Acacia Association Treasurer's Report shows:

Assessment Collection	\$98,731		
Other Sources	\$ 1,916	Total Collection	\$ 100,647
Total Expenses			\$ 30,162
Net Ordinary Income			\$ 70,486
Capital Reserve Transfer			\$ 6,000
Net Income			\$ 64,486

We are now increasing our Operating Reserves to balance the larger expenditures during March thru November. This is normal every year.

As of December 31, 2020, the Accounts Receivable stands at \$3,704.84.

18 of 387 members have Past Due Accounts. We continue to do all the law allows to collect the outstanding balances. The previous month, 16 members had late payment fees and/or interest applied.

As of December 31, 2020, 236 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. 61% 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	\$253,789.48
	Operating Fund	<u>\$651,165.80</u>

Total

\$904,955.28

I move that we accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Polacek, McMillin 9/0/0
Motion passed.

John shared with the board a history of the overall association balances. Both Operating and Reserve balances.

Clubhouse Director's Report: Peggy Rose Kwiatek: There were no clubhouse rentals during the month of December.

The committee to update our townhomes by choosing new paint colors met this past month at the clubhouse. 7 people were in attendance. We looked at paint samples and discussed colors. It was determined that the color gray is on its way out, and tans are popular now. It was suggested that we do similar colors as the Village Hall, which has just been painted with new colors and looks very nice. I have heard from many committee members who had later looked at the Village Hall and agreed that it does look nicely updated. I will be meeting with the representative from Benjamin Moore Paints to discuss colors and have artist renderings made of our townhomes

Recreation Facilities Director's Report: Amy Eckert: Nothing to report at this time.

Grounds Maintenance Director's Report: Jack Brandush: 4 grounds services requests were completed in December.

12 lamp posts were inspected and repaired.

4 trees were removed.

The first snow removal of the season was done on 12/29/20-12/30/20.

I am making a proposal to purchase a 36-inch Stand on Mower from Russo Power Company, Schiller Park, IL for an amount not to exceed \$8800. This mower is a replacement for an existing mower that is no longer operable. Brandush, Kalinoski. Roll call taken. 9/0/0 Motion passed. This is a Capital Expense.

I am making a proposal to contract Family Tree Care, Warrenville, IL to remove Spruce, Pine, and Cedar Trees for \$6955 and trim trees in the designated trim cycle area \$8990. This may not include other trees in Acacia common ground or other private property that need to be removed. Brandush, Boyd. Roll call taken. 9/0/0 Motion passed.

I am making a proposal to contract TruGreen Commercial for lawn services for late spring, early summer, and early fall weed control for \$6900. Brandush, Polacek. Roll call taken.
9/0/0 Motion passed.

Townhome Maintenance Director's Report: Ben Boyd: During the month of December 2020
- Three townhome service requests were completed.

Ben proposed that he create a specification document with Jack, Joe, Diane, and Jose to use to get bids for the coping project.

Village Relations Director's Report: Sharon Kalinoski: Report on Dec. 10, 2020 IHP village board meeting

Meeting was held via Zoom online. 4 people (Mayor and 3 employees) present at Village Hall, **all of whom were NOT wearing masks** even when in close proximity.

Mayor's report: 193 cases of COVID-19 in IHP, up from 135 in early Nov.; 43% increase. ALL RESTAURANTS AND BARS IN TOWN MAY NOT ALLOW IN-PERSON DINING.

Acacia Drive sidewalk to be added after road construction, April through October.

Proposal to obtain bids for electrical aggregation, to get a renewable energy supplier which would match Com Ed supply rates. If implemented, residents can opt-out.

Long discussion on proposal to give financial assistance to 3 businesses in town that normally serve food indoors: Proposed giving each \$1250 per month for 4 months, payable if verified that they are following governors' rules and NOT allowing indoor dining. Some trustees opposed; others wanted to look at all businesses affected by COVID-19. Will re-visit subject in January.

Village is getting a \$500K grant from Rebuild Illinois program for road work/infrastructure.

Postscript: Wolf's Head Inn and Driftwood Lounge were cited by Cook County Dept. of Public Health for allowing indoor dining, and both were ticketed locally for adjudication. Against state rules, Willow Hills Pancake House has been allowing indoor dining on a regular basis as observed many days this month (Jan. 2021)

6 people are running for 3 Village Board positions. We would like to invite them to our March board meeting.

Architecture and Landscape Director's Report: Diane Voyles: For the month of December there were 6 requests for new projects and 6 inspections of completed projects. Four homes were inspected for new residents.

