

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018, IN THE MAPLE ROOM OF HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sheldon called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Sheldon and Member Bohm

Absent: Member Towne

Chairman Sheldon declared a quorum present.

Also, Present: Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING**

Meeting minutes of June 13, 2018 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Bohm and seconded by Chairman Sheldon that the meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. DISCUSS PETITION FOR VACATION OF EQUESTRIAN EASEMENT IN THE ROLLING MEADOWS SUBDIVISION**

Chairman Sheldon said the Committee has received a signed petition to vacate the equestrian easement in the Rolling Meadows subdivision. Member Bohm said this matter has been discussed in a prior meeting and was uncertain of what questions remained. Chairman Sheldon said the letter from the Village Attorney stated it lacked information and it's questionable since this is the last equestrian trail left in the Village. Chairman Sheldon said Mettawa is an equestrian friendly Village and we should really consider what needs to be done. Member Bohm said all of the property owners have signed the petition. Village Administrator Irvin said the language of this easement does not directly state one owner. Should this easement be vacated, each property owner along with the Village would need to sign the vacation document.

Chairman Sheldon said last month we vacated a trail because there was a completed road within the subdivision. This subdivision does not have a constructed road, which can be an issue if this development built at a later time.

Member Bohm moved to pass the vacation equestrian easement to the Board for approval. There was no second to the motion.

Member Bohm moved and seconded by Chairman Sheldon to send the petition to the Board for discussion with no recommendation. Village Administrator Irvin said the Board can reach

a consensus at the meeting and direct the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance and the mutual agreement for all of the property owners. The motion carried.

**E. DISCUSS THE SUSPENSION OF THE ROUTE 60 ISLAND PLANTING**

Chairman Sheldon said the island planting has been discussed for several months. The Committee has decided to suspend the approved \$20,000 for Route 60 island plantings. Village Administrator Irvin said no further action is needed since no contract was signed; however, you can provide the Board an update on your decision. Member Bohm said it is too late in the year to complete this project.

**F. DISCUSS SIGNAGE FOR TRAILS AND HORSE CROSSINGS**

Chairman Sheldon said horse crossing signs are being posted in the Village for resident protection. Member Pink said the two signs Tim Towne requested for Equestrian Connection were not part of the Village's signs listing. As a result, these two street signs were paid for Tim Towne.

Village Engineer Scott Anderson said the recently installed signs by the request of Tim Towne were not intended to be horse crossing. The signs are warning signs that indicate horses are in the area. These warning signs were discussed at Around the Town meetings.

Resident, Dr. Fantus, asked what the Illinois rules of the road state for the driver's obligation to these types of signs. Village Administrator Irvin said these signs are considered warning signs. Dr. Fantus asked if these signs will be posted on all of the larger stables in the Village. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said these signs are only meant for the driver to be warned, it's not intended for as a horse crossing location.

Chairman Sheldon said Always Faithful had requested horse crossing signs. The Village does not want to see flashing signs at Maureen Lane. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to make a recommendation to stripe the street, but not to recommend putting in flashing lights. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said this horse crossing is not a public street but a private owner request. The owner should complete a required engineering study which creates plans, traffic engineering study and if approved, Mr. Casas would enter into a license agreement with the Village. Member Bohm said in the May 9<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting Mr. Casas said he would be happy with the mid-block road horse sign and street striping. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said he researched the government requirements and a mid-block crossing requires an engineering study that could result in flashing lights.

Resident, Dr. Fantus asked if the property owners on Maureen Lane had an input on the suggested striping by their property. Dr. Fantus also asked why this location cannot have a diagonal crossing since Forest Haven has one at their entrance. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said you can't have a mid-block crossing. Dr. Fantus stated he recalled Mr. Casas stating during his public hearing the third drive-way was needed for emergency cases only.

Chairman Sheldon said she would like the discussion of striping the road with no flashing lights to be sent to the Board. The striping would be done for a safety reason.

