

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 08, 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 pm.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Present: Chairman Towne and Member Pink

Absent: Member Armstrong

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.

Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from March 11, 2015.**

Member Pink moved to accept the minutes of March 11, 2015 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. DISCUSS OASIS AND ROUTE 60 TRAILS FOR BIDDING**

Scott Anderson reported that the bid documents have been prepared, but he still needs to talk to George Gutterley, who is in charge of the State of Illinois permitting process, before the documents are complete. He stated he has left a message and Gutterley has yet to return the call.

**E. REVIEW WRD OPEN LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ANY ADDITIONS OR CHANGES**

Chairman Towne solicited any input or desired changes to the WRD Open Land Management Plan from committee members and village personnel, but there was no comment. Chairman Towne had his own suggestions, listed as follows:

On page 2, Oak Hills Road property (#1), Chairman Towne thought they should ask MOLA if they wanted to take on the suggested work, instead of assuming they would. He also thought that they should talk to the surrounding neighbors as a gesture of good will, to make sure that they would be agreeable to the improvements and activity it would generate. For Oasis Access Road (#2), Chairman Towne suggested that they work with the Lake County Forest Preserve with the suggested improvements. For Oasis Park (#3), Chairman Towne disagrees with the suggested parking space. He felt that the area was already accessible by trails, and the parking spaces were redundant. For Riverwoods Blvd (#4), Chairman Towne wanted to run the suggested improvements by Tall Grass, who presently had the maintenance agreement for this parcel. For Riverwoods Blvd (#5), Chairman Towne was concerned about impacted residents of the subdivision to the west, if they would object to the reduced screening if the fence and buckthorn were removed. He suggested meeting with the

neighbors and soliciting their opinions. Mayor Urlacher suggested that the replacement foliage should grow tall enough for the desired screening.

For the restaurant parcel (#6), he agreed with all of WRD's suggestions. For the Whippoorwill and Korhumel Preserve (#7), Chairman Towne has a meeting with ILM at 10:00am tomorrow regarding the ongoing maintenance agreement for this site and felt that he could solicit some guidance from them, as well as review the plan with MOLA to make sure that their goals dovetail with these suggestions from WRD. Chairman Towne would like to see wildflowers and milkweed planted there, but he disagreed with the removal of the evergreen trees, as they were so healthy and pleasing to look at. He urged others present to look over the site and share their input. Bob Irvin suggested that the two Commonwealth Edison poles could be removed, since there is no more service at this property and also some low lying evergreens that have been damaged by the salt distribution.

For the Costco parcel (#8), Chairman Towne agreed with all of WRD's suggestions and thought this would be a great project for MOLA. He also noted that the berms along Costco (#9) were village owned and agreed with the recommendation, as well as the Riverwoods/Everett North and South (#10 & 11) sites. Chairman Towne advised that there was some discussion about approaching Granger for purchase of additional property that would enable the village to connect the trails in that area. Bob Irvin advised that the time to approach Granger about such an item would be when Granger would be ready to develop that land.

For Dreikosen property (#12), Chairman Towne advised that Scott Anderson is still investigating where the utilities are located and believed that the village owned one of the easements, but he agreed with WRD's suggestions. For the Alexandra Drive parcel (#13), he did not want to sell the lots, as it gave the village a voice in the HOA in that development. Bob Irvin also agreed, and that it was not accessible to other village residents due to the gates. Jan Pink felt that an emergency box should be installed to give emergency personnel access in the event it was needed. Mayor Urlacher noted that the gate was operated electrically and it would be a problem should the power go out, and presently, one half of the gate is broken and lying on the ground.

Chairman Towne agreed with the WRD suggestions for the right-of-ways and would like added recommendations of other types of desirable foliage, but did question the easement limitations for the permanent easement recommendations. Bob Irvin also agreed. Chairman Towne disagreed with the WRD reference to unsafe surface conditions and thought he might have caught the trails during between maintenance visits. He will suggest that WRD soften the language.

Chairman Towne wanted further definition about which parcels should go into a zoning district for further follow up and which parcels should go into permanent easement. He also wanted to study the open space possibilities for sites #10 & #11, adjacent to Granger. He believed that the adjacent Granger property was held in a land trust. Chairman Towne intended to meet with Denis Bohm and Jay Womack to further refine and finalize the plan.

**F. DISCUSS SPRING PLANTINGS (WILD FLOWERS, MILKWEED, ETC.) AT WHIPPOORWILL PRESERVE AND PARK**

Chairman Towne noted the previous dismay with the sweet clover abundance, however, this plant is exactly what the honeybees (a reported declining population) need for food and honey production. He noted that the seed was dormant in the black dirt and once it was disturbed by transport and grading, it germinated again. There was also a concern that other desirable plants were being choked out by the aggressive clover, so he would talk to the contractors in the field for feedback.

**G. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOUR ACRE SITE AT ST. MARY'S ROAD AND ROUTE 60**

Scott Anderson presented a blueprint drawing of the Dreikosen site, marking the utilities and services. Chairman Towne cautioned that there would be a need for fire protection, should the village hall be located here and they could not use the north/south easement for sanitary and sewer purposes. There was an easement located for drainage, gas, phone, cable and electric service. Chairman Towne noted the need for a manhole on parcel #12 and possibly might need an easement to the adjacent lots. Chairman Towne offered to ask Jim Ferolo, village attorney, about the necessity of condemning in order to acquire an easement.

Scott Anderson presented a bid tabulation as a result of soliciting bids for tree, brush and fence removal from: Dunlap Tree, Clean Cut, Homer, Canopy Tree, Residential Tree Service and Sawvell, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder being Residential Tree Service without the silt fencing included.

**H. SOLICIT HAY PROPOSALS AT THE RIVERWOOD ROAD 19 ACRE SITE**

Chairman Towne talked to Kelly, who does not want to come down that far for such a small site. He also suggested Bob Haraden, who harvested the hay last year, to which Mayor Urlacher added that the village was paid \$1500 for the harvest.

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

Chairman Towne reported that buckthorn was being scheduled for removal from Bradley Road and Riverwoods Road including the right-of-ways, and three adjacent homeowners expressed interest in sharing their portion of the cost if buckthorn could be removed from their property as well. Chairman Towne suggested making a contribution to MOLA if they wanted to have the work done and take the lead on this project. Drew Johnson offered to get started with bids. Member Pink was concerned with setting a precedent, to which Johnson responded that these homeowners were in a unique situation located adjacent to this right-of-way.

Member Pink noted that Conserve Lake County was having an annual meeting at Independence Grove on 4/22/15 and wondered if anyone from the village board could attend and represent Mettawa. Chairman Towne thought he would try to make the event.

Bob Irvin noted that the ILM two year maintenance plan was approved by the village board for one year only and the second year is coming up and wondered what would happen, since there was no authority past one year to pay the vendor.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 6:34pm, 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.*