

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 13, 2019 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 6:44 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Sheldon and Members Bohm and Towne

Absent: None

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 JANUARY MEETING

Meeting minutes of January 9, 2019 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Bohm that the meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

D. DISCUSS MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ITEMS FOR FY2019-20 BUDGET

Village Administrator Irvin mentioned the budget line item Mowing and Maintenance for Parks and Recreation includes the mowing for Whippoorwill Park. The proposed amount also includes the 2nd year spraying for TruGreen. Chairman Sheldon said she approved of the line item budget for \$6,000.

Village Administrator Irvin said the Open Space Maintenance line item captures the entire V3 2nd year proposed amount. Last year's budget amount for open space was not fully utilized with V3. This budget will help develop the Oasis Park. Trustee Bohm said ILM addressed the buckthorn sprouts at Whippoorwill Park last winter. Whippoorwill Park native area is becoming self-maintaining.

Village Administrator Irvin indicated the Village lot on Route 60 and St. Marys Road budget pertains to the berm being considered along with the clearing of the lot. If the Committee decides to build the berm, the cost of clearing the property could be reduced to zero.

Chairman Sheldon indicated she received a proposal from Cramer Construction to clear the lot corner of Route 60 and St. Marys Road. The proposal included to cut down the buckthorn and clear the trees up to 2 inches in diameter in the amount of \$17,000. The seeding and grading of this area would be priced separately. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said if the roots are dug out, the ground will be disturbed which will require a different approach in handling this corner and a permit will be needed.

Member Towne said he recommends to remove all the dead trees and buckthorn to enhance the lot and make it an open space area. A prior year's idea was to build a berm on this corner to help reduce the cost of clearing the lot. Chairman Sheldon said the Committee's yearly goal is to concentrate their efforts to improve one area within the Village. This corner would be considered this year's project. Village Administrator Irvin said this project has been budgeted for \$35,000. Village Administrator Irvin indicated to the Committee they had two options for this corner. The first option is for the Village to clear the lot, grade, seed the area and absorb the full cost. The second option is to design a berm with a contractor and no related expenses to clear the lot nor build the berm. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to further discuss this project in the next Committee meeting. The discussion will consist of the details to include in a bid packet. Member Towne said that since the County is looking to remove the current drive-way, the Village should consider making a connecting path from Alexandra Drive.

Member Bohm inquired if the current budget was adequate for this project plan. The Committee agreed indeed it was.

E. DISCUSSION OF THE LANDSCAPE PLANS FOR THE OASIS PARK

Village Administrator Irvin said Oasis Park landscaping has been budgeted for \$22,500. Member Bohm said he received three proposals for the Oasis Park trail landscaping plans. Applied Ecological Services completed the North Park in Lincolnshire. Their proposal did not include much information. V3 and Forest Builders also submitted proposals with their plantings and cost ideas along the trail. Chairman Sheldon asked Member Bohm if the grant was reviewed for the plantings (see the picture) for the Oasis Park. The flowering would enhance the grant area.

David Johannesen from Forest Builders added the Oasis Park has various unknown areas of the soil condition which will require assessment prior to planting.

Member Bohm added the wetlands and the woodland areas would also include some plants to enhance the areas. Forest Builders proposal was \$15,900 and V3 was priced at \$19,385.

Member Towne said he would like to recommend not to exceed price for this project. David Johannesen said his proposal included only one type of tree. The tree included in the proposal is quick growing, eye appealing and it has a variety of leaves. Member Towne said he would like to purchase larger trees to quickly fill the path and provide shade.

Member Towne suggested to have two plans. The first plan would be not to exceed cost for the project and then the final plan would be the layout for the Oasis Park.

Trustee Pink asked if the Oasis Park was the ideal place to plant a butterfly garden given its surroundings and noise levels. Mr. Johannesen said the garden can be created on the berm. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to mow some areas to create picnic areas for the residents to enjoy at the Oasis Park.

Member Bohm said the plantings would include three different types; plants for the wetland around the culverts, woodland butterfly garden in the shaded area, and the other plants along the trails. Village Engineer Scott Anderson suggested to stake the area to display the planting areas for a clear visual.

Chairman Sheldon indicated she would like the planting areas to be bigger than 200 square feet. Member Towne said Oasis Park brought \$243,000 of income to build the berm and enhance the park. The trail costed the Village \$117,000, resulting in some funds available. Chairman Sheldon asked if we could increase the budget to continue to improve this park. Village Administrator Irvin said the budget could be increased to accommodate the projects for this location. Chairman Sheldon suggested to increase the budget for the Oasis Park to \$100,000. Village Administrator Irvin will update the schedule for the next Committee meeting.

Member Bohm suggested some of the plant groupings could be doubled.

A motion was made to continue with Forest Builders submitted proposal and approve the amount not to exceed \$17,500. The motion was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Chairman Sheldon. The motion was carried.

Member Towne said we can review the first phase of the planting plans for next month. The tree proposals will be kept separately.

Village Administrator Irvin mentioned V3 included in their proposal irrigation. He asked Forest Builders to add this factor into their updated proposal for the drier months of July and August. Mr. Johannsen said the butterfly gardens will also need some watering.

Trustee Bohm mentioned the Committee had decided not to remove the buckthorn on the southside of the Oasis Park to not disturb the residential area. Trustee Bohm inquired when would this area be cleared. Chairman Sheldon said that area has been isolated and it could be a MOLA project.

F. UPDATE ON OASIS GRANT AREA AND DRAINAGE SWALE ENHANCEMENT

See Section E for discussion details.

G. DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE VILLAGE PROPERTY ON ST. MARYS ROAD AND ROUTE 60

See Section D for discussion details.

H. DISCUSS PLANS FOR GRAINGER PROPERTIES AFTER PURCHASE

Trustee Towne said a motion was made at a prior meeting to have the farmer begin farming this area. Village Administrator Irvin said the Village will not own the property to commence farming. Chairman Sheldon said the Village will not be granted access to this area until July 31st. Chairman Sheldon mentioned Grainger is currently paying \$12,000 for this area to be mowed. By the looks of

this area, it has not been mowed. Village Administrator Irvin said he has placed a call inquiring if the spring mowing on the Grainger property will be completed. The Grainger representative has not returned Village Administrator's call.

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

Member Bohm inquired on Perfect Cut's status for completing the vernal pond clean-up. Chairman Sheldon said she has spoken to Perfect Cut and they have indicated they will be completing this project. Member Towne said MOLA is due to meet this week should Perfect Cut decide not to complete this project. Chairman Sheldon said she will follow-up with Perfect Cut to ensure he is still interested in clearing the death plantings in this area.

Member Bohm asked about resubmitting the ComEd Green Project grant. This butterfly area would be done at the Whippoorwill Park behind the seven evergreens. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said we could ask David Johannsen to complete the grant write-up again. Chairman Sheldon said resident Jess Ray is a registered resident as a weigh station for the butterflies. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to register the Village's Whippoorwill Park as the recorded location for the butterflies weigh station. Member Bohm stated he would like the grant to be resubmitted. Member Towne confirmed this action.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Chairman Sheldon and seconded by Member Towne to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk