

VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE
ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 4th, 2023

Present: Deb Baesemann, Katie Forecki, James Lange, Nicci Sternitzky
Guests: Debbie VanderHeiden

1. Call meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 6:40 pm.
2. Minutes: Last meeting minutes with no changes.
3. Treasurer report: totals reported to group—a total of \$13,823.11 in and \$12,698.42 out so far year to date.
4. Bird City WI: next meeting for Birders of the Grove is October 23rd at 0900 in the Park View Room.
5. Bee City USA: Nearly every event we sponsor is in support of this designation. Application renewal due 2/28/24.
6. Book Club: Three book clubs remaining this season— Nov 15th - Michael Pollan's The Botany of Desire, Jan 24th - Josh Tickell's Kiss the Ground, and March 13th - Richard Louv's Last Child in the Woods. Will still be wine and cheese events. RSVP required.
7. Invasive Species Task Force: Have 51 people signed up to receive weekly emails. Beautification Committee has official membership in SEWISC. Spent a significant amount of time discussing our desires to rid the village of more invasive species—particularly buckthorn this time of year. Ordered a 2nd Pullerbear along with Buckthorn Buster bottles from NAISMA. Groups decided to order additional 2 more Pullerbears (for a total of 4 of them) in hopes our "rental" program takes off. Will work to promote next year during each of the brush pick-up times within neighborhoods. Can also use Pullerbears for the invasive siberian elms around the pond and at Veteran's Park. Our grant proposal to the Junior Guild for \$500 was approved—Danielle Bell will provide a comprehensive management plan for the village for Veteran's Park and the invasive species present there. Discussed participation in the SEWISC garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket Pull-a-thon in the spring—how to get everyone involved.
8. Lecture series: One change to this year's line-up is that the Feb 20th lecture was moved to Feb 12th. Otherwise have speakers for October, November, Jan, Feb, and March.
9. National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification: Still working on our "Tag, You're It" challenge and mentorship program for other communities. Wauwatosa recently registered. Working to mentor Brookfield, Pewaukee, St. Francis, Shorewood and Whitefish Bay. Looking for other community contacts that we can help champion the cause within their community.
10. Mayors' Monarch Pledge: Will submit the 17 actions we have accomplished so far to be in the Leaders Circle for 2023, and then continue working throughout the winter and into next year on completion of our goal to become the 9th Monarch Champion Community in the nation by completing all 24 actions in 2024.
11. Monarch Milkweed Map: Have officially reached 211 dots on the map! Brainstormed ways to increase with milkweed giveaways and sales. Still collecting beer 4 and 6 packs for the distribution of plants at the Beer Garden next summer.
12. Fall tree sale: sold 67 trees total. Distribution this Saturday at the recycle center from 8:30 to 10:30. Discussed the village reports that since 2009, 4,364 trees have been cut down and only 676 have been planted (15.5% replacement rate) due to ash and elm removal. James purchased 25 tree bark protector guards to sell at tree pick-up.
13. Library window: scheduled to do Leave the Leaves window from Oct 11-23.
14. Next meeting: scheduled for November 1st at 6:30pm in the Park View Room
15. Adjournment: 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nicci Sternitzky
chairperson