

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016, IN THE MAPLE BOARDROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Sheldon called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Chairwoman Sheldon and Member Armstrong and Member Brennan (left 8:00pm)

Absent: None

Also present: Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Denis Bohm and Tom Heinz, MOLA members; Jan Pink (left 8:29pm) and Tim Towne, Village Trustees; Mike Baird, resident; Jay Womak of WRD Environmental; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.

Chairwoman Sheldon declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from March 09, 2016.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of March 09, 2016 as presented, and Member Brennan seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION OF OASIS PARK TRAIL RELOCATION BIDS

Bob Irvin presented the bid tabulation for the 2015 Oasis Park Trail Construction, noting that the lowest bidder was Chicagoland Paving Contractors of Lake Zurich at \$138,900. Trustee Towne was surprised and thought the bids would have come in lower, closer to \$100K. Scott Anderson thought that the previous vendor, Lifco, who did the Whippoorwill trail underbid the value of the work and also, it was not performed at prevailing wage, since the two owners of the small company did the work themselves. Since these figures were the basis of his and Trustee Towne's estimate, it is possible that the bid submittals are accurate.

Trustee Towne suggested alternatively moving the trail a little easterly for about \$30K, but also wanted to see how the WRD design planned for the trails. Scott Anderson noted that the desire for the trail relocation placement evolved to avoid removing trees that are now dead or removed. Chairwoman Sheldon felt there was no urgency to proceed without a conversation with WRD and to examine the overall plan and cost. Scott Anderson also felt that in addition to the safety issue about the trail being too close to Bradley Road, that the water flow picks up sand particles and clogs the ditch. He suggested that asphalt surface in that area would prevent the runoff and clogging issues. Chairwoman Sheldon wanted to put the Oasis Park Trail bids on hold.

It was moved by Member Armstrong, and seconded by Member Brennan, to recommend to the Village Board that they reject the submitted bids for the 2015 Oasis

Park trail relocation, and review overall WRD plan to incorporate design accordingly. The motion was carried.

E. UPDATE ON ROUTE 60 TRAIL EXTENSION

Chairwoman Sheldon inquired of the IDOT status to which Scott Anderson replied that the necessary documents were sent to IDOT and Tom Galenbach has now expressed a sense of urgency to get the job done, after numerous calls from a state senator inquiring of the status as well. Anderson promised to email the calculations to Galenbach so that he may complete the task. Chairwoman Sheldon stated that once the approval from IDOT was received, that the Village could go out for cost bids.

Mike Baird of 26209 St. Mary's Road addressed the committee about his safety concerns on the Route 60 trail extension along Deerpath Farms and St. Mary's Road, due to its proximity to the busy street. He noted that horses being ridden by residents could easily be spooked and find themselves in the street with the passing cars. He believed that IDOT inquired about equestrian use, but Anderson Engineering could find no record of such. He expressed concern about the number of accidents at the intersection of Route 60 and St. Mary's Road. Scott Anderson responded to George Gunderly about the trail use, but no one has ever prohibited horse access to the trail.

Both Trustee Towne and Member Armstrong agreed that this is a safety issue and the riders should walk their horses along this stretch. Chairwoman Sheldon agreed, stating safety was important and suggested that if and when the trail is built, there should be signs indicating that the horses should be walked. Mike Baird also suggested motorist distraction is an issue. Trustee Towne thought that the cars traveled too fast on Route 60, and Chairwoman Sheldon asked if the traffic engineer could lower the speed limit. Scott Anderson replied that 45MPH would be posted in their manual and this would be a political change, not an engineering change.

F. REVIEW WRD SCHEMATIC DESIGNS FOR WHIPPOORWILL AND OASIS PARKS

Jay Womak presented topological maps of first Oasis Park and then Whippoorwill Park. The design was focusing on a natural landscape plan and noted that there were wetlands to work around. Trustee Towne explained the field tile activity that contributed to the wetlands. Although he had his own ideas, he inquired of the committee the primary goals of this parcel. Member Armstrong stated it was open land, enjoyment, views and trail access. Jay Womak interpreted this as passive recreation, and inquired how the residents would get to the Oasis Park. It became obvious that while many residents could walk to this park, many would have to drive to use it and there were no parking accommodations. The committee was united in their desire for no parking accommodations because of the accompanying responsibilities: policing, garbage service, snow plowing, etc.

Bob Irvin noted that pedestrian access was available for all residents except for those in the south section of the Village. Jay Womak thought that alternate limestone and turf trails would be a good idea, and it could keep the trail close to the road. Member Armstrong, Trustee Towne and Denis Bohm wanted to keep the NW corner of the parcel natural, not turf as Womak had suggested. Bob Irvin stated that another Village goal was low maintenance of the parcel. Trustee Towne and Chairwoman Sheldon suggested emulating Middle Fork Savannah, and Denis Bohm suggested landscaping similar to Whippoorwill Park.

