

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND
Volunteer Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 6, 2021 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Village Carolyn Clow called the regular meeting of the McFarland Volunteer Committee to order at 6:00 pm.

Members present: TJ Jerke, Ken Brost, Carolyn Clow

Members not present: Jennifer Tryzna

Staff Present: Stephanie Miller, Katie Gletty-Syoen

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Approval of Minutes from the April 1, 2021 Volunteer Committee Meeting.

a. Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2021 Volunteer Committee Meeting.

Approval of Minutes of the April 1, 2021 Volunteer Committee Meeting. Clow motioned for approval, Jerke seconded. Passed 2-0, Clow abstained.

4. BUSINESS.

a. Review McFarland Community Service Day event on Saturday, April 24, 2021.

Gletty-Syoen reported on the McFarland Community Service Day event on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Over 130 individuals participated and 25 households came to pick up supplies at the Municipal Center. Stephanie Brassington, her grandson, and Brad Czebotar were on hand to help with the supply pick-up. TJ Jerke shared that he participated as a volunteer at Autumn Grove Park to assist. He helped pick up leaves, brush, and trash. He mentioned that there were a number of sand toys in the sandbox area and was wondering if there was the potential to create storage in/nearby sand boxes to keep the toys in better shape. Clow explained that the Public Works Department picks up the toys in the fall and throws them away as they often degrade over the course of the summer. Gletty-Syoen explained that the McFarland Sparks 4-H Club does a drive for sand toy donations in the spring time and distributes them to area parks. Gletty-Syoen agreed to reach out to Public Works to ask if they would like to pursue a strategy for storage of toys. Clow reported that she volunteered at Jaegar Park along the shoreline. A number of construction materials were pulled out of the lake along the shoreline. Gletty-Syoen displayed the handouts that were distributed to volunteers promoting other opportunities for Adopt a Playground, Woodland Restoration, and the Lake Waubesa Conservation Association (LWCA) Lake Waubesa Clean Up event. Ken Brost inquired if volunteers voiced disappointment about the lack of refreshments, but no feedback was received. Gletty-Syoen explained that a number of non-perishable food donations and book donations were received for the Food Pantry and McFarland Optimist Book Drive, respectively. Jerke asked if there might be a way for the public to have immediate feedback during their volunteer shift. We discussed the hashtag wherein people can indicate on a social media post if they would like to showcase their volunteerism. Gletty-Syoen will be sending out a feedback form via email to all participants. Clow suggested that we include a phone number on flyers so volunteers can have a forum to

ask questions or share concerns and those can then be funneled to the appropriate department. Jerke referenced that the Sustainability Committee had distributed a survey with a question about potentially adding a second "Community Service Day" in the fall and wanted to know if that was an ongoing topic of discussion. Gletty-Syoen discussed moving forward with a potential companion fall event, whether it be Coastal Clean Up Day or Don't Leaf the Lakes or something similar that has more of a natural resources focus. Clow explained that she would like to focus on streamlining things so that there is better communication between committees and departments.

b. Discuss next steps for Volunteer Committee structure with Carolyn Clow, Village Board President.

Clow opened discussion about the Volunteer Committee being disbanded as a way to streamline the committee structure, and refunneling staff time and energy into the programs that have been developed and continue to be developed. Brost and Jerke both emphasized that if there is no committee in place, they would want the role of Volunteer Coordinator to continue. Jerke would like to ensure that members of the broader community have outlets to become involved and engaged in the Village. Clow discussed that enhancing the Village's communication strategies to improve outreach to the community will be prioritized and discussed how that action can extend from other committees, such as the Communications and Technology Committee. Clow discussed that Village staff is working on a new application for committee appointments. She also discussed capacity building for non-profit organizations within the community to enhance the infrastructure and collaboration with McFarland Village government. Brost emphasized that he believes the key to the Volunteer Program is the coordinator, not the committee.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Discuss future meeting date.

Brost and Jerke both support disbanding the committee.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion to adjourn made by Ken Brost. Seconded by TJ Jerke.