

ACACIA TIMES

Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association

March 2021

What's Inside:

Acacia Board Election Details

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Village Trustee Resumes

Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Next Acacia Regular Board Meeting, April 13, 2021

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

Website: acacia-ihp.org

Email: acaciaihp@gmail.com

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please fill out the Recreation Facilities Options Form inside this newsletter

PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH

Local elections are **Tuesday April 6, 2021**. The IHP village board race has 6 people running for 3 positions. 2 are incumbents, and 4 are new candidates. Please see the resumes that candidates provided in this newsletter.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO START LOOKING FOR YOUR POOL PASS FROM LAST YEAR – YOU WILL NEED IT TO RENEW FOR THIS SUMMER.

Safety Reminder:

Please be aware and considerate of your neighbors while you or your children are outside.

When walking at night please carry a flashlight or wear reflective clothing.

Be mindful of your speed while driving, especially when more people are outside as the weather gets better.

Next Acacia Board Meeting is Tuesday, **April 13, 2021** at 7pm at the clubhouse.

The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting
March 9, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting of Tuesday, March 9, 2021 was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Eckert.

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

Directors Absent: McMillin.

Director Consolo was sworn in.

Approval of Minutes of the February 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Polacek, Boyd. 8/1/0 Motion passed.

Home Owners comments/questions: None.

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

Assessment Collection	\$85,811		
Other Sources	\$ 629	Total Collection	\$ 86,440
Total Expenses			\$ 63,312
Net Ordinary Income			\$ 23,129
Capital Reserve Transfer			\$ 6,000
Net Income			\$ 17,129

We are now building some of our Operating Reserves for future expenditures. This is normal every year.

As of February 28, 2021, the Accounts Receivable stands at \$3,145.

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 September 30, 2020, 242 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.

Overall, we are in good financial condition.

We have two funds –	Reserve Fund	\$266,122
	Operating Fund	<u>\$730,020</u>
	Total	\$996,142

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

Clubhouse Director's Report: Peggy Rose Kwiatek: There were no clubhouse rentals during the month of February. Amy Eckert and I have met to look over the rental contract to update cleaning rules and to see if pricing needs to be changed with the new minimum wage rules. Kim will update the contracts.

The committee to update the colors of the townhomes met last week to look at the artist renderings from the Benjamin Moore Paint Company. We have chosen the color that the majority liked best, and was also recommended by the lead color consultant for the J.C. Licht Paint Company. The representative from the Benjamin Moore Paint Company will be sending us a new rendering with the chosen colors to display at the clubhouse in the new few weeks. Once the final renderings are received, residents will have an opportunity to view them and give their opinion if they want the change. More information will be available once we have the renderings.

Recreation Facilities Director's Report: Amy Eckert: We have 2 quotes to redo the tennis and basketball courts and are updating the quotes to reflect the current pricing of materials. It has been suggested that one of the tennis courts be changed to a fenced dog run area. We would like your input regarding this change – please see survey in this newsletter or on our website and let us know your thoughts.

It has also been suggested that we install a bocce ball court – see survey and share your input.

The playground equipment has been inspected and the tall slide is in poor shape and needs to be replaced, the seats on the swings need to be replaced and some equipment could use a coat of new paint.

The committee is reviewing the Pool ID renewal process and the rules for pool use. We need to check the Public Health guidelines to see what will be allowed for this summer regarding number of people allowed at any time, cleaning schedules, etc. We will hopefully have the information by our next meeting.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO START LOOKING FOR YOUR PASS – YOU WILL NEED IT TO RENEW FOR THIS SUMMER.

Grounds Maintenance Director's Report: Jack Brandush Acacia Maintenance completed 4 grounds service requests.

Acacia Maintenance inspected and repaired 4 lamp post lights.

Acacia took delivery of the new 36-inch mower from Russo Power Equipment.

There were two snow removal events in the month of February, with the snow fall on February 16 exceeding 18 inches and a total snow level of over 2 feet on the ground. The problems with that snow removal event not only included the amount of snow that fell that day, but where to put the snow once it was removed. Thanks to Jose and Tim, and our contractor for a great job under difficult circumstances.

