

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

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Present: Member Armstrong, Member Lane and Chairman Towne

Absent: None

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Mary Brennan, Drew Johnson (of MOLA), Casey Urlacher, Gina Thomas and Jeff Clark residents; Nick Patera of Teska & Associates; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from February 13, 2013.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of February 13, 2013 as presented and Member Lane seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. OASIS PARK REVISED PLAN FOR BERMS DISCUSSION**

Nick Patera of Teska and Associates presented a revised landform study of Oasis Park, reflecting editing of the site distance and other changes recommended by the Parks & Recreation Committee; there was an Option 2 added and it was noted that the elevation was the same as the Oasis Terrace elevation (behind it). There was also a plan to add plantings to hide trucks and buildings located at the oasis, which is a 714 ft elevation. Patera stated that the berm gets a bit wider, and the backside is a 3 to 1 slope, and still mowable. Patera also noted that the front side has differing contours and artistic characteristics. He called attention to the ridge berm that had differing elevations of different plantings and a 30 ft tall embankment from the grade. Still, with the vegetation, they would not be able to screen the lights, as some of the oasis lights are 60 ft tall.

Member Armstrong inquired in comparison if the Hagler berm took up more parking space. Patera replied that there was very little compromise and noted the raised trail elevation. Member Armstrong inquired about the water drainage change. Patera replied that the ditch splits going north and south, which takes care of most of the drainage and it does not change that much. Patera also stated that the steeper hill is vegetated, so rate of flow would differ little than before berm installation.

Member Armstrong inquired about quantity of dirt for berm. Scott Anderson estimated that 100,000 cubic yard of dirt would be needed for berm, which equates to 6,600 truckloads, or 15 yards x 22 tons. He further stated that the transport would take place over 4 – 5 months and it must be dry weather to work with it. Member Armstrong further inquired about how many trees and plantings would be needed. Chairman Towne replied that he would like to consult MOLA for their input for vegetation for Oasis Park and Whippoorwill Park. Drew

Johnson would furnish an example of a seed plant for durability. Chairman Towne stated that he would be interested in specialty seeding. Mary Brennan noted that the LCFP does provide free seeding. Anderson noted that ready-made seed is very effective in developing vegetation. Patera recommended the seeding with straw blankets as a good investment. Chairman Towne stated that the expense for landscaping would be covered by the revenue generated by the spoils acceptance from the excavation vendor.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Lane to recommend to the Village Board that they send out the Teska Oasis Park berm plan to excavation vendors for bidding on spoil dumping (revenue) to Village. The motion was carried.**

#### **E. WHIPPOORWILL PARK DISCUSSION**

Chairman Towne advised that there were 8 or 10 buckthorn plots that were to be removed, being the responsibility of DePaul University and Lauren Yume. He further stated that Keith Gray of ILM (Illinois Lakes Management) would assist in the removal. There would be burning involved and Chairman Towne wanted the committee to know about the activity before it commenced.

Chairman Towne stated that he would work with MOLA to identify seed specifications for the berm being built. He said that it would be a good idea to merge the Whippoorwill Preserve and the Whippoorwill Park, which would total 13 or 14 acres and would like Teska and Associates to submit a master landscaping plan proposal. Chairman Towne would like to keep the wishing well and the existing patio. Member Lane thought Teska did a fine job, but felt that the committee should seek a second bid for the same work, and he offered to be responsible for that task. Anderson stated that he had the original drawings to use as a basis for the proposal.

**It was moved by Member Lane and seconded by Chairman Towne to recommend to the Village Board that they request a proposal from Teska & Associates and one other vendor to create a master landscaping plan for merging Whippoorwill Park and Whippoorwill Preserve. The motion was carried.**

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

Jeff Clark inquired about the status of the large amount of black dirt at the Whippoorwill Preserve. Chairman Towne replied that it will be relocated after the Village Board retained Teska to update the comprehensive plan. Mary Brennan stated that she thought the Village Board members were supposed to read through the plan and make recommendations.

#### **G. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:07pm, seconded by Member Lane. The motion was carried.

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Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

*This document is subject to correction as noted on next meeting's minutes.*