

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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: Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Drew Johnson, resident; Ann Maine, Lake County Board Representative District 21 (and LCFP President) and S. Michael Rummell, Lake County Board Representative District 12; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk; Nick Patera of Teska & Associates. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from August 14, 2013.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of August 14, 2013 as presented and Member Lane seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. WHIPPOORWILL PARK PLAN UPDATE**

Chairman Towne sought input from MOLA and Lydia Scott of Morton Arboretum for ideas for the landscaping plan. Nick Patera of Teska & Associates presented a 2013-2014 landscaping plan schedule for Whippoorwill Park, which includes the newly created berm and incorporates trees already established. It addressed the open grassland, wet meadow, wildflower garden seed bank and savannah. It is a plan to link the existing spruce trees with the woodland savannah planting approximately 2.5' width by 16'- 18' height trees and will feature a few varieties of oak trees and others. Complimentary planting will be shrubs of sumac and gray dogwood placed on alternating sides of the berm ridge located at the SE corner of the park. If fall 2013 planting is considered, there will need to be frequent watering and mesh cages for the anticipated deer population.

Member Lane questioned if the proposed estimate of the project included a watering contract and Bob Irvin expressed a desire that the watering vendor and landscape nursery vendor be the same. Member Lane questioned if this work could be bid out as a two-year project. Chairman Towne replied that he wanted to avoid the protracted process of a public bidding by staying under the \$20K threshold. Nick Patera suggested to seek a proposal by asking for a watering charge per occurrence, to accommodate the possibility of rainfall absorbing some of this responsibility. Drew Johnson felt that the Teska plan was a great job and considers it a good guide going forward. He cautioned that extra labor might be involved due to the height of the berms vs. flat land. Chairman Towne stated that the materials and the maintenance are separate budgets. Drew Johnson suggested asking the

board for a higher dollar amount due to possible extra maintenance involved carrying material up the berm. Nick Patera replied that his plant installation estimate included the extra labor involved due to the berm height.

Chairman Towne asked for an estimate for watering per event. Nick Patera replied that he was quoted \$400 visit for 100 trees just planted at Conway Park, so Mettawa could anticipate \$500 per visit. Chairman Towne felt that the committee should bump up the budget to \$18K for planting and to include 5 watering events and if more is needed, the committee could procure a separate contract. Member Lane asked how many visits were sufficient to which Patera replied that a watering should last 1.5 to 2 weeks if no rain.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Lane to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the Teska plan for Whippoorwill Farm and Park and additionally, that they approve a budget of not to exceed \$17,500 for Phase 1 of the 2013 fall planting at same location. The motion was carried.**

Chairman Towne expressed interest in selling bricks to residents at a cost of \$300 each to restore the pathway to the wishing well left intact after the building demolition. He considered it a unique feature of the property.

#### **E. OASIS PARK UPDATE**

Chairman Towne reported that the berm construction is underway and they are about 20% into the timeline of the project. The project was stopped earlier in the week due to the anticipated traffic congestion of the BMW Golf Tournament being hosted at Conway Park. They are targeting clearing trees on the north end of the lot and bids submitted by Canopy Trees and Dunlap were considered. Clean Cut was asked for a bid, but none was submitted. Canopy Trees was the responsible low bidder at \$7500 and Chairman Towne requested a motion to accept this proposal and recommend to the Village Board.

**It was moved by Member Lane and seconded by Member Armstrong to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the Canopy Tree proposal for \$7500 to clear the trees at the north end of Oasis Park. The motion was carried.**

#### **F. TRAIL CONNECTION EAST, OVER TOLLWAY 7 TRAIL WEST TO ST. MARY'S ROAD CONNECTION**

Chairman Towne shared pictures with Ann Maine and Mike Rummell regarding the trail link that is being proposed to the 14' of hard surface bridge. Ann Maine stated that the COP Planning Committee was interested and arranged a meeting with Keith Gray of ILM, Bob Irvin, Chairman Towne and Lake DOT. She asked that the Village of Mettawa write a letter of support to her at the Lake County Forest Preserve regarding the Middle Fork Savannah Bridge and the potential East – West connection. She further suggested attaching a plan illustrating what is completed and what is in the planned. Mike Rummell stated that the main motivation for initiating this plan is the safety factor. People using the trails realize that there is no south exit and attempt to cross at the tracks. The other motivating factor is the desire to create a complete loop linking north, south, east and west boundaries of Mettawa and Lake Forest. Ann Maine also shared that the Lake DOT is trying to accommodate pedestrian and bike traffic when any road improvement is being done, i.e. replacing gravel road with

pavement. Another thing encouraging bike use is the Lake County map being circulated with the flip side showing the bike trails. It was decided that Bob Irvin would author the letter and the Mayor of Mettawa should deliver it.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Lane to recommend to the Village Board that they write a letter of support to Ann Maine of the Lake County Forest Preserve regarding the Middle Fork Savannah Bridge and the potential East – West connection. The motion was carried.**

Member Lane questioned what advantage this connection would have for Mettawa, rather than Lake Forest. Both Chairman Towne and Member Armstrong replied that the advantage is that Mettawa residents would not be carrying their bikes across the railroad tracks to exit the Mettawa trails. Member Lane inquired that since the Village of Mettawa was cooperating with the county, would they in turn be receptive to some of the requests that the village has presently before the county. Bob Irvin felt that the LCFP wanted the link because now residents could access the Des Plaines River, Route 60 and Lake Forest easily with the trails. Chairman Towne saw the value in building a positive relationship to acquire some favor from the county and discussion ensued.

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

Scott Anderson wanted to hand off to Member Armstrong a Dunlap proposal for the brush clearance along the trails, as well as Brickman invoices and details. Bob Irvin suggested that the village start dating the new generation of park maps that are created in order to avoid confusion. Chairman Towne agreed and stated that there originally was urgency in the map creation and documentation to avoid potential encroachment from other neighboring villages wanting to annex the Mettawa land for their own park district.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm, seconded by Chairman Towne. 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.*