Mayor Urlacher said the property owner will need to conduct the engineering study and the Village would have the opportunity to enter into a license agreement.

Member Bohm stated this stable has been located at this location for many years. Why do we have the need for striping now when prior owners did not deem it necessary. Chairman Sheldon said the current owner has built this stable into a multi-million-dollar facility, and he is aiming to keep his riders safe. Chairman Sheldon stated Mr. Casas would pay for the striping of the road.

Mayor Urlacher said if the Committee is not going to approve the signs, Mr. Casas should not incur the expense of completing a study.

It was moved by Member Sheldon and seconded by Member Bohm to send the horse crossing striping for Always Faithful with no flashing lights to the Board only for discussion with no recommendation to be made. The motion carried.

Resident, Patty Cork said if the law states you need to place flashing lights when striping the road, we should stop this conversation now.

#### **G. DISCUSS THE V3 OASIS PARK RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT OPTION**

Member Bohm said V3 made some recommendations based upon the growing season for Oasis Park. Since the trail is currently being relocated, the management plan should be tabled for ongoing care until the new trail construction is completed.

Village Engineer Scott Anderson said no special type of grass seed was specified for the project as the specs have the IDOT standard field mix. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to place some more detail plantings in place on the old trail. Village Engineer Scott Anderson reminded the Committee this project needs to be completed within 30 days of the initial day, so any grass seed changes should be discussed.

Member Bohm asked with the old trail gravel rocks being removed will the area be filled with topsoil for the seeds. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said some soil will be placed. Village Engineer Scott Anderson recommended getting a better seed mix for the trail than the usual field mix. Chairman Sheldon asked if cost could be obtained for some good topsoil to help the new grass seeding. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said he can ask R.A. Mancini to provide pricing on the topsoil.

Chairman Sheldon said she agrees with Member Bohm to table the recommendations of the Oasis Park until the trail is complete. Member Bohm said he will talk to the V3 representative to get a seed recommendation along with discussing some additional mowing to remove the non-native plants on the berm.

#### **H. DISCUSS ILM'S TREATMENT PLAN FOR THE WOODY INVASIVE SPECIES AT WHIPPOORWILL FARM**

Chairman Sheldon said she thought the ILM's treatment for the invasive species was included in their plan. Member Bohm said he reviewed the ILM 2017 worksheet service reports. The last treatment in 2017 included the treatment on buckthorn and the removal of mulberry bushes. ILM has three visits left to treat Whippoorwill farm. Member Bohm said he recommends utilizing an upcoming visit to treat the remaining invasive species.

Chairman Sheldon said we should make a recommendation to add one more treatment for this year to maintain this area. Village Administrator Irvin said a treatment cost is \$2,040. Member Bohm said he will get a proposal to include one more treatment to spray the invasive species for this year.

Member Bohm asked if the evergreen on Riverwoods Boulevard and Mettawa Drive was going to be removed. Chairman Sheldon said she will follow-up with Perfect Cut on this tree.

Village Administrator Irvin asked for ILM clarification on the follow-up steps for the Board agenda. Member Bohm said no additional cost will be requested from the Board. ILM has 3 stewardship visits left on the contract, and one will be used to treat these plantings. Member Bohm said should any additional treatments be needed, it will be discussed at the August Committee meeting.

Village Administrator Irvin said the open space management budget was set at \$85,000. To date, only \$25,000 had been obligated. The budget was set slightly higher due to the assumption all of the treatments were going to be needed. Although, some of the line items that were included in the contract may not be completed due to the recommended location not needing the work.

Chairman Sheldon said she would like to submit an invoice for the additional labor from John Irvin Landscaping for laying down the wood chips and plantings completed at Whippoorwill Park.

A motion was made it was moved by Member Bohm and seconded by Chairman Sheldon to approve an invoice in the amount of no more than \$2,300 for John Irvin Landscaping for Whippoorwill Park plantings labor. The motion was carried.

**I. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION, AND IF APPROVED, BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Bohm and seconded by Chairman Sheldon to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk