

MINUTES OF THE OPEN LANDS PLANNING AD HOC PANEL OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014, IN THE MAPLE BOARDROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Chairman Bohm and Members Cohn (7:08pm), Johnson, Lys, Stephenson and Weiland

Absent: Member Sheldon

Also present: Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.
Chairman Bohm declared there was a quorum.

C. Review and approval of minutes from the September 30, 2014 meeting.

Member Johnson moved to accept the minutes of September 30, 2014 as presented and Member Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON OASIS PARK STATUS

Chairman Bohm reported that the project is largely done for the winter; seeding was done and the earth moving equipment was gone. He feels that this status is set until spring when activity would begin again. Chairman Bohm wondered about how the trail progress was going, to which Member Johnson replied that this activity would also pick up in the spring and Bob Irvin added that the design work was being done now. Member Johnson stated that the grass seed is now dormant and will start growing in the spring.

E. UPDATE ON WRD STUDY

Chairman Bohm reported that the WRD project is well underway, as both Jay Womak and Ernesto Huaracha of WRD have visited all village owned sites, including the one located in the Riverside Preserve gated subdivision. Bob Irvin inquired if anything interesting has developed thus far with their association with WRD. Chairman Bohm reported that they've uncovered some wetlands area on the right side at the Dreikosen property, as well as a conservation easement on the north side that extends down Route 60. He further reported that at 701 Riverwoods property (church), behind Grainger, that some nice trees were located as well as a couple of low spots that could be a wetland area. He further expressed a desire that the corner of this property should be turned into a native preserve. He had walked many trails with Jay Womak, and thru the former Korhumel property as well and noticed nice mature oak and hickory trees. Chairman Bohm thought many natives could be visible if they were to remove the invasive growth and deadwood.

Chairman Bohm felt that the properties #3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 could be restored, as well as 10 & 11 (Oasis Park, Riverwoods Blvd parcels, 26230 Riverwoods Blvd, Whippoorwill

Preserve/farm, 701 Riverwoods/Everett Pond North and South). He felt that the other parcels were either too small or not accessible to be worth the effort. Bob Irvin added that it might be a good idea to preserve the Korhumel house site for history's sake, but that the few remaining bushes on the site were rather scraggly. Member Weiland added that she had taken a bike ride thru the property and thought it was a very nice resting spot and possibly could be developed to tie into the village history. She inquired also about the historical origins of the Korhumel house and if it played a part in the village development. Chairman Bohm encouraged her to bring this up in the upcoming interview on 11/15/14 with WRD. Bob Irvin advised that he had been in contact with Commonwealth Edison about removing the three telephone poles in the area, noting that it was an eyesore and no service was now needed at this address. Chairman Bohm also noted that there was a wetland on this site, but was unclear if it was technically part of a HOA or the village of Mettawa.

Chairman Bohm reminded the members that a group panel interview was scheduled with WRD on 11/15/14 at 2:00pm at the Hilton Garden Inn. Member Stephenson asked if they should be prepared with questions for WRD at this interview, and Chairman Bohm replied that WRD is only looking for information. Member Cohn inquired about who WRD is meeting with, to which both Member Johnson and Chairman Bohm replied MOLA, village trustees, and anyone else who would be interested.

F. DISCUSS POTENTIAL VILLAGE HALL LOCATIONS

Chairman Bohm reported that the village board has narrowed down their site location to three possible village owned properties: Dreikosen property at the SW corner of Route 60 & St. Mary's Road; village property in close proximity of Costco site, or Whippoorwill located off of Mettawa Woods Road. Member Weiland expressed preference for the Dreikosen site, but disliked the busy intersection close to the property entrance. She further noted that the access road to be located off of Mettawa Woods Road for the Whippoorwill site could be an issue for HOs located on that street. Bob Irvin noted the alternative entrance for that site off of Route 60 would necessitate putting in a left and right turning lane, and this could account 30% of the cost of the project. He further noted that the Costco location would eliminate the need for overflow parking. Chairman Bohm shared that he is not in favor of the Whippoorwill site, as it is already a nature preserve. He further noted that there is a tentative Village of the Whole meeting scheduled on January 2 to discuss this.

Member Johnson suggested reinforced turf as an alternative for overflow parking, instead of extra blacktop. Bob Irvin estimated that for daily parking, it is allotted five car spaces for every 1K sf of building space, and if the building designed is now at 2K, so 10 car spaces should be necessary. Member Weiland would consider the Whippoorwill site if something small and quaint could be built. Member Cohn inquired if the panel could influence the village board and if they were united in their thinking about the village hall, to which Bob Irvin replied that as of the last meeting, they discussed more about building something, and nothing was mentioned about renting elsewhere or doing without. Chairman Bohm again reiterated his preference that Whippoorwill be left out of the consideration for a village hall site and to preserve the site as is.

Member Stephenson inquired about the restaurant site and if that should be considered for the village hall. Member Cohn inquired about the necessity of a village hall and if it was necessary, why not rent something outside the village boundaries. He further stated that he

was pro-open land and against development of any kind. Member Weiland reminded Member Cohn that the purpose of their panel was to give input about the direction and development of the village owned properties, and possibly steer the village away from potential properties that would be inappropriate for a village hall, but that was the extent. Member Stephenson agreed, stating that the panel input would be to advise which properties to omit from consideration for the village hall site. Chairman Bohm shared again that the properties #3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 should be open land, as well as 10 & 11 (Oasis Park, Riverwoods Blvd parcels, 26230 Riverwoods Blvd, Whippoorwill Preserve/farm, 701 Riverwoods/Everett Pond North and South).

Member Johnson stated that he liked the Oasis Park site for a village hall, but that the utilities access and residential proximity might be an issue.

G. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR BEFORE THE AD HOC PANEL FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE BOARD.

Chairman Bohm shared with the panel that Lake Forest was eliminating buckthorn and non-native plants along the lakefront and planting native species, which included viburnum, witch hazel, dogwood and 80K plugs and this project would be funded the total of 3.2M by public funds, the Chicago Bears and Lake Forest Bank and Trust.

Member Cohn inquired about obtaining a larger Mettawa parks, trails and open space map that was originally designed by Teska 2/12/14. Chairman Bohm replied that Village Clerk Cathy Nelson had a larger map and Bob Irvin offered that Teska would print out a larger map at his expense. Member Cohn also would like to take a look at open land zoning later down the road and felt that every 10 or 20 years a village changes and he would like to guide the changes away from development. He further stated that he was opposed to street widening or additional construction and wanted to maintain the rural feeling.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, Member Weiland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm, and Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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