Acacia Maintenance also cleared numerous sewer inlets to accommodate the melting snow. This is normally a village job, but they were lax in doing this. Jose and Tim took the initiative and did this to prevent ice buildup in front of driveways. Thanks to them again.

Townhome Maintenance Director's Report: Ben Boyd: Jose had no service requests for the month of Feb.

I called each of the five businesses who received our RFQ for coping. Left voice mail to return my call. Inside Out called back and provided an update on coping test at the clubhouse. The special fasteners are back ordered with hopes to complete clubhouse Test by mid-March. I will be meeting with another company tomorrow to discuss the coping project.

Village Relations Director's Report: Sharon Kalinoski: Unfortunately, the video of the meeting was not yet posted on the IHP website when I tried to view it on the evening of March 7. Much of this report is based on newspaper reporter Kimberly Fornek's articles in the Doings newspaper.

It is safe to assume that there has been another increase in reported Covid cases in IHP since the January village board meeting. I keep hearing about more people who had it. Please continue to wear masks when with people outside of your household, and practice social distancing; this can save lives.

The board discussed goals for the upcoming year. The main goal selected were getting security cameras for the village to be installed at intersections and entrances to neighborhoods and subdivisions. Video will be recorded and available to search if necessary. The secondary goal was to create a park next to the Heritage Center library on Wolf Road. It could include a playground, bench, path, and improved landscaping.

Also, the board discussed an evaluation of the Lyonsville Church property. This is in the early stages of determining if it is feasible for the village to take the property offered, and to decide if it is cost-effective. Preliminary estimates are \$5.5 million dollars needed to

upgrade to current building code standards. Potential uses could be a new village hall/community center, perhaps moving the library to the church.

Reminder: local elections are Tuesday April 6, 2021. The IHP village board race has 6 people running for 3 positions. 2 are incumbents, and 4 are new candidates.

Amy mentioned that the \$5.5 million for the Lyonsville Church property does not include the work the interior would need to make it usable as a village hall or other facility. Amy also mentioned that the village is going to be contracting with a green energy company that residents will have to opt out of if they want to stay with Comed. Please be aware of this going forward.

Architecture and Landscape Director's Report: Diane Voyles: For the month of February there were 2 requests for new projects.

In an effort to demonstrate the numbers of homeowners who receive violation letters, we will begin reporting on the numbers of letters sent out each month. In February, 4 letters were sent for Christmas decorations that were displayed after February 1.

The following are some wording changes suggested for the 2021 Rules & Regulations that will provide clarity and will need to be voted on:

Decorations on Townhomes

Was:

Holiday decorations may be placed on townhomes or surrounding private ground no earlier than 30 days prior to the holiday, except Christmas decorations may be placed the day after Thanksgiving.

Proposed:

Holiday decorations may be placed on townhomes or surroundings no earlier than 30 days prior to the holiday. See the working definition of private ground/property under

Trees and Shrubs.

Trees and Shrubs

Was:

6. To protect the health of all trees, nothing can be attached to any tree whether on private or common property. (I.e., swings, hammocks).

Proposed:

6. To protect the health of all trees, nothing can be attached to any tree on private or common property which supports the weight of a pet, child or adult. (i.e., swing, hammock).

The suggested change to rule 6 is due to some homeowners who decorate trees with ornaments, bird houses or Easter eggs for example. It seems petty to NOT allow this as these would not likely harm a tree.

The following is verbiage that we would like to add to the ALCC "Action taken" form that is returned to the homeowner when their request is Approved or Rejected:

After the work is complete, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to inform the office that the project is ready to be inspected. If no such notification is given after 18 months, the deposit is forfeited. The inspection is to ensure Acacia guidelines were met, not a guarantee of work.

This is due to the fact that we had 5 open requests that were over 3 years old. Two of the homeowners have moved. The remaining 3 will be addressed as soon as possible and the above will only apply as of today or approval of the full board.

The majority of the Board agreed to the proposed changes.

Welcome Baskets: Peggy Rose Kwiatek: No welcome baskets were delivered this past month. I have a few calls in to new residents that have not quite moved in yet. They will call to let me know when they are ready.

