



# Office of the City Clerk



R2012-776

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## City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 7/25/2012

**Sponsor(s):** O'Connor, Patrick (40)  
O'Shea, Matthew J. (19)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Declaration of July 25 - 31 as "Native Flower and Grass Days" in Chicago

**Committee(s) Assignment:**

SALUTE TO PAUL VOYKIN AND NATIVE FLOWER & GRASS DAYS

*for  
Add to cc.*

WHEREAS, For almost five decades, Paul Voykin, an outstanding citizen and member of his community, was the highly renowned and well-respected superintendent of the Briarwood Country Club golf course in suburban Deerfield; and

WHEREAS, On October 21, 2011, Paul Voykin was inducted into the Illinois Professional Golfing Association's Hall of Fame. He has been previously honored as U. S. Superintendent of the Year, is a past president of the Midwest Golf Course Superintendent's Association and has authored two books on lawn care; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1972, Paul Voykin addressed the United States Golf Association Annual Green Seminar in New York City, titling his talk "Over-grooming is Over-spending". Arguing that greenskeepers should concentrate more on the greens, fairways and tee management and stop the then-current practice of meticulously wall-to-wall manicuring and over grooming of the entire golf course, it was his opinion that they should leave some land for wild animals, song birds, native flowers and native grass; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing that many people were beginning to be deeply concerned about ecology and the environment, Paul Voykin was ahead of his time advocating for such measures. However, when former First Lady, Ladybird Johnson began encouraging the planting of wild flowers along Texas highways and roads, the natural look began to become popular; and


WHEREAS, Today, hundreds of golf courses have embraced Paul Voykin's "natural look" concept and have set aside natural areas to prosper and spread. Many golf courses have enhanced these restful areas even more with beautiful native flowers and grasses. In addition to golf courses, the "natural look" is now a feature of many parks, industrial campuses, schools, highways, mining sites and around many residences; and

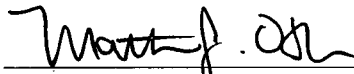
WHEREAS, One of Paul Voykin's fondest wishes is to have this body set aside a few days at the end of June in order to highlight, extoll and reflect upon the beauty of the native flowers and grasses indigenous to this area. According to Illinois wildflowers expert, Dr. John A. Hilty, there are over 3,500 vascular plants that are native or have naturalized in Illinois. In the United States, only California, Texas, and Florida have more; and

WHEREAS, The enjoyment of the thousands of wildflowers and varieties of grasses growing throughout our communities is one of the most remarkable experiences that can be encountered in Nature. It behooves this august body to celebrate their noteworthy beauty; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council gathered together this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2012 AD, do hereby declare July 25 through July 31, 2012, to be "Native Flower & Grass Days" throughout Chicago and express our heartfelt thanks to Paul Voykin for bringing their pulchritude to our attention and that of the citizens of our city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Paul Voykin.

  
PATRICK J. O'CONNOR  
Alderman - 40<sup>th</sup> Ward

  
MATT O'SHEA  
Alderman - 19<sup>th</sup> Ward