

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 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: Member Lane and Member Armstrong

Absent: Chairman Towne

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Tom Hines, Andy Cohn, Denis Bohm, Drew Johnson, Rick Phillips, residents; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Member Armstrong declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from May 14, 2014.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of May 14, 2014 as presented and Member Lane seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL PARK

Member Armstrong advised those present that the grass was coming up and this marked the first full year of growth from the planting. Scott Anderson noted that some reseeding will need to be done on the north side, and Drew Johnson confirmed this.

E. UPDATE ON OASIS PARK

Member Armstrong noted that the work was getting done, although some places were still too wet to work with, due to the excessive amount of recent rainfall.

F. UPDATE ON ROUTE 60 TRAIL EXTENSION WEST TO ST. MARY'S ROAD AND OTHER TRAIL UPDATES

Scott Anderson reported that he received an email from George Gutterly of IDOT in place of a meeting, stating that they would allow the bike path in the right-of-way where an easement was not available. The email asked for a conceptual plan, to which Anderson replied that it was previously sent two months ago.

It was noted that gravel and sand was washed out at Crest and wondered if it would kill the plants, to which Drew Johnson replied that it would and it needs to be removed. Scott Anderson noted that the west side of Crest Road was washed out and barricaded and needed to be fixed.

Member Lane noted that on Old School Road going into Crest that the ditch looked full and then it was reduced to a trickle further on down. He further advised that he noticed a lot of trail damage signs. Member Armstrong noted that the trail by Old School Road and the railroad tracks was washed out and the Canadian Northern RR came out promptly to repair it.

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

Member Armstrong polled others present for any additional topics to be discussed. Tom Hines produced a publication he picked up from the Illinois Farm Bureau in Champaign, IL for the purpose of the Open Land Panel discussing seed propagation. He stated that the Illinois Restoration Program had set aside 400 of available 5800 acres for seed propagation and thought this organization would be a good resource for them. Member Lane noted another good resource was the University of Illinois Farm Extension in Grayslake, as it is free and already funded by the taxpayers.

Andy Cohn asked if anyone was aware of a state or county law that required a village to have a certain amount of park acreage. Member Lane replied that the village has a Parks & Recreation Dept. established in order to prevent another contiguous village from annexing their land and claiming it for their own park use at the Mettawa's HO tax expense. He further explained that the mapped parks in existence and the park plan was also created to support that effort. Member Lane explained that the trail system that is in existence was created originally to protect the village from losing land should the state want to widen the streets. Denis Bohm made the distinction that a Park District is a separate taxing authority with its own board and the Park & Recreation Dept. is an entity within the village and operates under the Village Board. He further stated that the scenic easements that were created also helps prevent the city or state from acquiring village property.

Andy Cohn further inquired about the plan for open space and if there was a desire to further develop it. Those present stated that the general consensus was to leave it in its natural state and not create playgrounds or sports fields.

Drew Johnson visited a resident who was also a client and they inquired if the village could clear off honeysuckle and buckthorn invasives, since most of it was on village owned property. He inquired to whom to address his request and noted that two years ago he submitted the very same request. He was concerned that there were some young oaks and hickory trees that were getting strangled by the growth. Member Armstrong advised him to submit his request to the Village Board trustees and the committee members.

Andy Cohn further inquired about a village owned property map, to which Denis Bohm reminded him that such a document was passed out at the 5/27/14 Open Lands Panel meeting. Andy Cohn thought he wanted a survey map, and Tom Hines replied that the Lake County website would furnish a tax map survey that would suit his needs.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:08pm, 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.