



1200 WILMETTE AVENUE  
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

## **MEETING AGENDA**

### **Sesquicentennial Planning Committee**

July 21, 2021  
3:00 p.m.  
Training Room

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
- III. Reports of Working Groups**
  - a. Big Event Working Group
  - b. Public Art Working Group
  - c. Public Improvement Working Group
    - i. West Village Entrance Enhancement Project
    - ii. Plaza 150 Project
  - d. Promotions Working Group
  - e. History Working Group
- IV. Discussion of Draft Calendar of Events**
- V. Discussion of Next Meeting Date**
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Adjournment**

**NOTE: The Chairman reserves the right to alter the order of the published agenda if he deems a change necessary.**

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1200 Wilmette Avenue  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091-0040

**MEETING MINUTES**

**SESQUICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021**

**4:00 P.M.**

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**Members Present:**

Co-Chair John Jacoby  
Co-Chair Nancy Canafax  
Co-Chair Chris Canning  
Co-Chair Vern Squires  
Beth Drucker  
Kathy Hussey-Arntson  
Lisa McDonald  
George Pearce  
Alan Swanson  
Lindsay Thomas  
Julie Yusim  
Anne Kelly  
Alice Chow  
Julie Wolf  
Heather Oliver

**Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Present:**

Alex Arteaga, Management Analyst

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**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Co-Chair Jacoby called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Mr. Arteaga called roll. Committee members Canafax, Canning, Squires, Drucker, Hussey-Arntson, McDonald, Pearce, Swanson, Thomas, Yusim, Kelly, Chow, Jacoby, Wolf, and

Oliver were present.

## **II. Approval of May 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Swanson moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Squires seconded the motion. All committee members present voted unanimously to approve the May 19, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion passed.

## **III. Discussion of Logo**

Committee member Kelly discussed some of the modifications that have been made to the celebration logo at the request of Committee members, Mr. Arteaga displayed the final logo that was selected by the working group, Co-Chair Jacoby noted that the celebration now has an official logo.

## **IV. Reports from Working Groups**

Co-Chair Canning discussed the planning of the big events working group, noting that they are aiming to host two or three large scale events as part of the celebration. Co-Chair Canning mentioned that one of these events could look like the Beach Bash that happened a couple years ago, noting that the Beach Bash cost about \$25,000 when all was said and done. From initial research, an event that would include a carnival, festival rides, and entertainment could vary in price anywhere from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Co-Chair Jacoby mentioned that after researching other communities 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations, the working group believes it would be in the Committee's best interest to brand smaller annual events, hosted by various organizations, under the sesquicentennial celebration and supported by the Committee, thus being able to build out the celebration calendar at a lower cost. Mr. Canning discussed how the timeline of the celebration has been impacted by having to plan around COVID and consider necessary safety precautions. Next, Mr. Canning gave an overview of a possible celebration calendar ranging from September 2021 to September 2022. Mr. Canning suggested that President Plunkett could make an introductory announcement of the celebration at the 2021 Wilmette Beach Bash which is being held in September. Proposed events included a holiday lighting event, new resident meet-up, film festival, golf outing, block party recognitions, etc. Co-Chair Canning discussed the need to contact various organizations to receive their calendars for 2021 and 2022, so the Committee can start to build out a calendar that is inclusive of all major community events. Last, Co-Chair Canning suggested a final main event, perhaps on September 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, that would include recognition and celebration of all the events that were branded as part of the sesquicentennial celebration. The Big Events working group figured that calendar of smaller events and celebrations could culminate with the large 150<sup>th</sup> celebration in September 2022.

Committee member Pearce inquired about funding for the 2021 Beach Bash event, wondering if the Committee would need to help with funding, Committee member Oliver responded that no, the SPC does not need to worry about any funding for the 2021 Beach Bash. Committee member Kelly asked a question regarding the calendar, if the celebration would end in December 2022 or September 2022, Mr. Canning responded the celebration

would end with the large event in September 2022. Mr. Canning added that these events can serve as an opportunity to rebuild the community after residents spent the last year and a half in isolation due to COVID. Committee Member Yusim asked for clarification regarding how events would be part of the celebration, Mr. Canning responded that the events would be held as they were prior, just advertised under the sesquicentennial umbrella. Last, Co-Chair Canning mentioned that in discussions with Glencoe, Glencoe leaders noted they wish they had included a celebration “gift” to the public, so considering some sort of public gift as part of this celebration would be ideal.

