

ACACIA TIMES

Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association

February 2021

What's Inside:

Acacia Board General Election/Annual Meeting information

Resumes for Board of Director Candidates

Reminder:

If you or your dog are attacked or bitten by another dog or if you see a dog running loose, you need to contact the Indian Head Park police. Any action to remove the dog or ticket the dog's owner can only be taken by the police and/or the village. You should make sure that you get a report from the police after you contact them.

If we do not make formal reports, there can be no consequences to dog-owners with multiple offences.

Only multiple reports on the same animal will motivate true results.

Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Next Acacia Regular Board Meeting, March 9, 2021

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

Website: acacia-ihp.org Email: acaciaihp@gmail.com

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Acacia Annual meeting is February 23rd at **8:00 p.m.**

Please see the candidate resumes in this newsletter

March 5th – Blood Drive 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm – parking lot of Police Department

March 9th – League of Women’s Voters Candidate Forums -7:00 pm – Zoom Meeting for Village of Indian Head Park candidates for Trustee positions – you will have the opportunity to meet them and ask questions of candidates (they also have other Zoom meetings for other local races)

Valentine’s Day decorations should be removed by February 22 or 7 days after the holiday per Rules and Regulations.

Reminder your WINTER decorations should be removed by March 1.

If your car is parked in the cul-de-sac area (and is snowed in) PLEASE move it to another parking spot so Jose and Tim can return and finish clearing the snow. This will help open up more parking spaces in each area.

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

**The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2021**

The Board of Directors meeting of Tuesday, February 9, 2021 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, Consolo, Kwiatek, McMillin, and Voyles.

Directors Absent: Boyd.

The 6 candidates for Indian Head Park Trustee were each given 5 minutes to introduce themselves. We thank Charles Eck, Craig Fischer, Greg Scovitch, Eileen Donnersberger, Brenda O'Laughlin, and Amy Jo Wittenberg for taking the time to join us.

Approval of Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Polacek, Consolo. 8/1/0 Motion passed.

Home Owners comments/questions: None.

Treasurer's Report: John Polacek: For January 2021, the Acacia Association Treasurer's Report shows:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Assessment Collection | \$89,492 | | |
| Other Sources | \$ 1,509 | Total Collection | \$ 90,901 |
| Total Expenses | | | \$ 41,987 |
| Net Ordinary Income | | | \$ 48,915 |
| Capital Reserve Transfer | | | \$ 6,000 |
| Net Income | | | \$ 42,915 |

We are building up our Operating Reserves for the future costs during the warmer months when the Crew is here. This is normal every year.

If a resident drops off a check and the date is later in the month, we will not hold the check until that date – all checks will be deposited when they are received.

As of January 31, 2021, the Accounts Receivable stands at \$1,928.

20 of 387 members have Past Due Accounts. We continue to do all the law allows to collect the outstanding balances. The previous month, 12 members had late payment fees and/or interest applied.

As of January 31, 2021, 240 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. 62% 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.

We are building our Operating Reserves to cover the increase costs during the warm months. This is the pattern every year. Overall, we are in good financial condition.

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| We have two funds – | Reserve Fund | \$259,956 |
| | Operating Fund | <u>\$701,152</u> |
| | Total | \$962,108 |

I move that we accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Polacek, Consolo 8/1/0
Motion passed.

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

The inside clubhouse Christmas decorations were taken down on January 15th. Thank you to Amy Eckert and Lyn McMillin for helping me. I want to thank Jose also for putting all of the boxes in storage.

Our Comcast bill for the clubhouse went up around \$30 from last month, so I called Comcast to find out why, and to see if we could lower it. I was told the increase was on our basic TV package, and no promotions were available at this time. We already had the lowest TV package. After talking awhile, the agent agreed to lower the cost \$10 per month for 6 months. Then I could call back after 6 months to see if any promotions are available.

I have met with Julie Diorio, who is the lead color consultant for the J. C. Licht Paint Company. She came to the clubhouse with paint samples and gave suggestions for the best colors to update our townhomes. She explained that many colors that may look the same actually have undertones that either harmonize together or clash. She thought that staying in the tan spectrum was best for our townhomes because we will not be changing the colors of our garage doors or windows and gutter trim. She felt the white that is on our townhomes is too stark, and should be muted. Together we chose four tan colors as possibilities, and she will be sending them to Benjamin Moore paint company where they will make artist renderings of our townhomes with these colors. Then our committee will get together again to evaluate them.

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

Grounds Maintenance Director's Report: Jack Brandush: Maintenance completed 8 grounds requests.

Maintenance inspected and repaired 8 lamp post lights.

There were 3 snow removal events in late January and early February.

Family Trees Works has started the tree removal and trimming project.

Maintenance has met with contractors to discuss options for weed control around common ground beds.

Maintenance purchased a snowblower for approximately \$800 to remove snow from the sidewalks around the Acacia garage and clubhouse.

Townhome Maintenance Director's Report: Ben Boyd (Read by Voyles in Boyd's absence):

No service requests were completed in January.

Coping committee met to begin draft for RFQ - Request for Quotation for Acacia 2021 coping project.

RFQ finalized, after committee input, and sent to four contractors.

Contractors are Komperda, North Shore Sheet Metal, Chicago Metal Supply, and Inside-Out.

Proposals to be returned no later than March 31, 2021.

I would like to thank the coping team for drafting a very professional and very detailed RFQ.

Members of Coping team were:

Diane Voyles, Jack Brandush, Joe Consolo, John Polacek, Jose Rivera, and Tim Rost.

Village Relations Director's Report: Sharon Kalinoski: Announcement: There will be a blood drive in the village hall/police parking lot on Friday March 5 from noon until 5pm. Call 800-786-4483 to make an appointment. Walk-in times may be available.