Reminder new outdoor lighting rules in effect January 1, 2021.

Christmas decorations must be removed by the end of January.

Seasonal items such as snowflakes, snowmen, shovels, skates, etc. will be allowed through February.

Welcome Baskets: Peggy Rose Kwiatek: One new welcome basket was delivered at the clubhouse this past month to a new resident from 15 Sweetwood. Information was given about our guidelines and amenities, and her questions were answered. She expressed her gratitude for the basket of goodies and said she was very happy to be living in Acacia.

I have contacted two more new residents and am waiting to hear from one. The other called me to say that he was not moved in yet, and will call when he is settled in.

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: Reminder to all residents that as of February 2020 the fee for late payments is \$25.00 the first month and increases to \$50.00 per month for the second consecutive month and any consecutive months thereafter. After 3 months the account will be turned over to our lawyers for collection, which adds additional costs to your account. The incorrect information was included on the last page of the Payment Books that were sent to residents that pay by check. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Are you signed up for Acacia email? This is a great way to get up to date Association information, reminders of upcoming events and urgent news that can't wait until the next newsletter. If you have not signed up for this yet PLEASE do so by filling out the form in this newsletter. We do not use this for advertising nor will your email address be shared with anyone – either in or outside Acacia.

Election Committee: Lynda McMillin: We have received five resumes for the four positions open this year. Amy and I met to go over things that need to be done: the January newsletter will have the resumes, absentee ballot request information and election announcements. We are mailing out ballots because of Covid-19. The ballots will be mailed January 29th.

Homeowner Forum: Betty from Elmwood Court suggested we might want to have an electronic phone directory of Acacia residents since it is costly to print a new one every few years. We will look into whether or not this is possible for us.

Patti from Elmwood asked what Acacia is doing about the water issues like staining in the toilets? Amy replied that water is a Village issue and Acacia has nothing to do with the water. Patti also asked if a survey has ever been done for residents to fill out and let the Board know what issues are important to them. Amy responded that there have been a few surveys done in the past with very low response. Patti suggested an individual representative from each cul-de-sac to bring issues to the Board because not everyone wants to come to the meetings. It was explained that any issue can be emailed to the office and it will be given to the Board to address.

New and Ongoing Business: A resident asked if Acacia would be willing to host a food drive for a local pantry and we agreed to do so. The information is as follows:
Acacia Clubhouse (outside front doors) will be the drop off point for the food drive for the Share Food Share Love Food Pantry that serves people in our local communities on Jan 28th. Please see the flyer included in this newsletter.

Thank you, notes/calls were received from the Henslin's, and Cianci's (both winners) for holding the holiday decorating contest. And thank you to all the houses that entered and those others that were decorated. It really did brighten spirits in this past crazy year.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session – Eckert, Kalinoski 9/0/0 Motion passed.

Board returned to Open Session – Eckert, Kalinoski 9/0/0 Motion passed.

Motion to close Open Session – Eckert, Kalinoski 9/0/0 Motion passed.

Candidates Running For The 2021 Board

John T Polacek (Incumbent)

My wife, Carole, and I have lived in Acacia for the last 13 years. We grew up and have lived in Lyons Township most of our lives. We enjoy Acacia for its friendly residents and lovely grounds. I am completing a 12th year as a member of the Board of Directors. The last 9 years I have served as the Treasurer. It has been a pleasure to serve on a very collaborative Board that looks to provide the best services possible at a reasonable cost. Although the Board does not agree on everything, they keep their eye on the ball, "Do what is best for all the members, long term."

In 2017 I helped with the new patio at the pool and the concrete replacement. In 2018 the construction of an additional garage was planned and completed to allow more room for staff to function and to comply with OSHA requirements.

When I started as treasurer, the unpaid assessments were about \$27,000. Today, they are around \$4,000. We have increased the automatic payment to 230 members. It was 70. This ensures collection and saves in office costs.

We have increased the monthly assessment to pay for increasing costs and to put funds away for future needs. This is not done lightly but rather with due diligence. The Reserve Study shows us the future needs and how to save for them.

If elected I will continue to work with all the board members to continue to improve Acacia, continue our efforts to collect all assessments due, care for our financial wellbeing, maintain the infrastructure of Acacia and respond to members needs and requests.

Thank you for your support.

Remember to vote in the election, there are a minimum number of votes needed.

My name is **Patti Chiappetta** and I live at 26 Elmwood Drive. I would like to be added to the ballot as a board member. I served 5 years on the district 106 educational foundation. I was a vice president, president and a director. I have lived in the district all my life. I also work full time as a manager for NYSE datacenter operations.