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: Information for owners that rent their units: In the past month the office has sent letters to all owners that rent their units asking for updated lease information and a signed Sharing of Rules and Regulations form. This is something that we need updated every year so that renters are able to get their Pool IDs and so the office has information on who is living in the unit as well as contact information for all owners.

Election Committee: Lynda McMillin: Read by Amy Eckert, the election was completed February 23rd during the Annual Meeting of Owners. 138 ballots were received. Amy Eckert, Peggy Rose Kwiatek and Joe Consolo will serve 3-year terms. John T. Polacek will serve a 1-year term. All were sworn in. Board officers and assignments will be determined during Executive Session tonight and posted after the meeting. Thank you to the residents that volunteered to count ballots.

Homeowner Forum: Judy from Cascade asked if roof colors were taken into consideration with the new paint colors? Peggy Rose responded that the roof color was not brought up in the paint color discussion. Judy also thought it would be good to have a form to poll

people if they like the new paint color idea so that we get an accurate response of opinions.

New and Ongoing Business: None

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

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

During Executive Session a complaint from a resident was discussed and the Board agreed on a response.

The Board members then determined the officers and assignments.

President – Amy Eckert

Vice President - Sharon Kalinoski

Treasurer – John Polacek

Secretary – Jack Brandush

Assignments:

ALCC – Diane Voyles (chair), Joe Consolo, Lyn McMillin

Clubhouse – Peggy Rose Kwiatek

Grounds – Jack Brandush, back up John Polacek

Office – Amy Eckert, back up Sharon Kalinoski

Recreation – Amy Eckert (chair), Joe Consolo, Lyn McMillin

Townhome Maintenance - Ben Boyd

Village Relations – Sharon Kalinoski

Welcome Baskets – Peggy Rose Kwiatek

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

Recreation Facilities Options:

Our tennis and basketball courts need to be resurfaced and we are asking for your input for possible changes.

_____ Keep both tennis courts and the basketball court as is

_____ Change to 1 tennis court, 1 pickle ball court and basketball court

_____ Change to 1 tennis court, 1 fenced dog run and basketball court

We are also considering removing the shuffleboard area and installing a bocce ball court.

_____ Yes, I would use a bocce ball court

_____ No, I would not use a bocce ball court

You can email your response to acaciaihp@gmail.com or drop this form in the clubhouse mail slot.

PLEASE RESPOND BY FRIDAY, MARCH 26 TH

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES INDIAN HEAD PARK VILLAGE TRUSTEES

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

We will listen to and engage ALL residents and Homeowners Associations through regular and effective two-way communication.

We will work to keep our village BEAUTIFUL and keep our property values UP!

VOTE
APRIL 6!



CHARLES ECK



**EILEEN MURPHY
DONNERSBERGER**



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Experienced

- Local small business owner
- Past Bank Director
- Master's in Accounting
- Held management positions at several prominent lending institutions
- 30 years managing multi-million dollar budgets
- Served on Boards of-
 - The National Organization for Victim Assistance
 - The Ashbrook Homeowners Association
 - Presidents of The Chicago Athletic Association Board (Second woman President)



Community-minded

- Raised in LaGrange and graduate of LT
- Served as president of a national trade organization
- Volunteer for Talent Assistance Program
- Board president of the Ashbrook Homeowners Association
- Served on the Education Committee of both state and national associations
- Volunteered to establish a respite center for the men and women working to recover remains at Ground Zero after 9/11
- Out of college, joined Volunteers in Service to America (domestic Peace Corps)
- Develops programs to address community needs, like the first Victim Assistance Program in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office



Communicator

- Teaches real estate mortgage lending
- Speaker at John Marshall Law School

Early voting starts
March 22nd:
Hodgkins Village Hall
8990 Lyons Street

**RE-ELECT
BRENDA O'LAUGHLIN & AMY JO WITTENBERG
FOR IHP TRUSTEE
APRIL 6, 2021**

Brenda O'Laughlin and Amy Jo Wittenberg have a strong track record as IHP Trustees:

- Brenda and Amy Jo want to keep our continued focus on improving local government based on the needs and preferences of our residents.
- Our foundations of moving the Village forward can be best described by HONESTY, INTEGRITY and EXCELLENCE to proactively make sure we are heading in the best direction. For 8 years, we have had the privilege of serving our Community and guided the improvement of operations, financial stability and transparency of IHP.