Everyone present at the Village Hall were not wearing masks. John DuRocher explained they were 17 feet apart and felt they did not need to wear masks.

Mayor's report: Covid cases in IHP up to 238, a 23% increase since previous month. Wolf Rd. and Plainfield Rd. sidewalks are still in Phase 1 study process. The LaGrange Area League of Women Voters will have a candidate forum on Zoom, on March 9, for those running for village board trustee. (There are 6 people running for 3 positions.) Police body cameras are under discussion: state law will require them by the year 2025.

In response to my question about enforcement of indoor dining ban, John stated that he spoke to all restaurant owners, sent them letters in the mail, issued citations, and notified Cook County Health Dept.

Discussion of proposal to get bids for green energy electrical supply aggregation: main points are:

1. Rate would be same as Com Ed
2. Either green energy would be used, or money paid to IHP (possibly \$30K)
3. All residents can opt-out
4. 13% of homes already use alternate energy suppliers

Village got quotes for audit services from 2 vendors. Decided to stay with current vendor Sikich even though second bid was \$725 less. Amount of bid was never mentioned.

First look at proposed new fiscal year budget will be at Feb. meeting. IHP is getting \$195K from CARES Act. (pandemic response)

Long discussion of potential village goals for the year, which will be decided at the Feb. meeting.

Jigsaw puzzles are now available for checkout at the library. Open Sat. 10am to 3pm, Sun. noon to 3pm.

State is sending Acacia Drive construction project out for bids now. Work will be done May through October. South section work will start in July, North section begins in August. In October the final layer will be paved for both sections. (Subject to change)

Amy asked if landscaping work was included in Acacia Drive project. John replied that some money is in the project budget, but "extra" work would be an "add-on."

The next village board meeting is this Thursday Feb. 11 at 7pm.

Architecture and Landscape Director's Report: Diane Voyles: For the month of January there were 2 requests for new projects and 2 inspections of completed projects. One home was inspected for a new owner.

Acacia homeowners did a great job in taking down their holiday decorations this year. Only 4 warning letters were sent.

Valentine's Day decorations should be removed by February 22 or 7 days after the holiday per Rules and Regulations.

Reminder your WINTER decorations should be removed by March 1.

Welcome Baskets: Peggy Rose Kwiatek: One new welcome basket was delivered at the clubhouse this past month to a new resident from 51 Westwood. 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 also contacted another new resident, but he has not moved in yet. He will call me 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: All employees need to complete Sexual Harassment Prevention Training – we have the State of Illinois packet for them to use. Every board member should also complete the training because we are considered the “employer”. I will send link to the training to all board members.

Suggestions: If you have a concern about something going on around your home – whether it is someone parked in a car for a long time, someone you don’t know ringing your doorbell or people coming up onto your deck – call 911 – not the nonemergency number for police.

Dog walkers - please try your best to keep your route and dog on common grounds and don’t infringe on others privacy by being too close to their homes. And of course, make sure you pick up after your dog and keep them on a leash.

A big thank you to everyone that donated to the food drive – it was successful and Share Food Share Love Food Pantry is grateful for participation

Election Committee: Lynda McMillin: We received 5 resumes of people interested in running for the 4 positions available.

Kim sent the absentee ballots to those out of town. She also embossed all the ballots and stuffed all the envelopes and helped me address and stamp all the envelopes. A big thank you to Kim for doing all of that!

All ballots were mailed January 29th and as of this report 83 have come in. This system seems to be working well and we might consider doing this for future elections. It saves time and contact with people. Also, thank you to Amy for all of her input. Let’s hope everything continues to run this smoothly.

Homeowner Forum: Gerald thanked the crew for their hard work removing snow. He also thanked the Board for all their volunteer work.

New and Ongoing Business: March 5th – Blood Drive 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm – parking lot of Police Department

March 9th – League of Women’s Voters Candidate Forums -7:00 pm – Zoom Meeting for Village of Indian Head Park candidates for Trustee positions – you will have the opportunity to meet them and ask questions of candidates (they also have other Zoom meetings for other local races)

Information on registration for both these events included in this newsletter and on our website.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session – Eckert, McMillin 8/1/0 Motion passed.

Motion to return to Open Session – Eckert, Kalinoski 8/1/0 Motion passed.

During Executive Session the board heard a request from a homeowner asking to have a fine removed. The board discussed the issue and the decision will be sent to the homeowner.

Motion to close Open Session – Eckert, Kalinoski 8/1/0 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



Positive Vibes

Acacia residents, friends and family filled 20 feet of table space with food, paper products and toiletries for the Share Food Share Love Food Pantry in Brookfield on January 28th.

Thanks Betty S. for the suggestion and to everyone who contributed.

BLOOD DRIVE

GIVING BLOOD DURING THIS UNUSUAL TIME IS COMPLETELY SAFE

Hope springs
eternal

DONATE
BLOOD

**Friday
March**

5

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.**

INDIAN HEAD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**VERSITI BLOOD MOBILE
201 ACACIA DRIVE
INDIAN HEAD PARK, IL 60525**

**LOCATED IN THE
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Appointments greatly appreciated; walk-ins welcome as the schedule and social distancing allow.

To schedule, go to www.versiti.org/IL, load the Versiti Donor app, or call (800) 7TO-GIVE.

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EVERY DONOR WILL SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES!**

The Covid19 Antibody test is now performed on all blood donations.

THIS IS A FREE TEST AND WILL LET YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE HAD COVID

For eligibility questions, please call 1-800-7TO-GIVE.

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- ✓ 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