Committee member Pearce provided updates regarding public improvement projects planning as part of the celebration, including information on a possible tree planting program and a tree designation program for “landmark” trees. Mr. Pearce added that he’s been in contact with various Village staff members and will work with Finance Director Melina Molloy to plan for financial needs regarding any public improvement projects. Next, Mr. Pearce discussed the Baker Alley reconstruction project, noting that the alley will be considered as part of the Village’s CIP at meetings in October and that Business Development Coordinator Lucas Sivertsen has been meeting with business owners to see how the improved alley could better support their business. Mr. Pearce also suggested that brick pavers could be sold to residents, businesses, etc. as part of the fundraising mechanism for celebration events. Committee member Swanson suggested referring to Baker Alley as Plaza 150, thus providing it a name that can always be traced back to the sesquicentennial celebration.

Next, Committee member Wolf discussed the public art working group, she briefed the Committee on possible art contests and partnerships with other community organizations, like the Wilmette Library. Ms. Wolf added that the art working group thinks that incorporating a natural/environmental element to art programming would be smart, since Wilmette is blessed with natural beauty. Committee member Wolf then discussed the possibility of funding a mural as part of the celebration, and that the arts working group members will continue to research and contact outside parties, as necessary. Committee member Kelly added that she has a contact who is involved with the North Shore Art League and can pass on the information in case it may be of help. Committee member Drucker added that the muralist that Julie has been in contact with, Thomas Melvin, has a website where Committee members can see some examples of his previous work. Committee member McDonald added that the group Art Encounter is responsible for many murals that can be found in Evanston, she then asked if street lights around the Central Business District in Wilmette could hold banners that may be able to display art from a celebration contest, several Committee members added that the light posts are able to hoist and hang banners, but would need to be coordinated with Public Works since some poles are used for the Village’s hanging baskets and holiday decorations. Committee member Yusim added that after the downtown streetscape project, she believes banners can now be displayed at places there were unable to before.

Next, Committee member Hussey-Arntson updated the Committee on progress from the history working group, noting that they would include annual events, for example, the Village scavenger hunt as part of the sesquicentennial celebration. Ms. Hussey-Arntson then discussed a possible time capsule project, noting that the historical museum could

contact various organizations around the community to see if they had any items to include. Another idea proposed by the history working group was a walking or trolley tour that would provide history on the oldest homes found within the Village, and a possible lecture series that pertains to various topics relating to the Village. Next, the annual vintage car show was discussed, Ms. Hussey-Arntson added that this car show could be hosted under the umbrella of the celebration. Last, the idea of historical markers was discussed, something to designate historical locations around the Village, Committee member Squires added that a historical audio tour could be created and utilized alongside historical markers. Mr. Squires noted that the working group has a list of proposed celebration ideas, Co-chair Jacoby asked Mr. Arteaga to email the celebration ideas list to all Committee members.

## **V. Status of Planning by Others**

Committee member Pearce provided updates regarding the inter-faith group, Co-chair Jacoby added that members of the Bahai Temple will contact all houses of worship within the Village, in hopes of planning an inter-faith service that may be hosted in November of 2021 and/or November 2022.

Committee member Drucker added that she was stunned in terms of the planning calendar update, noting that planning any sort of celebration event within fall of this year will be difficult. Co-chair Canning responded that the only reason a promotional speech provided at the 2021 Beach Bash was considered is because the event is already planned and would not require much work from the Committee to prepare brief remarks to be given at the event. He added that January does not have any sort of signature event that could be used to announce the beginning of the sesquicentennial year, and that no additional planning is required for the Beach Bash, the plan would be to have President Plunkett, or another senior Village official simply announce that next year (2022) marks the sesquicentennial celebration. Committee member Kelly suggested that utilizing holiday events in late 2021 could also serve as a good launch event for the celebration. Co-chair Canning added that this discussion demonstrates the significance of having to create a calendar of events that includes calendars for all Wilmette organizations, and that once a full built-out calendar is created, finalizing dates and plans will be simpler. Co-Chair Jacoby told Committee members that this issue will work itself out as more planning is done by working groups, and if needed, at a future meeting, Committee members can take a vote on the starting and ending dates of the celebration.

Committee member Yusim and Kelly added ideas for merchandise and other vendor items are being explored and updates will be provided at future meetings. Mr. Arteaga provided information on the celebration website, adding that the website developer is requesting content for the sites about page, history page, and calendar. Mr. Arteaga said that he would provide draft language to the Committee chairs for review, once approved, the content would be added to the website and the site, wilmette150.org would then be live and accessible.

## **VI. Discussion of Next Meeting Date**

Co-Chair Jacoby mentioned that at the next meeting, working groups are expected to

provide updates once more regarding the progress of their planning. The date and time of Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm was selected by Committee members to host the next SPC meeting.

**VII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment provided.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Committee member Swanson moved to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Thomas seconded the motion. All Committee Members in attendance voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Arteaga  
Management Analyst

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