

Acacia Times

Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association

February 2015

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General Announcements

Official Notice of Acacia Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors consists of volunteers from the Acacia community. Without a resident homeowner Board to manage our affairs, management costs would rise considerably. Please read the Official Notice in the Newsletter.

Absentee ballot form is in this Newsletter and also on the Acacia Website. You can vote at the office starting February 1. If you will be out of town during the month of February, fill out the absentee ballot form with your out of town address and return the office.

Acacia office will be open on Saturday, February 14th from 10am to 2pm and on Sunday, February 22nd from 10am to 2pm.

Snow Plowing: Do not put garbage bags on the driveway on Tuesday if snow plowing is to be done. They are in the way of the snow plows. Put garbage bags on the grass. We do not plow until there is 3 or more inches of snow. If the Village plows snow into the end of your driveway blocking from getting out, call the Village 246-3080.

Please be considerate of our workers and contractors during snow removal. Our truck and staff are out there for safety purposes. If the road is blocked it is less than a mile detour to go around the other way on Cascade Drive. Also, if you are stuck behind our truck and/or the Bob Cats the wait is usually less than 10 minutes. Again there is no place for foul and abusive language or belligerent or threatening actions when our crew and contractors are working to clean up snow. I have asked Jose and John to report all interactions with motorists to me or another member of the Board of Directors for follow-up.

Note: The monthly assessment is now \$205 as of January 1st.

Decorating Meeting for the Clubhouse will be on February 26 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone can attend.

WEBSITE: Acacia now has a Website. You can access this at acaciaihp.com or acacia-ihp.com or acacia-ihp.org or acaciaihp.org. We encourage everyone to start using the Website for info about the Association as well as forms, minutes, newsletters, snow plowing timing and schedule.

The next Board of Directors Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at the Acacia Clubhouse.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - ACACIA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The following information has been prepared to assist you in electing a Board of Directors for the Acacia Association. We hope we have anticipated all of your questions.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 8:00 P.M.

LOCATION: The Acacia Association Clubhouse, 111 Cascade Drive, Indian Head Park

PURPOSE: To elect three (3) directors for three-year terms. Directors to be elected, not officers. Officers are elected by the Board from among its members.

Candidates should submit a brief written resume to the Nominating Committee at the Acacia Office before January 20, 2015. These resumes will be published in the January issue of the Acacia Times Newsletter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman – Jack Brandush
Members – Sharon Kyzivat and Karen Sendra

ABSENTEE VOTING: If you will be **OUT OF TOWN** for the month of February and unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may request and submit an Absentee Ballot form – available from the Acacia Office, on the Acacia Website or in the Newsletter, beginning February 1, 2015. Bring in your request or mail to the office. Your ballot will be mailed to your **OUT OF TOWN** address after February 1, 2015.

If you will be in town but unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote by absentee ballot beginning February 1, 2015 at the Association office. You must sign the register and vote on the premises. Your ballot must be in a sealed envelope and placed in the locked ballot box. Such ballots will be counted with all the others after 8:00 pm on February 24, 2015.

Association office hours are:

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.*

***closed Noon to 1 P.M.**

Acacia Association

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2015

REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

This request applies **ONLY** if you will be **OUT OF TOWN** during the month of February and unable to attend the 2015 Acacia Association annual meeting and wish to vote for directors by absentee ballot.

Please mail my ballot with instructions to the **OUT OF TOWN** address below:

NAME _____

OUT OF TOWN
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Signature _____

Acacia address _____

Date _____

This request form must be returned to the office immediately. Your ballot will be mailed at that time to your **OUT OF TOWN** address **ONLY**. Your ballot must be returned before February 23, 2015 to be counted.

Peggy Rose Kwiatek

My name is Peggy Rose Kwiatek and I have been living in Acacia for almost two years now. I truly love it here, and want to get involved and do my part to keep Acacia a wonderful place to live by running for the Board of Directors of the Acacia Association.

I have owned my own business, Peggy Rose Academy of Dance and Acrobatics, in Berwyn for the past 39 years. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Berwyn Development Corporation for the past 6 years. I have been a member of the Berwyn Kiwanis Club for the past 27 years, serving as President in 1992-93, and am now serving on the Kiwanis 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 6 years and been a resident for over 15 years. Currently I'm serving as the Vice President, Director of Townhome Maintenance and back up person for the Clubhouse Director. In the past I had the responsibility of working on the Architecture & Landscape Control Committee (ALCC) for a few years.

While serving on the Acacia Board I've learned a great deal about how the association runs and what it takes to keep Acacia a great place to live. I've also gotten involved in our bigger community, Indian Head Park, attending the Village meetings and being part of the neighborhood watch program. This has allowed me to stay apprised of changes happening in the community and sharing them with the Acacia residents.

As a Board, all members work well together and we have been able to implement changes and improvements that we hope benefit all our residents. Some of these improvements include driveway replacement and seal coating more often, changes in the paint cycle due to use of improved materials, updating the landscaping and the changes that are occurring now in the 4 Season Room. These changes have been made with minimal increase in our monthly assessments and lots of work on the part of the Board of Directors.

I would like to continue to be able to work with the Board and would ask that you consider electing me for another term.

Remember this is your association and your input is always welcome – please remember to vote in our annual election.

2015 Election Resume

John T Polacek (Incumbent)

My wife, Carole, and I have lived in Acacia for the last 6 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 5th year as a member of the Board of Directors. The last 3 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."

During the last several years we have seen improvements in the grounds and facilities without an increase in monthly assessments for 3 years. This was accomplished in part by moving to a 5 year painting cycle, changing the phone system and going to a payment book for the assessment. We have seen increases in costs from salaries, snow removal, equipment maintenance and energy so this year we had to raise the assessment \$6.00 per month. It is important to be careful with the Acacia funds.

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 well being, 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.

The Acacia Association Board of Director's Meeting

February 10, 2015

The Board of Director's Meeting of February 10, 2015 was called to order by Pres. O'Connor at 7:00 p.m.

Dirs. in attendance were: Pres. O'Connor, V.P. Eckert, Treas. Polacek, Sec'y Brandush, King, Murray, Shepley and Creed.

Dirs. absent were: Bersin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion (Polacek, Eckert) to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2015 Board of Director's Meeting. Motion passed. (8/0/1).

Treasurer's Report: John Polacek reported that on the Treasurer's Report page we see that the assessment collection was \$80,050 which is \$715 over the base with other sources giving a total income of \$81,089. Expenses were \$38,271 leaving The Net Ordinary Income of \$42,818. This is normal for this time of the year.

The Past Due Accounts showed a reduction of 8 accounts but some members are continuing to miss their monthly assessment. The member is then fined and there is time used by staff. This costs all of us. John said what I do: I make sure that there is enough money in our account to cover my bills and pay 5 bills by ACH. This way I never miss these bills. To do the ACH, the Association does not need any more information than is already on your check. Acacia never charges more than the assessment. This is the least costly way for the Association to collect the assessment. If you owe more than the assessment, you are sent a bill. Please join the other 179 members who use ACH.

A review of the last year's collections and expenses will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Please remember that the monthly assessment has increased to \$205 beginning in January 2015.

Motion (Polacek, Eckert) to approve the Treasurer's Report as prepared by staff.
Motion passed. (8/0/1).

Jack Brandush said he has looked at Santana natural gas which is for the Clubhouse. He thinks that it is not worth going through Santana and we should go back to Nicor. Motion (Brandush, O'connor) that Acacia goes back to Nicor to replace Santana Energy as the natural gas provider. Motion passed. (8/0/1).

Clubhouse Director's Report: Loretta Murray said that she did go back to Chicago Metro Fire regarding the sprinkler situation. There was not a change in their law. What was required was in the combustible area between the roof and the ceiling there was more than 6 inches and the law requires that sprinklers be put in that space. This was missed by the Village and Chicago Metro. Chicago Metro has come back with a proposal of \$1,151. We signed that and asked them to begin the work. They will be here Thursday to put the sprinklers in.

Loretta will have a Clubhouse Decoration Meeting on Thursday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested can attend.

Recreation Facilities Director's Report: Jack Brandush said the pool cover is still ok with 19 inches of snow. We do have a tentative date for Family Fun Day for Sunday, July 26.

