

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 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 5:33 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Member Armstrong and Chairman Towne

Absent: Member Lane

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Bob Busscher, Drew Johnson (both also of MOLA), Casey Urlacher and Jeff Clark (at 6:20pm), residents; Nick Patera of Teska & Associates; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from January 09, 2013.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of January 09, 2013 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL PARK AND DISCUSSION OF ENTRANCE FENCE AND OVERALL PLAN OF THE ENTIRE SITE

Chairman Towne informed the committee that he met with MOLA and it was agreed that the site should be an extension of the Whippoorwill parcel on Route 60 and Riverwoods Road. He envisions it as a mixed landscaping with wooded savannah, patio (from demolished house) wishing well, preserve with native restoration, wetlands and a berm. He recommends that MOLA and the Village get a plan, possibly by Teska, to tie the two parcels together. MOLA does not have the funds, nor an agreement with the Village – the current agreement expired on 01/31/2013. MOLA still has yet to send an invoice to the Village for \$5,000 for previous work done. Drew Johnson suggested to get the existing berm pinned down and plan around it. Chairman Towne would like the Buckthorn removed that currently acts as a screen to the adjacent residential homes, however, until the berm is finished and a definite plan is in place, he feels that the HO's would object. Anderson offered to supply the base map as a foundation for the site landscaping plan. Chairman Towne feels that the plan would not cost more than \$5,000.

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Chairman Towne to recommend to the Village Board that they seek a site landscaping proposal, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 for the berm plan and park creation. The motion was carried.

Chairman Towne asked Anderson about a fence, with a circular sign for the purpose of blocking off the Route 60 entrance/cutout to the Whippoorwill Farm/Park. By agreement, the entrance to this parcel will be off of Mettawa Road. Anderson felt he could pull together a proposal and drawing by the Village Board Meeting.

E. OASIS PARK UPDATE

Nick Patera of Teska and Associates presented a land form study of Oasis Park, both as an aerial site plan and an elevation of the east – west side of the parcel, stating that the planned berms would be a 3-to-1 slope. Anderson noted that the Bradley Road view was still open to the Lake Forest Oasis parking area. Chairman Towne questioned about the presence of wetlands, to which Patera replied that 2 or 3 are listed in the study, notably along the north and south sides. He also stated that for the front line along Bradley Road, he would encourage more native plantings. He wanted to avoid the appearance of the “highway” berm and give the berm some motion, with plantings and placement. Chairman Towne stated that it is debatable whether mown grass or a hard limestone trail would be planned internally, due to the cost and justified use, but the limestone path could be used for the external trails. He also noted the equestrian connection on the plan.

There was an access easement on the property, which is now moot, due to the village purchase, stated Chairman Towne. He also explained to Patera the backstory of how the berms came to be a plan as a result of developers contacting the village looking for a site to unload spoils of excavation. Chairman Towne mentioned that he would like the work completed by Fall 2013 or Spring 2014, due to the Bradley Road work being planned. Member Armstrong inquired how long to transport the dirt, to which Chairman Towne replied 4 to 5 months.

Chairman Towne’s concern was the offensive view from the Bradley Road midpoint to the southwest corner, overlooking the Lake Forest Oasis, anticipating that residents would complain. He wanted this remediation to be a priority. Drew Johnson questioned who checks the accuracy of the wetland position, due to the winter timing of the study. Patera replied that by May 15, they wait for emergent growth and changes to appear before finalizing the placement of the wetlands. Chairman Towne wanted the land study tightened up a little more before presentation to the Village Board, and feels the berms could be raised 6ft or 7ft higher. Patera stated that he would present the plan with changes as requested at the 3/13 committee meeting.

F. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF NEW VILLAGE HALL HOUSE AT ST. MARY’S ROAD AND ROUTE 60 OF REMODEL VS. NEW CONSTRUCTION

Chairman Towne elected to transfer the topic to the Public Works Committee meeting, under item I on that agenda.

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

Chairman Towne advised the Western Open will be held at Conway Farms Sept 12 – 15, 2013, with an estimated 35,000 to 45,000 autos traveling thru the village and needing parking space. He stated that one acre could accommodate 100 cars. There will also be similar traffic in the days immediately preceding the event, due to practice runs and set up. In order to be prepared for the event traffic, he would like to see a site plan, accommodations for bathrooms, temporary access and permits that will need to be issued. Several locations were discussed as solutions for parking, and concerns for residents being able to access their own homes.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Chairman Towne to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm, seconded by Member Armstrong. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk