

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2014, 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 and Chairman Towne

Absent: Member Lane

Also present: Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Mary Brennan, Rick Phillips, residents; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from November 11, 2013.**

Chairman Towne moved to accept the minutes of November 11, 2013 as presented and Member Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. WHIPPOORWILL FARM UPDATE**

Chairman Towne advised the committee that two temporary fences were installed across the entrances, one of them recycling materials from the site. In anticipation of the January 18, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting, Testa & Associates will rebid for landscaping.

The prairie burn was completed by ILM in early December at the North annex of Mettawa Woods and additionally they removed and disposed of the collected teasel piles off the property to discourage reseeding. Chairman Towne stated it was recommended to consistently mow the area for the next two years to discourage teasel growth and reseeding. He suggested seeking volunteers to use Round-up herbicide in the area to destroy any remaining teasel. Scott Anderson informed Chairman Towne that it would be illegal to use herbicide in a group effort outside of private property and that a license must be procured. Chairman Towne also noted that the property got seeded before the frost.

**E. OASIS PARK UPDATE**

Chairman Towne reported that the north end of the berm is nearly done and suggested that all the grading should be done before the planting could begin. Scott Anderson inquired if Ehlers & Juhrend would be penalized for missing the December 2013 deadline and Chairman Towne replied that Ehlers & Juhrend would cite the instructions to cease for two weeks during the Western Open Golf Tournament as reason for delay. Chairman Towne was also pleased that a second payment was made to the village for the spoils dumping. Bob Irvin inquired as to the total amount of the Ehlers & Juhrend compensation to the village, to which Scott Anderson and Chairman Towne replied that it was approximately \$206K or \$207K full payment.

Chairman Towne inquired of Scott Anderson regarding the Canopy vendor doing the clean cut work that was to be performed while the foliage was frozen, as the weather conditions are optimum, yet the work still was incomplete. Scott Anderson promised to follow up with Canopy.

#### **F. BUDGET DISCUSSION & PRIORITIZE ITEMS IN NEED OF FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE AND/OR LANDSCAPING**

Chairman Towne would like to set some 2014 goals:

Goal 1: The last trail between Deerpath and St. Mary's Road needs to be connected. He realized that the Olesen property might be an obstacle, but that 12ft – 15ft right-of-way aside the Olesen might be utilized to connect the trail. He also wondered if the swale could be relocated and if the state would need to approve this endeavor. Bob Irvin noted that the road traffic moves at a pretty quick pace at that spot near the trail. Member Armstrong suggested a guardrail might be a solution to safety concerns. Scott Anderson thought that the state would not voluntarily put up a guardrail, but Member Armstrong suggested putting it in the plan. Rick Phillips stated that he rides the shoulder on bike and a trail connection would be safer, as people are traversing the space anyway without a defined trail.

**It was moved by Chairman Towne and seconded by Member Armstrong, to recommend to the Village Board that they budget \$10K for design engineering for constructing a trail between Deerpath Road and St. Mary's Road. The motion was carried.**

Bob Irvin shared that he talked to Bruce Christiansen of Lake County, who thought that there may be a couple of grants available to apply to this project. Chairman Towne noted that there were a couple of mature oak trees that were in the beginning of the proposed path and it would necessitate cutting deeper into the Olson property to avoid them.

Goal 2: Everett Park North (formerly known as the "church property") could be kept as a farming property, growing and producing hay first for the Mettawa residents, and then anyone else who would be interested. Rick Phillips suggested Pat Krupke to farm the property, which would necessitate the village renting the property to him for farming purposes only.

Goal 3: Whippoorwill and Oasis Park landscaping estimates generated much interest and it was determined that a cost of \$80 - \$100 a tree, which included immediate post-planting maintenance/watering was a reasonable price. Estimating the total size of both parks would bring the estimate to approximately \$150K for trees and additional \$10K for yearly maintenance. Chairman Towne noted that the Whippoorwill understory foliage would need to be done first and an estimated date for initial planting was 6/1/14.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Chairman Towne, to recommend to the Village Board that they budget \$150K for trees for both Whippoorwill and Oasis Parks and an additional \$10K for annual maintenance. The motion was carried.**

**G. DREIKOSEN DEMOLITION (AT ST. MARY’S ROAD & ROUTE 60)**

Chairman Towne reported that the building was demolished, and a permit was being issued for the removal of the well and septic tank. He also reported that they found an oil tank at the base of the tree and the water was being pumped out prior to its removal. He further stated that the vendor’s job will not be finalized until the spring when all the snow has been melted, but they would like a partial payment of \$21K now for the work already done. Chairman Towne will leave the flagpole, birdhouse, driveway, 2 standing pillars and irongate on the 3.9 acre property. Member Armstrong was wary of possible annexation from another village, and suggested that they make it a park, but Bob Irvin noted that since this property is in play for consideration of a village hall site, there is no worry of annexation by other villages.

Chairman Towne still would like this site considered as a possible location of an office/storage building, with the possibility of a future addition, as needs dictate. Rick Phillips will have a study ready for the 1/18/2014 town meeting. The other sites for consideration are: North end of Oasis Park, Everett Park North, Whippoorwill, Bradley & Riverwoods SE corner and Oak Hill (next to Keith Gray’s property).

**H. UPDATE ON POTENTIAL CHURCH PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Chairman Towne advised that the village closed on the property mid December and officially owns the property, now known as Everett Park North. He further stated that there might be some controversy regarding its use at the upcoming 1/18/2014 meeting. Chairman Towne likes keeping the property as a farm and there is no more need for a berm. He also noted that the village previously threatened the prior owners with condemnation and although they bought this parcel on the open market, he felt that they should demonstrate need and purpose for the property. He felt that the farm solution is an appropriate plan. Bob Irvin noted that Glader recently planted the hay and the village does not have to rush to a decision.

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

None

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Chairman Towne to adjourn the meeting at 6:16pm, seconded by Member Armstrong. 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.*