The Village is at a very critical juncture, and it is important to have experienced Trustees like Amy Jo and Brenda to make sure that your ideas and feedback are considered as we make important decisions regarding items that are currently under review:

- We have completed a Planned Unit Development (PUD) framework for the Triangle area and need to proactively move forward with a more vibrant use as our residents have envisioned.
- We have completed a Planned Unit Development (PUD) framework for 70th Place and a commercial developer has purchased the property - we need to insure the best development for that area.
- We have received 10 million dollars in grant money - we need to make sure our infrastructure and accessibility goals can be reached and align with the needs of our constituents.
- The Lyonsville Church congregation and IHP are under discussions regarding their proposal for giving the Church to our Village, - we have recently embarked on a project to evaluate if this is an option we both wish to explore in a more formal way.
- Cook County will be re-constructing Wolf Road as a complete street, and we need to make sure our collective vision is represented in the Plan moving forward.
- We have an empowered and professional Village staff, and need to keep focused on goals and key performance indicators to share measurement and activity data regarding how our resources are being used now and in the future.

Candidate Profile - Amy Jo Wittenberg



I have had the privilege of serving you as an IHP Village Trustee for the last 8 years, and am excited to be running again to continue my service to the community. I live on Timber Ridge Court with my husband John, and our 6 month old dachshund puppy. We have two adult children working in finance and nursing in NYC and Iowa City. I am so grateful to live in Indian Head Park and can't say enough about our wonderful neighborhood - our neighbors have become lifelong friends and our community makes Indian Head Park such a special place!

I grew up in Indian Head Park - lived in Wilshire Green as a child, attended Highlands School, LTHS and went on to graduate from Indiana University with a business degree. After college, I started my volunteer activities in IHP as an Auxiliary Police Officer for 8 years and later when we had school aged children, was elected to serve on the LaGrange Highlands District 106 Board of Education for 9 years. I have been a dedicated volunteer and am truly committed to serve in elected unpaid positions in public service.

Over eight years ago, at the Acacia Clubhouse candidate night, I met many of you in person as we talked about our specific and collective ideas for the betterment of this community. The dialogue and feedback given were inspiring for me as we discussed:

- The lack of transparency and communication in our Village.
- No formal short or long term infrastructure plan
- Our local government wasn't very closely connected or aligned with its residents.

Looking back over the last 8 years, we've made some great strides in IHP:

- We are financially stable and we've established annual goal setting, capital and infrastructure plans.
- We have increased transparency and communication with a new website and social media links, coupled with our Smoke Signals newsletter, live/recorded meetings on Channel 6 Comcast & Facebook Live
- Increased our bond rating to AA+ - which is rare for a non-home rule community.
- Decreased overall payroll and legal expenses and increased our professional management with a full-time Village Administrator and Police Chief.

- Established more Community events with Movies in the Park, enhanced Easter Egg Hunt with petting zoo and pony rides, and our newest Holiday Festival with Santa and his live reindeer.

As a community, we can't just look at what we've done, but what we will do for our future. I will always focus on new goals, aspirations, and evaluating ways to make things better in our Village. We are at a very important juncture - many of the items we discussed that evening at the Clubhouse have been solved, but we have other opportunities in the Village that need continued focus. I strive for the chance to represent you for four more years - your ideas, opinions, and feelings about the future of Indian Head Park. ;

The bottom line - we have much work to be done! I ask for your support and your vote for me as your Trustee, to keep pushing for what you feel you want Indian Head Park to be in future.

Please vote early starting March 10th, or April 6, 2021 - Thank You for your support.

Candidate Profile -Brenda O'Laughlin



Serving the community over the past 8 years has truly been a privilege. I have been a resident of IHP for the past 23 years. Married to John and a mother of 4 children. Bachelor Degree and Paralegal Certificate from Roosevelt University. Work for McDonald's Corporation for the past 14 years managing a team of 7 in the Lease Accounting Department. Co-Founder of the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Foundation.