Grounds Maintenance Director's Report: Bill King said we had our 5th heaviest snow storm ever. We were going to start plowing at 6pm on Sunday when they were predicting 8 to 10 inches of snow. By Sunday we adjusted to start at 11am. We couldn't get the snow plow guys until noon. It took 24 hours to get around the grounds and a little over 4 hours for the second plowing. It had stopped snowing so we didn't have to go back to some of the ones already cleared. We have 2 machines that are dedicated to be here. We have to pay a minimum of 8 hours for each man that is here. It usually takes 20 hours to do the grounds with the 2 plows. Ten hours for each plow. If we bring in 3 machines we would have to pay for 24 hours. It would cost us \$600 more. If we know we are going to get this much snow we can get a third machine. Jack said we were prepared for the 8 to

10 inches and we ended up with 19 inches. Bill said the last time we had a big snow it took 34 hours to get around the grounds.

Frank read a letter from Greg Guess, 15 Elmwood. Frank wanted to mention that none of this is the blame of Schwartz. They have done what we ask them to.

Amy said that the snow plow plan was changed to follow what the Village plows. The plan is that Cascade gets plowed first. Cascade would always be first. Bill said we are trying this as an experiment because the Village said they are plowing Cascade first. The Village had put about 24 inches on snow in front of the driveways. The plan that we worked out with the Village didn't work. It defeats the purpose. Amy suggested going back to the other plan and our trucks come by and clear the end of the driveways if needed. Jose said he cleared the cul-de-sacs. He said the Village was on Cascade 3 or 4 times but only did the cul-de-sacs once.

John Shepley said that with 19 inches of snow you have to have a little give and take as a resident. When you have a snow storm like that you have to deal with it. Frank said it's tough but he figured out how to get out.

Frank said we decided to get a third machine here. We have also decided to go back to the original snow plow routine. You still have to fight the battle with the Village to not plow the driveways in after they've been plowed. Also please check the Acacia Website for snow plowing schedule. It is updated regularly.

Bill then said he met with the arborist regarding trees. There are 15 trees left that have to go. There are some we think belong to Ashbrook. The bid is to remove the 15 trees for \$7,500. He will start tomorrow morning. Motion (King, O'Connor) to have A&B Tree Service to remove 15 Ash trees in various locations to be completed by March 15th at a price of \$7,500. Motion passed. (8/0/1).

Bill and the arborist walked around the grounds and he is of the opinion that trees should be trimmed now. He will do all the trimming. All trees can be done for \$18,000. We would then be on a 5 year cycle meaning that we would skip next year. In the long run we will be cutting our expenses after a big hit the first time around. There won't be as much work to do after this. A&B Tree contracts for 400 trees to come down in Oak Park and he also has contracts with 3 golf courses and

all the trees in Western Springs. Motion (King, O'Connor) to hire A&B Tree Service to trim the entire property to be done by March 15th weather permitting for a total of \$18,000. Motion passed. (7/0/1). One no vote.

John Shepley said suddenly we are spending \$18,000 that could help us down the line. John said Jose had mentioned that our guys have done some of the work. He thinks that spending \$18,000 is too sudden and maybe consulting with another arborist. Maybe this is too quick in the middle of February. His feeling is to say no.

Townhome Maintenance Director's Report: Amy Eckert said that she had nothing to report for this month.

Village Relations Director's Report: Bob Bersin was absent.

Architectural & Landscape Director's Report: John Shepley said that there are a couple of requests that need to be finished. He has a deck to look at which is covered with snow. Jack said that some people have finished their projects but we cannot inspect with 19 inches of snow on the grounds. John said there is one who project is not complete. He needs to come and talk with John and Jose to get some wood to finish the trim.

There was a discussion about storage PODS. John thought that maybe the owner should call and let us know how long it's going to be there. Amy said maybe that is something that should have prior approval.

Jack then said with the help of John and Jose they have reviewed the roof guidelines and specifications. The last time it was revised was in 2006. With the expertise of Fred Creed and John and Jose, John Shepley and Jack reviewed this and we do have changes. We should have these changes published in the next month. The homeowner and the roofer should sign the request. The roofer has to have a license number on his proposal. It should also be on his truck.

Jack thanked Fred for his work he has done for the A&L Committee and his past time on the Board.

Jack said that we do have three candidates for the Annual Election. Absentee voting has started. We do have absentee voting scheduled for Saturday, February

14th and Sunday, February 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm. Even though this is for 3 positions we still need a quorum. People can vote during office hours.

Homeowners Forum: Liz Gohdes, 7 Buttonwood, Said there is an ASH trees next door to her. Is it on the list to be taken down. Bill said if it's an Ash tree, it is on the list.

Liz said some of the people here treat John and Jose terribly. It is not fair for our guys to be treated like that.

Amy Foley, 16 Stonehearth, said there is a port-a-potty and a makeshift dumpster on the driveway. It is for trash from the contractor. Port-a-potty is gone now. All the plumbing had been turned off during some of the construction.

Liz talked about a Senior Services service in LaGrange. They will drive senior citizens for their doctor appointments, grocery store, beauty shop, etc. Please see their ad in this Newsletter.

Motion (O'Connor, Eckert) to adjourn the Board of Director's Meeting to Executive Session. Motion passed. (8/0/1).

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:03. During the Executive Session the Board discussed and voted on making a change to the compensation for our full time employees.

There being no other new business, motion (Eckert, Murray) to close the open meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. Motion passed. (8/0/1).

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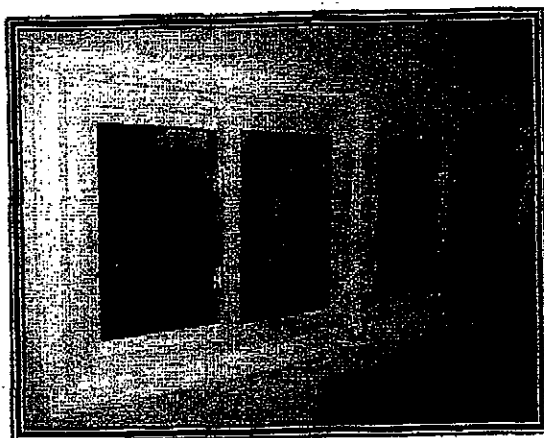
Two next door neighbors on Nacona Lane are looking for a Junior High or High School Student to shovel our walks to our front doors after a snow fall. If interested please call 708-784-1576.

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Oak



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Oak

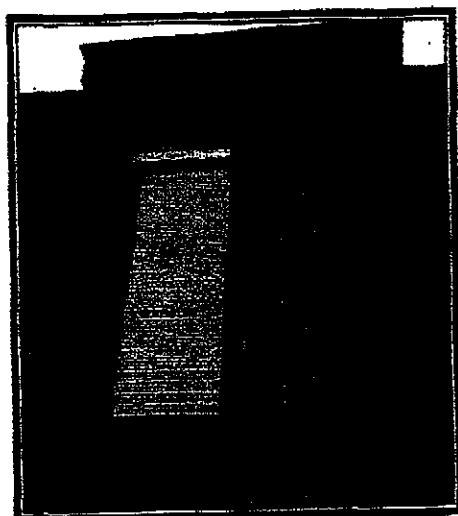


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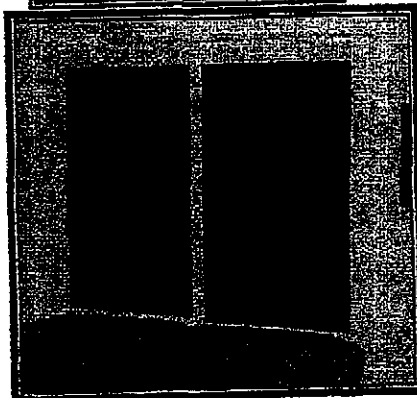


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Exterior Cocoa



Actual Acacia Project
Photos



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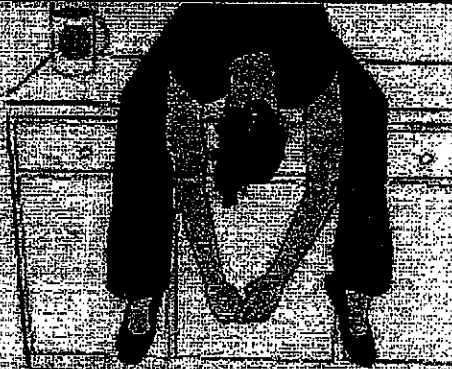


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