

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

Absent: None

Also present: Denis Bohm, Trustee Pam Sheldon, Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.

Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from April 08, 2015.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of April 08, 2015 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON TRAILS EXTENSION AT OASIS AND ROUTE 60 TO ST. MARY'S ROAD

Scott Anderson reported that the Oasis Park bid, notice and specs documents have been prepared and sent over to Jim Ferolo, village attorney. For Route 60, he still needs details of the fiber optic cable line that was being laid, as it could conflict with the piping being laid. It was discovered that the fiber optic was being laid between Vernon Hills and Lake Forest, but not serving Mettawa, and no one pulled a permit for working in the Village of Mettawa. They were ordered to stop two weeks ago, although most of the work was already done. Scott Anderson thought that now the storm sewer job would now have to work around the fiber optic work. Chairman Towne instructed Anderson to get the bid out and the fiber optic utility needed to stay put until the trail work was done.

Member Pink inquired about next steps, to which Chairman Towne replied that the fiber optic work would be at risk if the village works there and the installation contractor has no permit. Bob Irvin suggested pushing hard for IDOT to get a permit for the trail. Scott Anderson replied that IDOT has all documents necessary to issue permit. Chairman Towne also urged Anderson to follow this closely to the work could be completed as soon as possible. Bob Irvin agreed to follow up with Jim Ferolo about the request of the installation contractor for separate agreement to work in the village.

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

Chairman Towne shared a desire to wrap things up and solicited any other input from committee members. Member Pink inquired about contacting MOLA to gauge their interest

in participating in any restorative projects, such as the evergreen trees removal. Chairman Towne thought that an issue such as that could be addressed later, but did acknowledge that the pines were an issue. Member Pink inquired about prioritizing the sites in order of need, to which Chairman Towne replied that the Board and Ad Hoc Panel could provide input about which parcels would be put into an open land conservation easement.

Denis Bohm noted that the changes previously discussed were included in the final draft of the plan along with a table of contents and a packet would be distributed to each trustee this week-end in preparation for the Tuesday Board meeting. Denis Bohm also stated that Jay Womack included some estimated costs and recommended next steps. Pam Sheldon noted that she was unaware of any changes to the plan, but Denis Bohm assured her that he was included in all communication, as Chairman of the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel.

Chairman Towne felt that the Board could review the plan just to be kept informed, however, the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel should be the ones to review it, with the final adoption at the June Board meeting at the earliest. Bob Irvin suggested that the plan could be adopted, however, the Board or Panel may not elect to follow all recommendations, however, Chairman Towne that the changes should happen before the adoption. Bob Irvin thought some of the cost estimates were off, i.e. Dreikosen parcel was quoted \$5K – 8K for buckthorn removal, and the village had received quotes as high as \$40K. Chairman Towne also suggested that the draft plan should be put on the Village website, to which Member Armstrong agreed. Bob Irvin wondered if the draft plan should be printed or put in .pdf to distribute to the Board members, to which Chairman Towne replied that a paper copy should suffice for the Board members and Ad Hoc panel for now.

Bob Irvin further noted that the 8 acre parcel #5 should be acknowledged that it is owned by a homeowner association, not the village and there was a conservation easement granted by Mettawa over that lot, and they might need to consult the HOA for any changes made to this property. He also noted that for most of the Whippoorwill parcel #9, the village granted itself an easement in April of 2003 and Jay Womack recommended that they put this also in a conservation easement. Denis Bohm advised that the cost estimates could be put in an addendum section of the plan, to which Chairman Towne agreed. Scott Anderson added that this comprehensive plan was a goal. Member Pink inquired about the Commonwealth Edison poles located on the property and if they were going to be removed, to which Chairman Towne noted that he saw the installation contractor removing wires from the poles. Bob Irvin stated he was not aware that the poles were being removed, as he had not put in a request for same.

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

Chairman Towne shared that Nick Patera of Teska and Associates approached him with a proposal to trade the $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of limestone leftover from the Korhumel property (that did not sell at the auction) for labor and material to be rendered by their firm to the village.

Chairman Towne thought that this would be a fair, even favorable trade for the village and wondered if he could do it. He volunteered that he would refer this to Jim Ferolo before proceeding. The email submitted by Teska & Associates summarizing their inspection of Whippoorwill to Chairman Towne (and forwarded to all committee members) was read.

Denis Bohm cautioned that the property should be treated for teasel eradication now, before

it blooms and maybe at a later date have a botanist go thru the area and identify what plants are there.

G. REVIEW AND DISCUSS ILM (INTEGRATED LAKES MGMT) AGREEMENT

Chairman Towne recommended to extend the agreement for one more year for the Whippoorwill Farm Preserve, but wondered what Jay Womack would suggest. Denis Bohm thought that maintenance should be done over the summer, as the invasive species needed eradication treatment, but holding off the native seeding might be wise. Chairman Towne was cautious about the proscribed burning, as he heard of several accidents where the burning got out of hand and damaged homes. Denis Bohm stressed that the area had not had a proscribed burn in two years and should be burned every three years. Member Armstrong suggested two maintenance visits and one proscribed burn. Bob Irvin suggested that Chairman Towne tell ILM that the village would like a revised proposal for the agreed upon two maintenance visits and one proscribed burn.

It was moved by Chairman Towne, and seconded by Member Pink, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept an Integrated Lakes Management proposal for one proscribed burn and two maintenance visits for \$6,150 for Whippoorwill Farm Preserve. The motion was carried.

H. REVIEW PROPOSAL TO MOW OASIS PARK, RESTAURANT SITE & WHIPPOORWILL PARK

Chairman Towne thought that Oasis Park looked a little disheveled and could use a good mowing. He also noted lots of oats and deer eating them up. Chairman Towne presented the Brickman proposal and wanted this area mowed as soon as possible, then the other two sites later. He suggested a quote from ILM for the Whippoorwill property might be a good idea for another time.

It was moved by Member Armstrong, and seconded by Chairman Towne, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the Brickman proposal for one May mowing the Oasis Park, Riverwoods Blvd site and Whippoorwill Park properties for \$830. The motion was carried.

I. UPDATE ON HAY PROPOSALS AT THE RIVERWOODS ROAD 19 ACRE SITE

Chairman Towne received two proposal: Yarc, which would pay rent to the village \$75/acre for the Riverwoods Road 19 acre site, not including delivery to residents and Dr. Bob Haraden, which would pay rent to the village \$85/acre, delivery included. He suggested they accept Dr. Bob Haraden's proposal. It was noted that the harvesting would not start until 07/01/15, however, Denis Bohm asked that it not be harvested until 7/15/15, due to the nesting birds using this habitat.

It was moved by Chairman Towne, and seconded by Member Pink, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the Dr. Haraden's proposal for renting the Riverwoods property at \$85/acre, sale of \$5/bale hay to residents, including delivery. The motion was carried.

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

Chairman Towne reported that he received two letters dated 05/04/15 from Ehlers & Juhrend, the excavators who dumped the spoils on the Oasis Park, which he read aloud. The first letter was concerned with the status of the seeding and timing and the slow success of the anticipated growth. The second letter requested that the late penalty be removed, citing their inability to control Bradley Road construction project, the weather and the fact that the Lake Forest Academy shorted them 25% of the promised fill. Chairman Towne noted that they still owe the village \$31K for the Bradley Road funds, but could negotiate for the penalty. He suggested that he would bring this to the Board for discussion on Tuesday.

Member Pink liked the proposed Oasis Park sign, but inquired if this status would bring about any adjustments with their insurance company. Chairman Towne replied that it might and he had already consulted with Trustee Maier about this and it was taken care of.

K. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:48pm, seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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