

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014, IN THE COTTONWOOD "A" 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: Chairman Towne, Member Armstrong and Member Lane (arrived at 5:53pm)

Absent: None

Also present: Mayor Urlacher; Jim Ferolo, Village Attorney; Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Denis Bohm, Tom Lys, Tom Hines, Drew Johnson, Rick Phillips, residents; Nick Patera of Teska & Associates; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from February 12, 2014.

Chairman Towne moved to accept the minutes of February 12, 2014 as presented and Member Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. DISCUSSION OF TRAILS SOUTH OF ROUTE 60

Chairman Towne reported that the plans for new paving of Riverwoods Blvd were moving along and he is happy with the progress. He also stated that this included a pedestrian/bicycle shoulder and he is pushing the county for a definition regarding the accommodation. Bob Irvin felt that the county might place the road as "bicycle access" on their maps, but will not officially label it. Member Armstrong felt that it was not the village's trail, so they should not assume to label it as such. Scott Anderson suggested that a new symbol representing this "trail" could be added to the legend on the village park maps. Tom Hines noted that the shoulder is only 4ft wide, not horse-friendly at all.

Chairman Towne again stated that he is pushing the county to define the shoulder as a trail, but Denis Bohm stated why bother, as there is so much vehicle traffic within proximity to Costco. Chairman Towne replied that the Master Trail Plan is part of the Comprehensive Village Trail Plan, and with the recent sale of Nagle and Roth properties, the property owners are petitioning the county for certain things. Chairman Towne also noted that the present zoning ordinance required any HO requesting a building permit to consent to a scenic easement along St. Mary's Road and a trail easement along any trail abutting their property. He wanted to change this ordinance, so present HOs do not have trails going thru their back yards. Mayor Urlacher supported this idea.

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Chairman Towne, to recommend to the Village Board that they eliminate the ordinance requiring HOs to dedicate trail easements abutting their property, involving the land south of Route 60 to Everett Road, between St. Mary's Road and Riverwoods Blvd. This motion would

exclude trails that have already been built and would be subject to attorney review. The motion was carried.

Bob Irvin noted that the motion was eliminating the requirement of easement dedication, but not necessarily eliminating the opportunity to request same in the future.

E. REVIEW OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS: TESKA, TALLGRASS, CONSERVE LAKE COUNTY & CHRISTY

Chairman Towne referred to the proposals that were part of each committee member's packet. He suggested that perhaps each vendor could have 10 – 15 minutes to present their ideas at the next Village Board meeting. Mayor Urlacher agreed, however, Member Lane anticipated questions from the trustees, which would prolong each vendor's presentation and ultimately extend the meeting unreasonably. It was suggested by Chairman Towne to either have a Saturday Committee of the Whole meeting or spread the vendor presentations over two Village Board meetings.

He further stated that he did not provide the vendors with a budget or a scope, except to say that the village wanted the best maintenance at minimal cost of a passive open space plan. Tom Hines and Drew Johnson agreed with the Saturday morning meeting idea and it was best for resident input as well. Chairman Towne stated that he was more concerned about doing the project the right way, and not in a hurry to make long-term decisions. He suggested a May date, with a goal of a master concept plan for each location, noting 701 Riverwoods Blvd, Oasis and Whippoorwill being the largest of the 13 parcels. Bob Irvin suggested procuring references of other job sites that these vendors have done, and that he felt that Teska understood the proposal request better than any of the others and he was concerned less about qualifications of the vendors and more about what the vendors could do for the village's open space.

Chairman Towne stated that he would bring up to the Village Board the idea of a May Committee of the Whole meeting.

F. REVIEW REVISED PLANTING PLAN FOR FIRST PHASE PLANTING AT WHIPPOORWILL PARK

Nick Patera presented the revised plan and reviewed the overall plan and big picture concept. The revision was due to the previous numbers coming in too high for the budget allowance. He thought that he would not disturb any landscaping west of the middle road off of Route 60 and was focused on maintainability and what was right for the property with its present mature trees. It was his intention to avoid the top of the ridge and plant on the front and back sides of it. Nick replaced the 2.5" trees he originally recommended with 1" – 1.5" trees, as the initial expense would be less, as well as maintenance expense, so they would transplant successfully. He suggested Possibility Place in Monee, IL as a vendor for the trees. He would also plan for 4' high deer/rabbit cage surrounding each tree, anchored by 3 wooden stakes. He reminded the members that the choice of tree varieties was determined by the sun and salt exposure in mediocre soil.

Chairman Towne inquired about larger trees, however, Nick Patera advised him that the 1' – 1.5' trees would catch up in size about year 3 or 4 post-planting. Denis Bohm also reminded those present that the smaller trees would be easier to transplant. Drew Johnson understood

that younger plants do need to be caged for about 5 years due to the deer population. Mayor Urlacher inquired about maintenance of the cages and if this would negate the savings achieved by purchasing younger trees. Denis Bohm stated that there was no maintenance required of the cages, as he spoke to the county to verify this. Patera suggested that the spring planting would be the optimum time for best results, estimating that \$35K for the trees and including the shrubs, would bring the total to \$60K.

Drew Johnson was concerned about the likelihood of burning thru the shrubs during the prairie burn and the subsequent maintenance 5 years later. Chairman Towne was ready to let the plan go out to bid and would like the bid results by the April committee meeting. Drew Johnson also inquired about avoiding the prevailing wage issue, since no tax dollars are being spent on this project, however, Bob Irvin stated he had already consulted the village attorney and it was his opinion that there was no way around it.

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Lane, to recommend to the Village Board that they authorize Teska & Associates to go out for bids using the revised planting plan for Whippoorwill Park. The motion was carried.

G. REVIEW CONTINUING MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL FROM ILM FOR WHIPPOORWILL PARK MAINTENANCE

Chairman Towne presented the ILM proposal and noted that ILM removed all teasel, buckthorn and chipping piles that were left after the volunteer day last year. He stated that the proposal is a continuation of what will be needed for the next two years. Drew Johnson noted that the price is more for the first year than the second, due to the amount of work necessary in the first year.

Member Armstrong inquired if ILM is aware of the berm plans, and Chairman Towne replied that he would make sure ILM is aware of them. Denis Bohm was concerned about the need for additional mowing to keep down the invasives, and Chairman Towne noted that ILM in the past had been able to eliminate or reduce the buckthorn and the wildflowers looked nice this past year. Member Armstrong would accept the proposal for the two-year term. Member Lane agreed also, but expressed concern that this would not conflict with the open space management plan. Chairman Towne replied that he would clarify the necessary mowing and the berm plan with ILM.

It was moved by Member Lane and seconded by Member Armstrong, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the ILM 2014-2015 maintenance proposal, provided it would work with the open space management plan and necessary mowing of berm. The motion was carried.

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

Scott Anderson presented the engineering plan for constructing a trail between Deerpath Road and St. Mary's Road that he was authorized to do last month. Chairman Towne instructed Anderson to take the plan to IDOT, and estimated that it would cost \$60K to get the trail done. Bob Irvin reported that he received the cost estimate in order to submit the ComEd Green Grant.

Bob Irvin mentioned regarding the completion of the trail around Woodland Falls subdivision on Route 60 and Riverwoods Blvd, Hamilton Partners prepared to build last section at \$60K. They will finalize documents and will build the trail in spring 2014, and after that, there will be only a small piece for the village to connect.

Chairman Towne noted that Canopy has finished trimming the trees in Oasis Park. It was also reported that there was a resolution created to establish the Open Space Advisory Committee.

I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Chairman Towne to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm, seconded by Member Armstrong. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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