

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 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: Chairman Towne, Member Lane and Member Armstrong

Absent: None

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer, Jamie Anderson of Anderson & Associates; Drew Johnson and Denis Bohm representing Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel; Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from July 09, 2014.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of July 09, 2014 as presented and Member Lane seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL PARK AND OASIS PARK

Chairman Towne reported that the wildflowers are coming in nicely at Whippoorwill Park, the invasives have been poisoned and there is mowing they are trying out pursuant to Drew Johnson's suggestion of mowing the trail every three weeks and it would become established. Chairman Towne thought that a 6' – 8' mowed path would be sufficient to create the desired trail. Roger Lane shared that they tried that mowing out at Hunt Club and it was successful, and helpful to have horse and foot traffic as well. Chairman Towne stated that the end of August was targeted for completion of the path mowing and the newly planted oaks were also being watered.

Drew Johnson suggested that the traffic pattern of the trucks should be reseeded and Chairman Towne agreed to that and reseeding the side slopes as well. He further stated that ILM would do this and also evaluate the native plants coming up on the north side of the slope. Chairman Towne thought they should wait for the grading and formalize the preliminary design.

E. UPDATE ON MOLA PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT RE: SE CORNER OF ROUTE 60 & RIVERWOODS ROAD

Chairman Towne reported that he walked the area with MOLA members and acknowledged that the village owned 2.8 acres of the space; the rest is owned by Costco. He stated that he would like Costco to participate in the maintenance of the site. Drew Johnson shared that there were several nice oak trees and that MOLA would like to remove all buckthorn.

Chairman Towne also stated that there was one major wetland and two smaller wetlands on the site.

F. DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE FROM OPEN SPACE AD HOC PANEL REGARDING OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATIONS

Denis Bohm reported that he met with Jay Womak of WRD Environmental on Tuesday, and they looked at all the village owned properties. Denis Bohm further advised that Jay Womak would have an open space management plan proposal that would involve stages and the associated costs of each. He stated that the consensus was 7-0 among the ad hoc panel members for choosing Stephen Christy (landscape architect) and WRD Environmental. He was assured that both parties were not only amenable to working with each other, but those two would take care of the business relationship, so the village would not have to deal with them separately. Denis Bohm reminded those present that Christy was head of Lake Forest Open Lands for a number of years.

Denis Bohm stated that WRD was the only vendor that addressed life cycle costs of the project, which falls under long-term maintenance costs. Drew Johnson stated his desire that Teska retain their status as village planner. Bob Irvin recommended that they put this item on the Village Board agenda. Member Lane stated that he was not a big fan of WRD as opposed to Conserve Lake County. He favored CLC due to its non-profit status and it had a lot of knowledge of Lake County. Member Armstrong inquired what criteria was used to determine their vendor choice. Denis Bohm replied that each panel member had their own reasons for choosing WRD Environmental. Drew Johnson suggested that at some point in the project, CLC could be folded in under a separate task.

Chairman Towne stated that he was impressed with all the presenters, and that they were all pretty good, however, Tallgrass' skill set was more lacking for the village needs. He further stated that he was at another WRD presentation unrelated to the village last fall, and was pleased with that event as well. He was pleased also that even if Stephen Christy tied his presentation with Teska, that he was willing to work with WRD. Member Lane was disappointed with the village attendance at such a pivotal meeting, and of the 30+ attendees, only 8 residents did not have official or spousal ties to the project, and of the 8, 5 people were from Deerpath Farms. He felt that possibly the rest of the village residents did not care. Chairman Towne agreed that the residents were not passionate about this. Drew Johnson stated that two years ago when the comprehensive plan was reworked, there was more interest. Roger Lane thought the focus at that time was on either developing or keeping open space, which promoted such interest.

Denis Bohm stated he hoped that WRD would present a phased plan, not a big project to be accomplished all at once. He further stated that WRD's proposal would be to develop the plan by interviewing people (MOLA, mayor, Parks & Recreation Committee, trustees, etc.) to gain their perspectives and develop direction. Rick Phillips shared that he worked with Stephen Christy for over ten years and finds him not only very knowledgeable, but extremely frugal and from an economic standpoint, the village would get good value. He also shared that Christy talks to people on site while the job is in progress and can be described as a hands-on guy and a great field person. He felt that Christy's involvement would save a lot of money in the long-term.

It was moved by Member Armstrong, and seconded by Member Lane to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the recommendation from the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel to work with WRD Environmental and Stephen Christy to develop and pursue the Open Space Management Plan. The motion was carried.

Chairman Towne felt that the other presenters should be notified, and advised Denis Bohm to speak with Cathy Nelson, Village Clerk about how to go about doing so, and further advise the presenters that the village's selection now did not automatically preclude the village from including those remaining vendors in the plan later. Bob Irvin cautioned that this should not be attempted until after the Village Board meeting, so the recommendation could be voted on and made official. He felt that this would avoid confusion and conflict later, should anything unforeseen develop.

G. UPDATE ON METTAWA TRAIL PROGRESS FOR EXTENSION WEST TO ST. MARY'S ROAD

Scott Anderson reported that they are beginning the topographical surveys and after that they will make a plan for the trail. Rick Phillips inquired about the proposed schedule, since this involved IDOT. Chairman Towne thought that the work could be possibly done this year.

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

Bob Irvin reported that he talked to Hamilton Partners, who stated that Brickman was staking a path along Woodland Falls subdivision. He advised that the village owned a small portion of the cost and it was possible to apply to two grant programs to defray from the cost, if the village could qualify. Chairman Towne stated that a crosswalk would be proposed for Mettawa Woods Drive.

I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Lane to adjourn the meeting at 6:01pm, seconded by Member Armstrong. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk