

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 10, 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 Lane and Member Armstrong

Absent: None

Also present: Mayor Urlacher, Scott Anderson, Village Engineer, Jeff Clark, Tom Hines, Denis Bohm representing Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel; Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from August 13, 2014.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of August 13, 2014 as presented and Member Lane seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL PARK AND OASIS PARK

Chairman Towne reported that the rain has helped the plants look good and wildflowers are abundant at Whippoorwill Park. At Oasis Park, Chairman Towne reported that all the required dirt has been dumped and he is waiting for an update as to when the grading would be completed. He further stated that design is underway for the trail relocation along Bradley Road, which is being done at the Village's expense. Pearson & Brown is working with the engineering and drainage issues and Teska and Associates will finish the design. At that point the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel will take over additional planning, after WRD has made their plan.

Bob Irvin inquired about the final payment due from Ehlers & Juhrend and Chairman Towne promised to follow up on that in addition to any repairs of Bradley Road owed to the Village by Ehlers & Juhrend or the funds to do so. Scott Anderson reminded Chairman Towne that there was a monetary penalty clause in the contract if they were not finished by their December deadline. Denis Bohm noted that the plantings should be in this fall and Chairman Towne added that the seed had been ordered and anticipated being installed by the last week in October.

E. DISCUSS COMMUNICATION FROM MOLA

Chairman Towne reported that he was anticipating a village-wide invitation to a wine and cheese event to be held on 10/05/14 at the former residence of Rick and Linda Phillips and a guest speaker would be featured discussing the emerald ash borer.

F. DISCUSS COMMUNICATION FROM OPEN SPACE AD HOC PANEL

Denis Bohm reported that he sent the WRD draft proposal to all Village trustees and Mayor Urlacher. Mayor Urlacher thought that not all 13 open land properties should be included in evaluation as part of the proposal, as some of these properties are either right-of-ways, residential or being considered as a future village hall or commercial property, to which Denis Bohm agreed. Denis Bohm further stated that Jay Womak of WRD recognized that and would be looking for that sort of input during his interview/information gathering stage. Mayor Urlacher thought that items #1, #2 & #3 (offer of help) should be included as part of the contract and mileage incurred to and from the job should be the cost of doing business and not be reimbursed by the Village.

Member Lane wondered if certain properties are dropped from the planning of open space, that the plan proposal price would drop, to which Denis Bohm replied that the right-of-ways were already considered omitted from the price of \$25,800. Member Lane inquired if after the plan was conceived and shared with the Village Board if there was an expectation of further fees for the plan. Bob Irvin thought that as the input is gathered from the trustees and other key players, that they would be controlling the results and therefore, no surprises or additional fees. Chairman Towne felt that the timeline was rather tight and WRD could loosen it up a bit.

Member Lane inquired about who was involved in the creation of Middlefork Savannah, to which Denis Bohm replied that it was the Lake County Forest Preserve and Stephen Christy. He further shared that the trail bridge being built over the railroad tracks was being built with donated funds. Bob Irvin noted that the donated funding was coming from multiple sources.

Chairman Towne reviewed the proposal and felt that the open lands management proposal should include right-of-ways and trails that are located within them. He felt that these land parcels should be part of the master plan and include long-range maintenance, referencing the right-of-way running from the end of Costco to the end of the park, citing an over-abundance of teasel. Bob Irvin stated that he was at a meeting where they were interested in including the right-of-ways, but the attendees were concerned about the cost getting out of control. He thought that the cost incurred to evaluate same could be extra, since it was not included in the proposal, and further stated that WRD would include these right-of-way parcels in the report, but would also acknowledge the omission of them from the plan to further develop them. Denis Bohm listed the properties that would probably be omitted from further attention.

Chairman Towne noted that the LCFP has 1,000 acres of open space located in Mettawa and he heard a rumor that they would be creating a parking lot out of some of this acreage, to which he would be opposed. He feared that the LCFP thought their authority exceeded the village authority to do with the land how they desired and he felt that the parcel should be zoned open land in order to avoid pressure for further development or commercial building. Chairman Towne inquired of Village attorney, Greg Smith the feasibility of zoning property open lands, however, he has not rendered an opinion as of yet. Bob Irvin stated that in his former capacity as Lincolnshire Village Administrator, he has dealt with school districts that followed the building codes, but not the municipal zoning, also citing recently the Crystal Lake HS losing a lawsuit against the HOAs who were objecting to installation of the high bleacher benches.

Chairman Towne informed the group that the LCFP now has a tenant at their farm/homes at Route 60 and Old School Road, which is partly a business and they now want garbage pick up. He once again asked that the maintenance of trails should be included in the open space management plan and that this falls under its stewardship. Scott Anderson noted that the trails are mostly in the right-of-ways or in Whippoorwill and Oasis Parks. Denis Bohm noted that 701 Riverwoods might be proposed to be a nature center with trails, but he would just like to focus on the open lands management plan. Denis Bohm also mentioned about the valuable oaks and hickorys getting strangled by the persistent buckthorn in the right-of-ways, and Chairman Towne agreed, but stated that the land comes under county and private property jurisdiction and they should maintain it. Member Armstrong thought they should include trails in the open lands management plan if it impacts it.

Chairman Towne read the caption from the proposal: “trails will be maintained” and thought this could be interpreted as continued trail maintenance and he would cover this with Jay Womak during their interview. He felt that just the right-of-ways have exposure. Scott Anderson questioned if the Village could spend money on a county right-of-way, to which Bob Irvin replied that he thought the county would let them do that, but he was not entirely sure. Chairman Towne thought that the proposal as submitted was good and wanted to recommend it to the Village Board.

It was moved by Chairman Towne, and seconded by Member Armstrong to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the proposal for the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel from WRD Environmental for an Open Space Management Plan for \$25,800. The motion was carried.

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

Bob Irvin reported that the Village Board discussed trails proposed south of Route 60 in the village comprehensive plan and also furnished subdivision regulations. He stated that the Village has obtained three easements south of Route 60: N/S on Route 60 (not on comp plan), Riverside Preserve and a leased property. The O’Donnells asked if the Village is vacating the three easements, they request that their easement is also vacated and Bob Irvin stated that the Village is concerned with the language in the document. It was suggested to amend the comprehensive plan and move forward. Chairman Towne inquired if vacating easements was costly, to which Bob Irvin replied that it could be simple. Scott Anderson informed the group that three subdivisions were impacted and all present studied the Mettawa Trail Map. Member Armstrong was concerned this might start a trend of others asking for vacations of easements as well. Bob Irvin suggested he give an update at the Village Board meeting and he will proceed with updated the village code and vacating easements. He also volunteered to talk to the O’Donnells further about their request.

Denis Bohm advised the group that he would be happy to periodically facilitate a meeting with the new LCFP head, Ty Kovach, Jim Anderson and the Parks and Recreation Committee to foster cooperation.

H. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:13pm, 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.