

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 3rd, 2023

Present: Jamis Bruening, Sally Cashin, Amy Forecki, Katie Forecki, Becky Rintelmann, Anne Spalholz, Nicci Sternitzky
Guest: Tom Castile

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:33 pm.
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes.
3. Treasurer report: totals reported to group. So far in 2023—\$2030.24 in expenses and \$1500.72 in revenue.
4. Bird City WI: next meeting for Birders of the Grove is May 8th at 0900 in the Park View Room. With money earned from Birdathon, will look into partnering with the library to see if we could purchase binoculars and bird guides for check out. Bird City WI is transitioning to Bird City Network which will unite all programs in the US, Mexico, and Canada.
5. Bee City USA: Nearly every event we sponsor and hold is in support of this designation. Will be promoting mosquito dunks again this year.
6. Book Sale: sold another 2 books at E&A Day event—only 3 books left to sell. One Nature's Best Hope and 2 Bringing Nature Home.
7. Book Club: Will do just 4 book clubs next season—Sept, Nov, Jan, and March. Discussed possible book selections—Nature's Best Hope, The Devil's Element, The Overstory, and The Healing Earth were discussed as possibilities. Will finalize over next month.
8. Invasive Species Task Force: starts on May 7th at 11am. Have 39 people signed up to receive emails. Discussed membership for our group in SWISC (SE WI Invasive Species Consortium)—will check with village on permission to join.
9. Early/Woodland plant sale: Ordering finished at 35 flats. Planning for 5/5 delivery—trial year with a good idea purposed by James to create a mixed flat for purchase.
10. June 3rd plant sale: order placed includes 7 herbs, 57 perennials, 5 grasses for a total of 104 flats (1474 plants total), 3 varieties of milkweed plugs purchased that will be free with \$10 purchase. Will be part of Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article on upcoming native plant sales. May ad in EGNI again this year. Will work on assignment sheet to assure all needed tasks completed. Anne and James agreed to help pick up tables. Becky agreed to help set up. James will be in charge of money.
11. Shrub sale: packaging party by Amy and James successful with all shrubs picked up. Final profit was \$766.99.
12. Lecture series: 2023-24 lecture series complete and ready. Need to consider a back-up for possible cancellation. Idea for Phil Chard lecture with concurrent children's program proposed.
13. National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification: currently have 27/30 points for our 2023 re-certification. Working to mentor both Brookfield, Wauwatosa, and hopefully New Berlin.
14. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: our village president took the pledge on 3/8/23 committing to 24 of the 29 actions. If successful, Elm Grove will become only the 9th

municipality in the country to earn the Monarch Champion designation. Google document created to keep track of progress on actions. Lots of discussion about actions. Will be working with Mother's Day Out preschool on Watertown Plank to put in a monarch bed and initiate a curriculum around monarchs. Working on light pollution education will help meet criteria for this and Bird City WI. Natalie Schneider helping with PPMS to initiate monarch garden and curriculum. Anne will help with wording regarding light ordinance.

15. Earth and Arbor Day celebration: turnout was impressive despite the weather. Spent time discussing and reviewing options for next year. All thank you cards signed. Becky announced the basket raffle winner—Jon Socha.
16. Fall tree sale: discussed staying with potted trees for tree sale. James agreed to help with tree selection.
17. No Mow May: voted to purchase 50 more signs (total of ~143); focus on “The More You Know, The Less You Mow” portion of the concept. Google form sign up complete https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSez0fw9imSmS_hVStEuv-N3jtSsS-08Zojyuyqy98e8lAyk5A/viewform. Have thus far only distributed 52 signs—well behind last year at this time. However, have engaged many new people to the process. James agreed to help deliver signs.
18. Publicity: Anne writing article for June, have newsletter in June coming out
19. Next meeting: scheduled for June 7th at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
20. Adjournment: 7:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
Chairperson