

**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 14, 2015, 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, Members Armstrong and Clark

Absent: None

Also present: Mayor Urlacher, Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk and Denis Bohm. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from October 8, 2014.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of October 8, 2014 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. DISCUSS 2015 GOAL PRIORITIES**

Chairman Towne asked for additional suggestions and input with the goals he presented on the agenda. He expressed a desire to address the swale at the north end of Oasis Park, which currently is tied into an existing trail and also would like early season mowing at the restaurant site, to avoid the teasel bloom and possibly the same treatment at Oasis Park.

Chairman Towne wanted to place more priority on the evaluation of a village hall location, and Mayor Urlacher added that a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting was being considered for February or March. He inquired of Denis Bohm the WRD plan status update, since it played into the order of priority for many goals and Denis Bohm provided a brief description of what was recommended for a village hall location, stating that this plan would required its own Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to inform the residents.

Member Clark inquired about the direction of the rental option at the CDW Building. Bob Irvin replied that he had been in touch with the rental agent and this landlord is looking for a single tenant, not a multi-tenant situation, and the space is occupied now thru the end of 2015.

Although things could change, Chairman Towne prioritized the following goals:

- 1) Trail extension to St. Mary's Road; trail relocation thru Oasis Park.
- 2) Consider North end drainage swale at Oasis Park.
- 3) Mow restaurant site and Oasis Park early to avoid teasel bloom.
- 4) Review WRD Open Land Space Management Plan and wait for WRD input regarding wildflower garden at Whippoorwill Park and tree planting at Oasis Park.
- 5) Urge definition of village hall alternatives for selection and construction.

#### **E. DISCUSS 2015 BUDGET**

Chairman Towne reported on maintenance and goals that would contribute to the budget numbers. Scott Anderson noted that the trail extensions should cost about \$150K, but with the needed storm sewers added, the estimate could run up to \$160K. Member Armstrong thought that by the February committee meeting, the numbers could be better fleshed out. Bob Irvin referred to the list of maintenance areas he sent out to the members and noted that some mowing should be added and there was \$35K in the budget for tree removal/trimming, but thought that there would be less of that activity this year, due to the recent extensive tree removal. Chairman Towne agreed and thought they could estimate 1/3 less in the budget for this line item, although Scott Anderson thought there would be more ash tree removal this year.

Bob Irvin thought that after the WRD open land management plan, that they could place a number as a holder for some of the suggested improvements. He also noted that he located another right-of-way owned by the village that was not previously on the comprehensive plan. The parcel was obtained as a dedication to widen the Oasis Park service road and was parallel to the Oasis business road, but the plans never materialized and the property was annexed mostly by Lake Forest, but a 40' wide strip is still owned by the village of Mettawa.

Member Armstrong was concerned how to address the current trail by Oasis Park to discourage its use when the new trail is made, to which Chairman Towne replied that the drainage work would eliminate that problem. Member Armstrong inquired about the planting of trees at Oasis Park on the berm, to which Denis Bohm replied that WRD discouraged planting trees on the berm due to the poor quality of soil that would not support the tree growth. Member Clark inquired about the numbers for the trail budget and Scott Anderson replied that the initial treatment would be expensive, and after that the monthly raking was a minimal cost, totaling about \$1K. Bob Irvin suggested about \$15K for the trails. Chairman Towne stated that he favored the limestone material for the trails, as it did not wash away as easily during the rains.

#### **F. CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEASE OF TRAIL EASEMENTS ON THE LYS AND O'DONNELL PROPERTIES**

Chairman Towne stated he would recommend the removal of all trail construction planned south of Route 60 from the comprehensive plan, which would include the trail easements on the Lys and O'Donnell properties. He also mentioned that south of Route 60 to Everett Road along Riverwoods Blvd, the speed limit is 45 MPH, and he wanted to change it to 25 MPH. Member Armstrong noted that the county owns the road, not the village and Mettawa had no right to change it. All members present were in agreement to recommend to the village board to remove the trail easements on the Lys and O'Connell properties.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong, and seconded by Chairman Towne, to recommend to the Village Board that they remove the trail easements on the Lys and O'Donnell Properties. The motion was carried.**

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

It was mentioned that the village might want another hay crop harvested off the church site, however, the BMW Golf Outing Event (9/14/15) might want the location for parking. Bob Irvin noted that the Grainger lot might be used for BMW hospitality personnel parking and the church lot could be used BMW members only parking. Member Clark reported that there was significant asphalt grinding at the Grainger lot as a result of last year's golf outing use and he would not be pleased with the same potential result of the hayfield. Bob Irvin said nothing is in writing and he was waiting for such a proposal before bringing this to the village board.

Bob Irvin reported that the reported that the village was not successful with procuring the Commonwealth Edison grant in 2014, however, there was an opportunity to reapply for the grant again, the deadline being 3/16/15. He felt that the trail relocation and extensions were good projects for this grant and it met the ComEd criteria.

Chairman Towne wanted to dedicate the whole Parks & Recreation Committee meeting in February to WRD's presentation of the open land management plan.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:08pm, seconded by Chairman Towne. 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.*