Eight years ago at the Acacia Clubhouse for the League of Women's Voters debate was a changing moment for the Village. I remember the room was packed that night and how the community was looking for change; We discussed:

- Not accepting a salary and use those funds to put to good use within the village
- Open transparency missing within the community and local government
- The local government didn't have plans for Infrastructure -long term or short term

The last 8 years was a work in progress and we have come a long way. I am proud with the accomplishments over the last 8 years. Below are just a few:

- As a member of the Finance Committee for the past 8 years, I am proud to say that the Village now has 3-4 months cash reserves
- Village went from AA- to AA+ in bond rating and for four straight years, the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award.
- Bring improvement to the Village and the Police Officers with better equipment by switching the Dispatch Center and saved the Village over \$144K per year
- Capital plan for the Village Infrastructure for water, sewers, roads

These are just a few accomplishments over the past 8 years, but there is so much more to do. I want to continue making a difference for the community by acting in the best interests of the residents of Indian Head Park. I want the residents to trust that I will continue to listen to their concerns, be fiscally responsible and make wise decisions.

I am asking for your support and your vote as your Trustee to continue to make a difference for you and the Village.

Please vote early starting March 10th, or April 6, 2021 - Thank You for your support.

Craig Fisher

for **Trustee**
Indian Head Park



My family & I have lived in Indian Head Park for nearly 30 years. I have had a successful career in accounting, finance, and operations, and I have been involved in a myriad of community and civic organizations. I would like to bring this experience and these skills to our village council.

My qualifications:

In my professional career, I have been an Assistant Controller for an Indiana bank and a Senior Operations Manager for both the Bank of Montreal (BMO) and for IBM.

In our community, I have been:

- Treasurer of the Timber Trails Swim Club,
- Vice-chair of the IHP Homeowners Association,
- Treasurer of the Theatre of the Highlands,
- Chairman of the Tower Chorale, a 90 voice adult 501(c)3 choir,
- and, once a month for over a dozen years now, I've been chief cook and bottle washer for PADS, the moveable homeless shelter.

I was active in the founding of the IHP Neighborhood Watch program and presently manage the IHP Neighborhood Watch email list.

As Trustee, I will . . .

- . . . continue efforts to improve IHP finances,
- . . . bolster/increase the IHP tax base by bringing in additional businesses and, when possible, by annexing nearby locales into our village,
- . . . work to reduce expenses with a particular focus on collaborating with other governmental bodies – for example, job sharing or even mergers.
- . . . work to ensure that proposed sidewalks (Acacia, Joliet Road) and road improvement projects (Wolf Road, the Toll Road) do not compromise the natural charm of IHP.



As Trustee, I will ask that the village poll/survey the residents affected by the Acacia sidewalk. If a strong majority of the residents are against the sidewalk, then the Trustees should reconsider.

I am also concerned that the widening of Wolf Road, with sidewalks on both sides, would require the destruction of many trees and countless bushes to the detriment of nearby residents.



My name is Greg Scovitch and I'm a candidate for Indian Head Park Village Trustee.

Six years ago, my wife and I chose Indian Head Park to raise our family for all the terrific things it has to offer. We've built friendships with neighbors who have been here for decades and believe it says so much that people who once grew up here are returning to our neighborhood to raise their families. We have access to wonderful public and private schools, our residential neighborhoods are beautifully developed, and we enjoy access to so many natural resources. There is something for everyone.

For the past four years, I've been fortunate to serve on our Planning and Zoning Commission. It has been a fulfilling and worthwhile experience. I've enjoyed working with our residents and trustees while being able to draw from my own professional experience in development and engineering. As trustee, I look forward to utilizing this experience to keep Indian Head Park a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

I hope that I can count on your vote on April 6th.

Sincerely,
Greg Scovitch

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.

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Interior
Wood
Grain
Dark
Oak



Interior
Wood
Grain
Light
Oak



Exterior Bronze



Other color combinations
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Actual Acacia Project
Photos

