

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021 VIA ZOOM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

We are conducting this meeting in accordance with the recently amended provisions of the Open Meetings Act, the Governor's Disaster Proclamation and the Governor's Executive Orders. Based upon the Disaster Proclamation and the Executive Orders and the location and size of the Village's meeting facilities, it has been determined that in-person meetings are not practical nor prudent at this time. Therefore, this meeting is being conducted in a virtual conference format.

B. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Bohm and Members Pink and Towne

Absent: None

Chairman Bohm declared a quorum present.

Also, on the call: Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Meeting minutes of February 10, 2021 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink that the regular meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON BUILDING A BERM ON THE VILLAGE LOT LOCATED ON ROUTE 60 AND ST. MARY'S ROAD

Village Engineer Scott Anderson said he met with Mr. DiTomasso regarding building the berm on the Village's corner lot. Mr. DiTomasso addressed his concerns of the berm not being large enough to accommodate his truckloads of dirt. Mr. DiTomasso will continue to assess his workload and the berm's size before accepting the Village's terms. Member Towne asked if the Committee would consider discussing this berm with other contractors who may be interested as well. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said the site is about 8,000 yards. Chairman Bohm indicated Mr. DiTomasso should be given a deadline and then allow other interested contractors to consider this project. Village Administrator Irvin commented Mr. DiTomasso expressed some issues regarding the site plans and the language within the agreement. Village Engineer Scott Anderson confirmed he spoke to Mr. DiTomasso about all of the agreement specifications. The Committee has determined Mr. DiTomasso's deadline is the next Committee meeting, afterwards other contractors will be pursued.

E. DISCUSS THE HAMILTON ESTATES PROPERTY ON RIVERWOODS BLVD PURCHASE STATUS

Village Administrator Irvin indicated the Village Attorney has drafted the initial letter for the two homeowners' associations. Discussions also included the procedures on how the required number

of signatures by the two associations will be obtained. One association requires 2/3rd votes for approval while the other is 3/4th.

F. DISCUSS LANDSCAPING AROUND THE DEDICATED BARRY MACLEAN BENCH

Chairman Bohm said in a prior meeting it was discussed of adding plantings around the Barry MacLean bench. Chairman Bohm said he will provide the Committee some proposals for this area at the next meeting. Member Towne stated a landscape plan should be considered for the north and south end and more trees should be planted for this spring. The Committee should review Drew Johnson's Phase 2 tree plans he supplied at a prior meeting. Member Towne said additional flowers can be added by the bench but trees should be considered to screen the park. Trustee Sheldon asked if there was an update on the tree donation from Barry MacLean. Chairman Bohm indicated he did not hear back from Trustee Brennan and the trees being donated are smaller than what the Committee would consider planting. Chairman Bohm said he would like to add evergreens at the top of the berm to screen the park lights. Member Pink mentioned the Committee should consider waiting to hear Hey and Associates recommendations on plants that could support the water issues in that area. Chairman Bohm said this summer Pizzo and Associates will be completing some additional seeding. The Chairman will also discuss with Pizzo on the timing of future plantings. Member Towne added the budget is available for additional trees to be planted.

Resident, Jess Ray (350 Little Melody Lane) said the Committee should not wait to plant trees to ensure they are watered appropriately.

G. DISCUSS ADDING BENCHES ALONG THE TRAIL

Chairman Bohm said he received several requests from residents asking if benches could be added along the trails. The Lake County Forest Preserve have already placed a few benches along their trail. The Whippoorwill Park will have benches. Chairman Bohm asked the Village Engineer Scott Anderson if he anticipated any issues with placing a bench in the right-of-way. Village Engineer Scott Anderson replied the bench can be installed but it will also be located in front of a resident's yard. Member Towne indicated at an earlier Committee meeting it had been decided no additional benches were required. Member Towne added the Forest Preserve provides great picnic areas with waste bins for our residents which reduces the need for the Village to accommodate. The Village maintains their trails for walkers. Chairman Bohm said this agenda item will be tabled for a later discussion.

Mr. Ray commented the residents and the stable owners that utilize the trails should also be contacted regarding the benches to determine if they share any concerns.

H. DISCUSS ADDING PICNIC TABLES AND WASTE CONTAINERS AT WHIPPOORWILL PARK

Chairman Bohm stated he would like to consider adding two picnic tables and a waster container at the homesite patio. The waste would be collected by Dunlap and this service would be added to our current maintenance agreement. Village Administrator Irvin confirmed Dunlap can be asked to collect the waste. Member Towne said he is against the picnic table and the waste container. Chairman Bohm stated he has received feedback from residents requesting a picnic table at Whippoorwill Park to have a picnic and to add this location as a community gathering. Member Towne added his concern is where will the picnic attenders park. Member Pink added she too has

received residents asking for a picnic area. Member Pink said she will visit the site to determine if two picnic tables can be placed on the patio.

Resident, Carol Armstrong (765 Bradley Road) said she had witnessed runners at Whippoorwill Park and they sat on the patio edge due to the lack of seating.

Resident, Holly Hirsch (707 Bradley Road) said she uses the trails for leisure. She suggested to delay the placing of tables on the patio until the quarantine phase has been lifted.

Chairman Bohm said this agenda item will be further discussed at the next meeting.

I. DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Chairman Bohm said the Committee will be discussing the following Village parcels for this meeting; #1 (27570 Oak Hill), #2 (East side Oasis Service strip), #3 (Oasis Park), #8 (Southeast Corner of Route 60 and Riverwoods Road) and #9 (Riverwoods Road berm).

Chairman Bohm indicated **Parcel #1** just recently removed dead trees and buckthorn in November. The resident Dr. Herbert Beck was pleased with the work completed on Oak Hill. Member Towne added Dr. Beck has asked the Village to not remove a large quantity of buckthorn as it is part of his screening. Chairman Bohm indicated no further actions will be taken on parcel #1 at this time.

Parcel #2, this area is less than an acre. This lot has a great deal of buckthorn. Village Administrator Irvin added the Lake Forest public service building use to reside on Mettawa's boundary, with the new agreement it was disconnected. This land has access to the Oasis service road. Chairman Bohm asked if the Village should consider reaching out to Lake Forest if they would like to acquire and maintain this land. Village Administrator Irvin said this land is not part of the intergovernmental agreement and it grants the Village access to the Oasis business center. The Committee's census was to keep the land and no further action will be taken.

Parcel #3, the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park is currently under contract with Pizzo and Associates for 5-years. Pizzo has seeded this area. Member Towne added we need to plant trees and many of them. Member Pink said she would like to treat this area as a prairie and only plant some trees. Chairman Bohm mentioned he would like to plant some evergreens at the top of the berm as a trial to determine if they would survive. A few trees on the south end of the park did not make it through the season and they will be replaced. In addition, the residents on the south end would like to keep the screening for privacy. Member Towne said he would like to add some additional birch trees on the north end along the Oasis drive. Chairman Bohm said he would like to add some evergreens on the north and north east of the berm too.

Mrs. Hirsch said when walking on the north end of the Oasis by the service driveway, the trail becomes very narrow and hazardous due to the closeness the cars come to the trail. Mrs. Hirsch requested the trail to be moved inward to the park to protect the walkers. Chairman Bohm said he will look into this matter. Mrs. Hirsch also added she would like some additional trees on the north end of the park and on the berm. Chairman Bohm said he will aim to bring a proposal to plant evergreens on the north east side of the park for the next Committee meeting.

Parcel #8, the southeast corner lot is behind Costco. Chairman Bohm indicated MOLA's plans included to remove some of this buckthorn. This lot is difficult to work on due to part of the land being wetlands. Member Towne recommended to meet with Costco Management to determine their interest in participating to enhance this lot along with the Village. Member Towne added this lot is not high priority to be maintained. Mr. Ray said this lot is part of the Army Corps of Engineers and they should be notified of any potential work. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said the wetland section is part of the Army Corps of Engineers and they encourage maintenance to the area.

Parcel #9, this lots consists of two berms adjacent to the driveways by Costco. Member Towne indicated these berms are being maintained by Costco and they look good. The Committee has no action item for this parcel.

J. DISCUSS MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ITEMS FOR FY2021-2022 BUDGET

Village Administrator Irvin said no changes were made to the budget from the last Committee meeting. Village Administrator Irvin added the budget currently has a miscellaneous amount of \$1,700. However, if the Committee is looking to consider benches or other items this amount will need to be adjusted to accommodate those expenses. Member Towne asked what the budget was set for additional trees. Village Administrator Irvin said the budget includes \$25,000 for trees.

A motion was made to approve the Parks and Recreation Committee proposed budget and send it to the Board for approval. The motion was made by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

Chairman Bohm lost connectivity to the Zoom meeting. Village Administrator Irvin added Chairman Bohm will have opportunity to make any budget changes at the April meeting.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Pink and seconded by Member Towne to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk