

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016, 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 7:45pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Chairman Towne, Member Sheldon and Member Armstrong

Absent: None

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

Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from January 13, 2016.

Chairman Towne noted that under item F, the reference to the “church property”, should actually be “Oasis Park”. Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of January 13, 2016 as presented with the above-mentioned change, and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. REVIEW AND DISCUSS WRD’S SCHEDULE FOR WHIPPOORWILL AND OASIS PARKS SCHEMATIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT.

Chairman Towne initially wanted to wait until the first week in June to walk the parks and determine what plants were coming up before committing to anything with WRD. He also thought there might be a need for extra meetings to define, prioritize and generate fully prepared documents. Chairman Towne also suggested that the event of upcoming meetings and planning be put in the Mettawa newsletter to generate interest and contributing ideas from the residents. Bob Irvin suggested a Kick Off meeting with WRD at the committee’s May 11 meeting. Chairman Towne thought that MOLA should be asked if they were willing to remove the buckthorn on one of their planned workdays. Denis Bohm thought MOLA could start now, as there would be no plantings yet to worry about working around.

Chairman Towne reminded everyone that there was a special seed mix at Oasis Park that had a 3-year plan to develop and starting in June might be favorable. He suggested a 5/11 Kick Off meeting, a 6/8 committee meeting with prepared documents and a schedule for fall plantings. He was also aware of the pending trail work scheduled at Oasis Park, and they could be more aggressive with planning at Whippoorwill Park. Member Sheldon suggested having the Kick Off meeting at the committee 4/13 meeting because of intended plugs/plantings at Whippoorwill, to which Chairman Towne agreed. Member Armstrong thought that there might be more to consider, and Chairman Towne cautioned that if the Oasis Park trail bids come in too high and are rejected by the Village Board, more changes would result. Scott Anderson thought the changes would not be a problem.

E. CONSIDERATION OF MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ITEMS FOR THE FY 2016-17 BUDGET.

Chairman Towne reported that he would like to include a figure for plugs and planting for Whippoorwill Park in the budget. Bob Irvin replied that he only used the open space estimate and was waiting for the completion of the schematic plans to fill in with more definitive numbers. Chairman Towne suggested \$30K for plantings for Whippoorwill and Oasis Park each, but that this number would not include buckthorn removal. Bob Irvin agreed to record those figures and noted that they could be amended later, if necessary. He further noted that the Lake County Forest Preserve approved funds for the railroad crossing at the bridge.

In addition, he noted that Lake Forest Village has plans for a trail between Academy Drive and Field Drive and may ask Mettawa to start Phase #1 of the project within the Village boundaries. Chairman Towne felt that they could not expect any grant funds for the Mettawa work and the Village Board would not fund the project since their patch of a trail does not lead to anywhere. He was willing to write a letter of intent for Lake Forest, if it would help, but noted that this was already done months ago for the LCFP. Scott Anderson noted that the trail from Deerpath to St. Mary's Road was logical, but nothing else was without the Lake Forest commitment.

Bob Irvin suggested that it would enhance the ability to get grant funds if Phase #1 was done, to which Chairman Towne replied that the Village does not need to perform Phase #1, since Mettawa has the necessary easements. Scott Anderson advised no topography map was required for Phase #1, which was a small part of the grant application. Chairman Towne thought the trail would be a good thing, but did not want to pay for Lake Forest's cost, and the Village was not successful getting grants for Mettawa. He also noted that a hard blacktop trail was not horse friendly and inquired how wide the proposed trail would be, as Mettawa's trails are 8' wide. Scott Anderson insisted that trail must be paved to keep it from eroding, due to the sharp drop off and Member Armstrong added that others want hard surfaces, i.e. bike riders. Member Sheldon inquired of the cost to create Phase #1, which prompted Chairman Towne to ask Bob Irvin to pursue the Phase #1 cost estimate to the Village.

F. UPDATE ON BIDDING OF ROUTE 60 TRAIL EXTENSION AND OASIS PARK TRAIL RELOCATION

Chairman Towne was disappointed that the State of Illinois is holding up progress and was willing to pursue a bid for the Oasis Park trail relocation independent of the Route 60 trail extension. He volunteered to call Tom Gallback with the State of Illinois to get the trail extension going.

It was moved by Member Sheldon, and seconded by Member Armstrong, to recommend to the Village Board that they go out for bidding on the Oasis Park trail relocation, independent of the Route 60 trail extension. The motion was carried.

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

Chairman Towne inquired about any other items to discuss from the members present, but there was none.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm, seconded by Chairman Towne. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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