

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 09, 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 5:32 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Present: Chairman Towne, Member Lane (5:33pm) and Member Armstrong

Absent: None

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Tom Hines, Larry Falbe, Drew Johnson and Pam Sheldon representing MOLA; Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from June 11, 2014.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of June 11, 2014 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL PARK AND OASIS PARK**

Chairman Towne noted that Phase 1 planting has been nearly done at Whippoorwill and the rain has been helpful in establishing the planting and it is now time to remove the silt fence. Phase 2 planting is next and the main trail needs attention. Drew Johnson suggested mowing the trail every three weeks and it would become established. Chairman Towne liked that idea and that it would be a low cost solution to the problem.

Chairman Towne noted that the same rains that helped establish the plants at Whippoorwill was hampering the progress at Oasis Park. He estimated that Ehlers & Juhrend need about 10 more hauling days to complete their dumping. He advised that he will be meeting with Teska at the field site to compare the topography presently with what was planned. He stated that it had changed a little in response to neighbors who wanted the berm moved 20 feet further north, and it was lower in height, also. He further stated that the trail and drainage design needed to be considered going east. Chairman Towne noted that Tall Grass was spraying the teasel at Bradley & Riverwoods Roads.

Chairman Towne advised those present that wetland plants were still coming thru the drainage ditch at Scots Crest. Member Lane also noted that the area was looking a little rough and scruffy, to which Chairman Towne agreed and said it needed more enhancement.

**E. DISCUSS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING ON 7/19/14 FOR OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATIONS**

Chairman Towne reminded everyone of the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting on 7/19/14, of which the central topic was open lands planning and management. He stated that there were four presenters and Steve Christy and Teska were teaming up as one.

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

Larry Falbe, Drew Johnson and Pam Sheldon of MOLA had two items they wanted to present to the committee as a result of their meeting discussions.

Despite their best efforts and commitment, they felt that there was no guarantee or certainty of prevention of future commercial development in Mettawa. They were suggesting the prospect of conservation easements to prevent any potential land grab by a Board succeeding the present one who were not of the same open lands mind set as the present Board. An example of this but not limited to, was the SE corner of Route 60 and Riverwoods Road, which is currently not protected. They felt that an open space zoning classification was too easy to change by a future Board. Member Armstrong inquired about the process, to which Larry Falbe replied that it was complicated, but tried to explain using the analogy of the burdened parcel in partnership with the benefited parcel involving restrictions of use and legally enforceable by an objective third party. Chairman Towne thought this idea would tie in nicely with the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting on 7/19/14, of which the central topic was open lands planning and management.

Pam Sheldon cited Deerpath Farms as an example of conservation easement with an indefinite term. Chairman Towne was open to this concept and advised that discussions are in progress with open space zoning, which is moving in this direction. Drew Johnson noted that a conservation easement could write into the agreement allowances for the addition of a village hall, trails, etc. Bob Irvin suggested the possibility of the Illinois Nature Preserve, although they have their criteria to meet. Pam Sheldon mentioned that she saw the idea of a council ring on a tv program and that it would tie in nicely with the American Indian roots of Mettawa.

The second item Larry Falbe wanted to discuss was that MOLA was looking for a new maintenance project and he suggested the parcel next to Costco as a potential target. He observed a lot of buckthorn there. Scott Anderson cautioned that it is a wetland area. Chairman Towne liked this idea and suggested that the village may be able to help MOLA eradicate the buckthorn. Member Lane agreed, however, he saw no access to the property for residents to enjoy and appreciate once all the work had been done. Drew Johnson stated that nevertheless, buckthorn invasion destroys native plants, poisons many wildlife species and changes the whole chemical composition of the soil, making it less inhabitable for other species to thrive. Pam Sheldon suggested a fall burn to gain ground on the project. Larry Falbe stated that at the attendance of many a village meeting, the overall and most important sentiment has always been towards the protection of open space. Chairman Towne encouraged the MOLA members to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting on 7/19/14, which was devoted to the topic of open lands planning and management.

Drew Johnson added that the property at Bradley Road Oasis Park area needed attention, as more invasives were propagating.

Member Lane advise Chairman Towne that Bob Herendon would not be mowing the hay until 8/1/14, but he did not think it would be a problem.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Chairman Towne to adjourn the meeting at 6:01pm, seconded by Member Lane. The motion was carried.

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Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk