

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2013, IN THE MAPLE BOARDROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Towne called the meeting to order, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll, the following persons were:

Present: Member Armstrong, Member Lane, and Chairman Towne

Absent: None

Also present: Mayor Urlacher, Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Matt Lehan, Joe Attanaseo and Tony Wolff of CIORBA; Nick Patera of Teska & Associates; Larry Falbe and Drew Johnson, residents representing MOLA; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from June 10, 2013.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of June 10, 2013 as presented and Member Lane seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. OASIS PARK UPDATE**

Chairman Towne reported that the silt fence was in place and trees were cleared. They are now waiting on the wetlands assessment and CIORBA engineering. For the excavation spoils, the trucks will come from the south and the contractor (Ehlers & Juhrend) will install a madcam surface inside the park to avoid tracking excessive amounts of dirt onto the street. The village has received \$207K from the vendor for accepting the excavation spoils and \$31K for restoration of the impacted roads, if necessary. Nick Patera advised that he will follow up with a vegetation plan and screening trees at the top of the berm. Bob Irvin inquired about completion time, to which Chairman Towne replied that he expects completion this year or spring 2013 at the latest.

**E. WHIPPOORWILL PARK UPDATE AND DISCUSSION WITH TESKA & ASSOCIATES, PRC AND MOLA**

Chairman Towne reported that MOLA is working on merging the preserve and the park and the Village Board approved Teska & Associates to do the plan. He further shared that there are preliminary drawings for the savannah, prairie, open meadow, new berm which has been constructed and a footpath planned.

Nick Patera of Teska & Associates gave a presentation including handouts of what he called preliminary ideas and was looking for feedback from the members. He highlighted the stone wishing well, blue stone patio, garden, gravel trail and proposed seed bank as well as drainage plans. He felt that the landform patterns would strongly contribute to how the plan would shape up, in order to work with the natural systems already in place. He pointed out that the mature oaks could create an oak savannah and hardwood plantings in place and those

added would give it a woodland characteristic. He felt that where the house was located would need an understory planting and a tree enclosure should follow the Riverwoods Road and Bradley Road borders.

Chairman Towne advised Larry Falbe that he would like to see vertical plantings by fall 2013. Falbe stated that he would like to plant on the east border of the park heavily, but not overplant in order to leave the meadow open. Member Armstrong will encourage the Village Board to do planting on the berm soon, as people are starting to see it as an eyesore and he would like them to see progress. He inquired if MOLA would advise the village what appropriate plantings would be and urged for fall timing for progress.

Nick Patera recommended that Possibilities Place vendor to create an assessment of vertical plantings. He also cautioned about salt tolerance in the choice of plantings, due to the proximity to the roads. Member Lane noted that he would like to keep the park/preserve as passive as possible, but did like the idea of hardwood planting vs. pine trees. Larry Falbe passed out invitations to the 7/31 MOLA fundraising and education event to be held at HGI.

#### **F. DISCUSSION OF TRAILS AND OTHER PROPERTIES**

Chairman Towne asked Scott Anderson to address the washout areas, poison out encroaching weeds and recommend a limestone screening proposal. Falbe also noted that there are deer babies possibly threatened where the county is now mowing on Old School Road. Chairman Towne shared that the Village just closed on the purchase of the restaurant site across from the hotels on the west side of Riverwoods Blvd and it will soon need mowing. He would like MOLA to look at this site first and give input about what type of maintenance is necessary. Lisa Dieter noted that there is a soft spot on the trail in front of the church property. Member Lane noted that the trail was in great shape in front of Scots Crest.

#### **G. DISCUSSION OF NEW ACQUISITION OF 19-ACRE CHURCH PROPERTY**

Chairman Towne reported that the Village has contracted to purchase the property north of Everett Park (north and south properties). He asked Nick Patera to bring 30-40 copies of the Village Park map to the 7/31 MOLA event for distribution.

#### **H. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE BOARD**

Chairman Towne noted that the Whippoorwill wooded area was getting too wild looking. He would like MOLA to take a look at it to give the Village Board some suggestions on how to treat the area, i.e. mowing, etc. Nick Patera reported that the dead trees near the wishing well should be cut down. Member Lane questioned that if the trees were located in the interior, not a threat to the street, why should they address that, to which Patera replied that the safety of residents' would necessitate the expenditure. Lisa Dieter felt that the neighborhood watch signs were ugly, as did Larry Falbe and Jan Pink. Chairman Towne conceded that possibly a few signs could be removed due to the increased security patrol heeding criminal activity.

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm, seconded by Member Lane. The motion was carried.

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Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

*This document is subject to correction as noted on next meeting's minutes.*