

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 09, 2013, 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 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Members Lane and Armstrong, and Chairman Towne.

Absent: None

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer, Larry Falbe and Jeff Clark (at 6:15pm), residents; Mayor Jess Ray; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from November 14, 2012.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of November 14, 2012 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. DISCUSSION OF OASIS PARK

Chairman Towne presented a Conceptual Master Plan dated 03/16/2012 designed by Teska of the Oasis Park and a proposal from Teska for services not to exceed \$2,950 for a berm plan. Member Armstrong questioned the placement of the berm and Scott Anderson asked how wide it could be. Chairman Towne felt it the berm could be wider and taller than previously discussed. Member Lane questioned if this plan is a design that could be used to seek out bids from other contractors. Mayor Ray asked about the placement of the berm along Bradley Road. Chairman Towne replied that all suggestions were possible and a planning session was necessary.

Anderson noted that lack of new wetlands and contour survey on the present master plan and suggested someone look to make sure there were not additional pockets of wetlands existing. He also added this could not be accomplished in the winter and this task would have to wait until spring 2013. Chairman Towne requested Anderson to take care of this task in the spring.

Larry Falbe spoke about the village acquisition in the capacity of a resident of Hamilton Estates subdivision and President of MOLA and said that he was very pleased. He stated that he liked keeping the land as open space and this berm project would eliminate *some* light pollution, but not all. He would like to know how this parcel would be planned out and would like to be involved in the process. He noted a drainage swale that appears during significant rain events and he did not want the grading or berm to interfere with the drainage or wetlands. Mayor Ray indicated that the water flow of the property is in an easterly direction. Chairman Towne advised Falbe that drainage was recently cleaned up.

Mayor Ray added that there was a need to consider the long-term appearance of the plan, especially tree height, which may be effective in reducing light pollution. He stated that spruce and conifers can reach 60ft in height, and this would be a big benefit towards their goal. Anderson referenced the berm at Routes 43 & 60 as a good example of trees located on the berm. Chairman Towne cited the Granger berm as another nice example. Member Armstrong agreed. Larry Falbe added that he strongly felt that these types of investments were well worth the effort, from his point of view as a HO and President.

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Lane to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the Teska proposal, at a cost not to exceed \$2,950 for the berm plan creation. The motion was carried.

E. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF NEW VILLAGE HALL HOUSE AT ST. MARY'S ROAD AND ROUTE 60

Chairman Towne stated that he has the survey and gave several reports on the status of the building:

The hazardous material expert, Homero Bautista of ECC, Inc. of Chicago is examining the property. He stated that the EPA would need to approve the site for the purpose of village use. The hazardous material expert will provide a report for \$500 and will also give a proposal for removal of all toxic substances. Chairman Towne felt that this was a very good value for the expense.

Chairman Towne reported that the electrician, Amco Electric noted that a fuse box was installed and the wiring is substandard for commercial use, (and barely acceptable for residential use) and must be rewired. He further stated that conduit is already in place and it will be easy to pull the new wires thru and expects an estimate shortly, along with an estimate for installation of overhead lighting, since there is none presently.

He also reported that both furnaces need to be replaced at the advice of Command Heating, due to their age (installed in 70's and 80's) and that ductwork is in the attic, but needs proper insulation, rated R18.

Chairman Towne shared that all the plumbing is in the concrete and the house is on a slab. He noted that the water service is shut down at the south end of the house for now and the bathrooms (male and female) must be ADA compliant and should be placed back to back. He noted that the well comes into the house at the north end and the plumber could hook up water service from there. Member Lane questioned the necessity of the well hook-up. Chairman Towne noted the need to annex the property to the JAWA district and it would be wise to have water for the sprinkler for the record room alone. Mayor Ray counseled that this project should be viewed as a matter of phases to address all the hardships discovered. Member Lane agreed that the committee should do all their discovery and homework and then decide how to proceed.

Chairman Towne advised that he ordered a well and septic report from LCHD and it is expected by the end of the month. Mayor Ray indicated that there is no closing date given as of yet, and Ferola is working on it. He believes that end of January is still a possibility. Chairman Towne felt that a site plan was necessary to determine traffic pattern and parking capacity. He also wanted Dunlap Tree Service to remove some trees and dead/decaying

branches that were considered a danger or nuisance. He further reported that the roof was in acceptable shape, but some windows would need to be replaced. Colleen Liberacki read an email on behalf of Cathy Nelson, Village Clerk, who wanted to provide input but could not be present tonight.

Mayor Ray suggested that an architect should be hired to plan the appearance and space of the building, since significant remodeling was a potential event, and it would also provide a drawing or image to show the residents. He also stated that this project now needed to be transferred over to the Public Works Committee, to which Chairman Towne agreed, and would provide specs for bidding process. Jeff Clark offered to create a floor plan and Mayor Ray offered to hold a special meeting to vote on hiring an architect for this project.

Jeff Clark felt that the house was in poor shape on the inside and inquired of Mayor Ray about still pursuing the HSBC rental alternative for a Village Hall. Mayor Ray said he had not pursued that alternative (correctly known as Capital One) due to the potential for the village to own their own village hall. Member Lane felt it was still logical to pursue the Capital One rental option, for the cost comparison alone. Mayor Ray stated that they would have to consider what dollar amount does the village have to spend to occupy and furnish the house, including furniture as a comparison to repeated expenditure. He felt the consideration was one time cost to permanently own something versus reoccurring cost and no return on the expenditure.

F. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL PARK AND PRESERVE

Chairman Towne reported that the house and barn are now demolished and the berm on Route 60 is underway. He further stated that the dirt for the house cavity was there and they are waiting for dirt fill for the barn from Ehlers & Juhrend, and Eagle Biomass will provide the seed. Chairman Towne further stated that MOLA and LCFP should move ahead with a planting plan. He listed the assets of the wooded savannah to the west, driveway and wishing well; and Rocco landscaping expense had been eliminated for 1 year, since the decision of demolition was reached. Chairman Towne suggested that the Route 60 entrance should be gated off once the trucks are done dumping the dirt. He further believes that the Mettawa Lane residents will not see Route 60 once the spring growth takes place.

G. UPDATE ON EVERETT NORTH & SOUTH

Chairman Towne advised that Nick Patera of Teska will be doing a presentation at the upcoming Village Board meeting and that Village Clerk, Cathy Nelson will need to bring the presentation materials that were left in the committee's possession. Chairman Towne requested that Cathy Nelson be advised of this task.

H. GENERAL DISCUSSION ON LAND HOLDINGS AND FUTURE MAINTENANCE AND/OR DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Towne reported that he felt no urgency or need to hurry with decisions on maintenance and that the committee should assess what talents and resources are available for use within the village as well as from the LCFP. Jeff Clark stated he was interested in a land stewardship plan and consultants to keep the feel of the Mettawa character intact. He further stated he was at a recent meeting with Libertyville Township and the subject of stewardship came up as an answer to plan for the oak trees that were due to die over the next 60 years. Member Lane inquired of these facts, to which Clark replied the demise of the oak trees

would be due to pollution, emerald ash borer eliminating the canopy, buckthorn crowding and no new oak trees being planted. He further stated that many residents want the non-landscaped “untouched” look, but ironically, this requires much effort and LCFP can do some of this work as part of their job scope. Larry Falbe agreed about pursuing stewardship vs. landscaping. Chairman Towne suggested starting a village program, such as “plant a tree”. Larry Falbe felt that the village did not need a resident arborist, but should have a consultant to keep the trees healthy and alive.

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

None

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 pm, seconded by Member Lane. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk