

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 12, 2014, 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: Chairman Towne, Member Armstrong and Member Lane

Absent: None

Also present: Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Denis Bohm, Mark Melusco, Tom Hines, Drew Johnson, Mary Brennan (left at 6:11), Rick Phillips, residents; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from January 08, 2014.

Chairman Towne moved to accept the minutes of January 08, 2014 as presented and Member Armstrong seconded the motion with the exception of the misspelling of Testa, which should be spelled Teska. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL FARM AND OASIS PARK

Chairman Towne reported on Oasis Park and advised the committee that the village is due a check from Ehlers & Jurend. He believes that there are another 40 yards of soil that will be delivered soon and that will take the project out another 70 – 90 days to shape the berm and then the trucks will be done. Chairman Towne estimated the project end date to be 6/1/2014 and he anticipates that the same seed specifications as Whippoorwill Park would be used. Chairman Towne reported that Canopy had been out after Scott Anderson prodded them into action.

Chairman Towne reported on Oasis Park and advised the committee that Whippoorwill Park has been seeded and the trail is finished. He anticipated some touch-up work needed in the spring. He stated that Teska & Associates has a plan for the additional landscaping and will route it to the Board members in time for the next meeting.

E. 2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Towne reminded those present that they earlier estimated a budget of about \$150K, which would cover the following items: trail extension between St. Mary's Road and Deerpath; landscaping for Oasis Park and Whippoorwill Park; and ongoing maintenance of village open lands and landscaping. Bob Irvin informed the group that it would be helpful to have the budget figures by the March Village Board meeting. Chairman Towne thought that the mowing stopped before the end of the fiscal year, but Scott Anderson thought there should have been one more mowing fit in. Chairman Towne noted that the "restaurant"

parcel would need to be added to the mowing agenda and a management plan proposal would cost money, also.

Bob Irvin stated that LCFP would approve the bridge crossing and possibly include the Mettawa property in it. Denis Bohm added that the trail is going in north of Lake Forest Academy on Route 60. Bob Irvin thought \$50K should be allotted for Whippoorwill Park, Oasis Park and the trail extension and funds would also be needed for the property formerly known as Dreikosen on Route 60 and St. Mary's Road (engineering work and demolition clean up). Irvin acknowledged that he would do further work on the budget.

F. ENGINEERING PROPOSAL FOR TRAIL EXTENSION

Chairman Towne reported that he has two proposals for the pedestrian trail on Route 60 to St. Mary's Road: one is from Anderson & Associates and the other is from Pearson, Brown and Associates. Scott Anderson noted that his proposal's services range from \$5K - \$9K, including the boundary survey that he felt would be necessary. Chairman Towne inquired about wetland delineation. Anderson noted that the other survey did not include the price of the survey and that difference is approximately \$2100.

Bob Irvin counseled that with either contract, not to structure it as a lump sum, in the event that IDOT or a reluctant property owner changes the plan. He suggested a payment plan in phases. Scott Anderson noted that there was a 5-foot gap between the easement and right-of-way and this could be a complexity. Chairman Towne noted that Pearson advised that the village should stay with the 6ft trail width, instead of the 8ft trail width, which would put the placement too close to the private property. Member Lane was initially confused about the 5ft gap that Anderson previously mentioned, but Anderson stated that the trail could be created in the right-of-way and the gap would not be a problem.

Chairman Towne noted that the 6ft trail would allow 15ft between the trail and Route 60. Bob Irvin was concerned about the addressing the existing swale that it should either piped or moved. Scott Anderson advised that IDOT would want to see if permission was granted if an easement was necessary. Member Lane favored Anderson & Associates for the project, if the proposals were comparable. He liked having a history with an existing vendor who has served the village well.

It was moved by Member Lane and seconded by Member Armstrong, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the proposal from Anderson & Associates for design engineering for constructing a trail between Deerpath Road and St. Mary's Road not to exceed \$8,500. It was also agreed that Anderson would stop work, should IDOT stop the progress. The motion was carried.

G. DISCUSS PARK AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT IDEAS AND PROPOSALS

Chairman Towne reported that since the Committee of the Whole meeting on 1/18/14, it was agreed that the village needed a management plan for the open spaces as demonstrated by the voice of the residents. Chairman Towne solicited proposals from: Tall Grass, Conserve Lake County and Teska & Associates, but he wants to outline the protocol.

He also suggested an ad hoc committee or review panel consisting of (non-village board) residents, their task being reviewing the proposals and plans and give feedback to the Parks

& Recreation Committee, who would then relay the results to the Village Board. He further suggested a number of 4 to 6 people on the panel/committee, and Mayor Urlacher should appoint a panel chair, possibly Denis Bohm, who could help shape up the group. He felt that there was an abundance of talent in the village and Lake County from which to draw.

Tom Hines referenced a history of efforts by Jack Tindall to extract easements from residents for trails and wondered about commitments not disclosed and if this would conflict with present efforts. Denis Bohm thought this was confusing conservation easements with right-of-way. Scott Anderson advised that the village is not a party to private easements and Chairman Towne stated that this discussion was for village owned property. Member Lane noted that much needed to be done, but there is no urgency to make a decision tonight or six months out. Member Lane stated that he would prefer to gather information and decide which is the most efficient way to their goal.

Chairman Towne shared that he would like to collect more proposals for management plan for open spaces and bring to the Village Board. Member Lane stated his desire to collect more data and input prior to decision-making and wanted more priority assigned to this task. Member Armstrong suggested comparing proposals and let residents give input after the committee does their homework and assembly of information. Denis Bohm agreed that there was no rush to make a decision and would like other firms input as well. He further stated that he would like more specifications before proceeding pursuing other vendors and would like more discussion leading up to this. He believed this would set the ground rules. Member Lane desired that Denis Bohm work with Chairman Towne and Denis Bohm had two recommendations for vendors that he shared with Chairman Towne: Applied Eco Service of West Dundee, IL and Pizzo & Associates of Leland, IL. Member Lane cautioned about considering the best use of village funds.

Chairman Towne liked Member Lane's idea of a comprehensive plan for each village owned property. Bob Irvin described the process that the village of Lincolnshire utilized to evaluate and narrow the selection of choosing an open plan management plan vendor, which included a workshop session. Chairman Towne urged that by March all proposals are collected and narrow the focus to three village owned parcels. Drew Johnson stated that he liked the idea of an ad hoc committee and suggested another COW as an event for the vendors to present their proposals, but Member Armstrong thought another COW would not be necessary until after the vendor selection phase.

Denis Bohm suggested that the village and/or committee identify a suitable vendor to work with on an ongoing basis for not only this project, but all subsequent maintenance, instead of bidding out every job. Member Lane agreed that the committee and/or village should build a history with the vendor. Denis Bohm further suggested the existence of a repository to contain the history of each parcel. Chairman Towne was encouraged by all the input and stated that he would contact the two other vendors whose names were furnished by Denis Bohm.

H. DISCUSS PLANTING PLAN FOR WHIPPOORWILL PARK BERMS

Chairman Towne advised that the plan was approved last year for the trees and several groups were solicited for their input: MOLA, Morton Arboretum, LCFP to name a few. He questioned whether to completely start over or move from this point forward to work with the

open plan management plan vendor. Member Armstrong shared that thought as well. Denis Bohm had a problem with the Teska plan regarding the choice of the Swamp Oaks and Chairman Towne suggested he talk with Nick Patera about his concerns. Chairman Towne felt he did his homework prior to the selection of trees. Denis Bohm also questioned about what seeding had been done and Chairman Towne replied that MOLA suggested the seeding was matched according to what was already in place. He encouraged Bohm to share his opinion and Bohm had questions about the existing buckthorn, brush piles, home site trees and woodland plants. Chairman Towne stated that the berm plants first, then the woodland plants later and eradicate the teasel.

I. TRAIL MAP AND OPEN SPACE MAP DISCUSSION

Chairman Towne passed out an updated map, noting that it was a work in progress and calling attention to the orange dotted line as the Mettawa trail. He traced the trail on the map, with the easements being noted. Mark Melusco stated that his mailbox repeatedly gets knocked over and cannot move it back anymore due to a drainage swale on his property. He felt that the road could not be widened anymore. Chairman Towne volunteered to push to get clarification about the road widening, despite previous attempts that were to no avail. He has previously tried to acquire plans, specifications or details about planned road paving. Denis Bohm expressed concern for this, as his pond is 4 feet from the road.

Chairman Towne reminded that some residents were opposed to some of the trail placements, citing privacy issues. Bob Irvin stated that he researched all tax record numbers for the sake of accuracy and thought that Teska & Associates should rename the Costco North and Riverwoods berm.

J. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOR BOARD APPROVAL COM ED GREEN GRANT

Chairman Towne passed out the Com Ed Green (matching fund) grant that MOLA found and brought to the attention of the committee, with the maximum of \$10K in funds awarded for specific use with open space. He stated that there was a 3/15/14 deadline and proposed using the funds for the planned trail extension. Bob Irvin cautioned that there was a better chance of getting the grant awarded if the funds were not already expended. He volunteered to try to research a history of the grant awarding to see how much funding was awarded in the past. He thought that they were better off asking for construction funding. Drew Johnson suggested it might be helpful including information in the application about the letter of support from the village to LCFP for the construction of the bridge off the village trail. Bob Irvin thought that the inclusion might show that the project benefitting from this award is part of a larger picture.

It was moved by Member Lane and seconded by Member Armstrong, to recommend to the Village Board that they approve a resolution to pursue the ComEd Green Grant matching fund. The motion was carried.

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

Member Lane noted that the railroad track sign on the east side of Old School Road had been splintering or damaged resulting from some sort of wildlife activity and he offered to talk to the vendor to repair/replace same.

L. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm, seconded by Member Lane. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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