Chairwoman Sheldon further suggested trees and prairie planting should be the priority and a seed bank later on. Trustee Towne advised that Ehlers and Juhrend seeded the area two years ago according to their agreement with the construction of the berm. Jay Womak asked Trustee Towne for a list of what the seeding contained. Jay Womak asked about the presence of trees on the berm, to which Trustee Towne stated that the nearby neighbors were happy as is, and noted the noise reduction. Womak advised that there was a necessity to maintain the Ehlers and Juhrend seeding, plants and plugs on the berm area, and where the trails ended up they could just mow to maintain them. He further stated that he would look for design opportunities in the parcel - trails, overlooks and bridges - and include them in the schematic design.

For Whippoorwill Park, Jay Womak asked about buckthorn removal, and Trustee Towne countered that the residents liked the visual screen. Womak noted that the existing trees along the edge give shade to the desired prairie and would be counter productive. He further suggested that the ash or elm trees could be destroyed by the proscribed burn, but was advised that the residents liked the existing evergreens. To gain a better understanding, Chairwoman Sheldon offered to visit the site with Womak.

Jay Womak advised that all non-native vegetation should be removed and if the evergreen trees stay, they needed to be maintained. He further suggested that the SE quadrant of the parcel should be seeded and many trees there should be cleaned up and restored. He suggested buckthorn removal. Bob Irvin noted of the 10 utility poles on Route 60, three of them could be removed, but due largely to cost, the other seven would have to remain. He did inquire about the existing curb cuts and if they could /should be removed. Scott Anderson inquired about emergency vehicle access, but thought that he could remove the curb cuts. Chairwoman Sheldon asked if they should mark the trees the Village wanted to keep.

Jay Womak advised for the SW quadrant that other than the large oaks, they should start from scratch and utilize a seed bank. Chairwoman Sheldon asked if perhaps Womak could indicate which trees they should keep and MOLA could focus on removing the rest. Bob Irvin reminded Chairwoman Sheldon that \$30K was allocated in the 2016 budget each for Oasis Park and Whippoorwill Park for vegetation removal. Chairwoman Sheldon wanted a recommendation from Jay Womak on how much money to allocate for removal and how many trees to remove. Womak was not sure and wanted to walk the parcel again. Chairwoman Sheldon and Womak agreed to meet Wednesday, April 30 at 8:00am on the site to evaluate and educate her about which trees to remove. Bob Irvin summarized the discussion, stating that Jay Womak would have the decisions discussed put on paper and ready for the 5/11/16 committee meeting.

G. UPDATE REGARDING IEPA WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT, FILED BY TESKA & ASSOCIATES, ON BEHALF OF VILLAGE

Chairwoman Sheldon advised the committee that she was told the application seemed promising and that the \$14K grant would be used at Oasis Park. She said that the Storm Water Management was asking for a cost estimate, budget breakdown and BMP engineering plans in addition to a list of seeding and plant plugs, background information and grading plan. Chairwoman Sheldon and Trustee Towne volunteered to review the requirements to see what Teska & Associates could do.

H. REVISIT PROJECT ON SW CORNER OF ST. MARY’S ROAD & ROUTE 60 TO ADDRESS BUCKTHORN AND SMALL BERM

Trustee Towne summarized the previous discussions for plans at the Dreikosen site, which the Groundbreakers vendor proposed months ago to clear the buckthorn from the property if he was allowed to dump excavation spoils on the property by extending the berm along Route 60. Scott Anderson recalled that one vendor submitted a proposal for \$40K to clear the buckthorn. Although the Village Board originally deferred the decision, due to the ongoing Koffel project, she thought that they could approach them again, with the open space plan in mind.

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

Bob Irvin advised of the Village Board approval of the budgets and the right-of-way maintenance program \$20K estimate was increased to \$25K, and that \$30K was budgeted each for Oasis Park and Whippoorwill Park. He stated that the budget could be amended if more funds were required. He estimated that the Route 60 trail extension would likely cost \$200K, due to the \$40K - \$50K for storm sewers, traffic control and restoration issues.

Trustee Towne thought there were grants available for regional trail extensions; however, Scott Anderson reminded him that the trails must be paved to have a grant. Anderson further suggested that the Village was better off restricting horse riding in this area with signs rather than barriers and all work must be done at prevailing wage. He further advised that if they were to move the trail away from the road, they would encounter wetland issues and the Army Corps of Engineers would have to be involved.

Scott Anderson stated that the Village insurance requirement of contractors having a bond took many of them out of the picture.

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 9:27pm, seconded by Chairwoman Sheldon. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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