Peggy Rose Kwiatek I have served on the Acacia Board of Directors for the past six years and have been a resident for almost eight years. Currently I am serving as the Clubhouse Director. In the past, I have served on the Architecture and Landscape Control Committee, as well as the Director of Townhome Maintenance. Six years ago, I started a Welcome Basket program for new residents to Acacia. I am still heading that program and enjoy meeting our new residents and giving them information and guidelines about our wonderful community, as well as useful gifts in their baskets. This year I was also asked to head the committee for updating the look of our townhomes by choosing new colors to paint our homes. By serving on these committees, I have learned a great deal on how the association runs and what it takes to keep Acacia a great place to live.

I have owned my own business, Peggy Rose Academy of Dance and Acrobatics, in Berwyn for over 40 years. I am a member of the Kiwanis Club of Berwyn, where I have served 2 terms as President of the club, and am now on the Board of Directors of the club. I have also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Berwyn Development Corporation for 6 years.

I truly love living in Acacia and want to stay involved and do my part to keep Acacia a wonderful place to live by running for another term on the Board of Directors. If elected, I will devote my time and energy to keeping Acacia a promising, successful and happy community.

Amy Eckert I have served on the Acacia Board of Directors for the past 12 years and been a resident for over 20 years. I am currently serving as President of the Board as well as the Director responsible for the Acacia Office and Personnel and part of the Recreational Committee. I have also served as Townhome Maintenance Director and a member of the Architecture & Landscape Control Committee (ALCC).

Over the past 3 years we, as a Board, have updated the Handbook and Major Rules and Regulations so that they are current, implemented Rules regarding Rental Units in Acacia, updated the web site to make it more user friendly, contracted with Chicagoland Pool to manage the pool during the season and standardized the fees and fines for violations for the Association.

I would like to continue to be able to work with the Board and all residents to continue to maintain our Association as a great place to live and would appreciate you considering electing me for another term.

Remember this is YOUR ASSOCIATION and your input is vital and always welcome – join us at monthly Board meetings or drop a note at the office.

ACACIA BOARD CANDIDATE

My name is Joseph V. Consolo. I live at 145 Cascade Drive, and I am a seventeen year resident of Acacia. In July of 2020, I had the honor of being appointed to fill a one year vacancy on the Acacia Board. While serving on the Acacia Board, I have participated on the Recreation Committee and served as a back up on the Village Relations Committee. I have also volunteered to assist the Townhome Maintenance Director with the coping project and to assist the Committee working on new paint colors for the Acacia Townhomes. I am now a candidate for a full term on the Acacia Board.

After 28 years, I retired from my career as an attorney for the Cook County Sheriff's Office in 2019. I held various positions over the years. I also served as the Village Clerk of Indian Head Park from October 2005 until April of 2015. I feel my professional experience in government and knowledge in legal administrative areas could be of benefit to the Acacia Board. I have been an active Mason and Shriner since 1998. I have been a very active member of the Medinah Clowns. I am very interested in continuing my work for our Acacia Community. I believe there is nothing greater than helping others and serving your community. Therefore, I humbly ask for your vote in the February Acacia Board Election.

Sincerely,
Joseph V. Consolo

JOSEPH V. CONSOLO

QUALIFICATIONS

- Effective communication skills with proven experience to handle projects from beginning to completion.
- Thorough legal professional experienced at assessing needs and developing strategies to meet those needs.
- Experienced in conflict resolution.

EDUCATION

1988	Master of Laws in Taxation – The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois
1985	Juris Doctorate – The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois
1981	Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science – De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois

EMPLOYMENT

COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT July 1991 – May 2019

Worked in the following Departments/Units : Early Intervention Unit; Department of Human Resources; Department of Corrections; and the Department of Community Supervision and Intervention

- Conducted Early Interventions with employees, working within in all Departments/Units in order to assist them in dealing with stressful situations on and off the job.
- Conducted inquiries into complaints of allegations of discrimination and came up with solutions to resolve the conflict.
- Conducted employee grievance hearings prior to arbitration and overseen other employee issues, ie Labor Management and Contract Negotiations.
- Advised the Department on issues in compliance with State Federal and Local Law.
- Taught in service training covering civil liability, sexual harassment and employee diversity

YEARLY ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following information has been prepared to assist you in electing a Board of Directors for The Acacia Association. We hope we have anticipated all of your questions.

2021 Voting Procedures:

One ballot will be mailed to each owner. There is one vote per unit.

An envelope will be provided to return your ballot in. Please place completed ballots in the clubhouse mail slot.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 8:00 P.M.

LOCATION: The Acacia Association Clubhouse, 111 Cascade Drive, Indian Head Park 60525.

PURPOSE: To elect three (3) for a three-year term and one (1) one-year term. Directors to be elected, not officers. Officers are elected by the Board from among its members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman Lynda McMillin.

Everyone needs to vote. To have the election be official, we need a quorum of voters.

ABSENTEE VOTING: (Form included in January newsletter and on our website) If you will not be at your home address for the month of February, you may request the ballot to be sent to your out-of-town address by February 1, 2021 from the Acacia Office.

Please complete your ballot and seal it in the provided BALLOT envelope. Drop it in the mail slot at the clubhouse. Ballots will be put in the ballot box and opened and counted on February 23, 2021.

We are very sorry, but due to Covid-19 we have to change the way the election is run this year.

THE ACACIA ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2021
REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

This request applies **ONLY** if you will be **OUT OF TOWN** during the month of February.

Please mail my ballot with instructions to the **OUT-OF-TOWN** address below.

NAME _____

OUT OF TOWN ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ **ZIP** _____

Signature _____

Acacia address _____

Date _____

This request form must be returned to the office immediately. Ballots will be mailed after January 22, 2021.

Your ballot will be mailed to your **OUT-OF-TOWN** address **ONLY**. Your ballot must be returned so we receive it before February 23, 2021 to be counted.

E-MAIL PERMISSION

If you want to be on the Acacia e-mail list please complete the form below and return it to the office. (If you already receive e-mail from Acacia no need to submit this form).

By signing up you will receive information via e-mail from Acacia including the newsletter, upcoming events, notices (snow plowing, etc.) and at times important information from the Village of Indian Head Park.

If you have any questions please call the office.

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

_____ 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 of the newsletter at the office

Name (please print)

Signature

Address

e-mail address (please print clearly)



FOOD DRIVE

January 28th

8:00 am – 6:30 pm

**Drop at Acacia
Clubhouse Front Door**

Items needed:

Non-perishable foods

sugar

flour

cake mixes

tea

coffee

Non food items needed

dishwashing soap

laundry detergent

soap

paper products – napkins, toilet paper, tissue

aluminum foil

Share Food Share Love Food Pantry is located in Brookfield and serves the villages of Brookfield, Hodgkins, LaGrange Park, Lyons, McCook North Riverside, and Riverside.

They are affiliated with the Feed America National Organization and a 501(c)3corporation

Disclaimer

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



MANY buyers looking in Acacia + Wilshire NOW. ALL of my listings over the past 3 years received multiple offers.

I've worked on more than 30 transactions in IHP over the past several years, offering hands-on help to all sellers.

Thinking of moving? Please call me for current listings for sale, or a free market analysis.

**Sharon Kalinoski CPA, Broker
Indian Head Park (Acacia) resident
1-708-805-0675 herculesUS@yahoo.com**

ASAP Realty Inc. main office Lockport IL

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For a no-obligation estimate, contact:

**Mark Gill, President 708-299-9964
7000 S. Wolf Road, Indian Head Park
e-mail: mark.gill@att.net**

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Real Estate Broker for over 24 yrs
Licensed in IL and FL
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Serving the Acacia Community Casey Window

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- ✓ Quick, Free, no hassle estimates
- ✓ We offer window craftsmanship at its best, that exceeds Acacia window replacement requirements
- ✓ We have satisfied Acacia references to support our work record
- ✓ We stand behind our work with a limited lifetime material warranty and 1 year of at home service labor warranty
- ✓ We provide only the best custom made vinyl and wooden windows
- ✓ And all this at a great price!



Interior
Wood
Grain
Dark
Oak



Interior
Wood
Grain
Light
Oak



Exterior Bronze



Other color combinations
available upon request

Exterior Cocoa



Actual Acacia Project
Photos





You earned it
-WE'LL HELP YOU
KEEP IT!

Tax Prep | Bookkeeping | Payroll Services | Personal/Business

SVC TAX, INC. • SCOTT V. CIONE • TAX PREPARER
CONTACT US TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

PHONE: 708-945-3943 | FAX: 708-505-3850 | E-MAIL: SVCTAXINC@GMAIL.COM
15 Elmwood Sq, Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Scott V. Cione
Accounting And Tax Preparer

15 Elmwood Square
Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Office 708.945.3943
svctaxinc@gmail.com

