

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 08, 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; Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from September 10, 2014.

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of September 10, 2014 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON WHIPPOORWILL PARK AND OASIS PARK

Chairman Towne reported that there was a dead oak or two to be removed, but all progress is moving ahead smoothly and Phase 2 would be ready to start upon delivery of WRD's report directing them how to proceed. He also stated that the plants were coming in nicely and wondered about the possibility of a fall burn this year. Denis Bohm reminded him that there was a burn last fall and two years in a row was not necessary.

Denis Bohm, Chairman of the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel reported that he and Jay Womak of WRD toured all village-owned properties, including the elusive lot#13, which is located in a gated community. He stated that Jay Womak wanted to do a winter plan for Oasis Park, perhaps a seeding assortment on the hill. Chairman Towne reminded Denis Bohm that the seed was previously selected and purchased. He further suggested that Jay Womak should take a look at the contents of the planned seeding and if he thought necessary, add to it.

Denis Bohm advised the committee that the dated of 11/15/14 was chosen for the interview process of all principals an concerned parties of the Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel, to be done on the HGI premises. He thought that a 20-minute window of time would be ample for each interview. Mayor Urlacher further elaborated on the expected process and outcome of the interviews.

E. DISCUSS TRAIL RELOCATION AT OASIS PARK

Chairman Towne reported that the center line of the new trail at Oasis Park was staked by Pearson & Brown and cautioned that both the north and south ends of the trail have very little margin for repositioning due to the lack of space.

F. UPDATE ON ROUTE 60 TO ST. MARY’S ROAD TRAIL LINK

Scott Anderson reported that 95% of the work is done linking Deerpath Road to the St. Mary’s Road via the trail. He further advised the committee that he anticipated the cost of the project would increase significantly due to the storm water sewer issues, which were not anticipated. He said that he would determine the proper size and select it accordingly.

G. DISUCSS PRELIMINARY SITE PLANS FOR VILLAGE HALL AND RESULTING RECOMMENDATION TO VILLAGE BOARD

Chairman Towne reported that the site selection has been narrowed down to three locations: Dreikosen property at the SW corner of Route 60 & St. Mary’s Road; village property in close proximity of Costco site, or Whippoorwill located off of Mettawa Woods Road. He then listed the advantages of each site:

Dreikosen: - water main is accessible, however the sewer is located at the west end and the septic field has been abandoned; plenty of room for parking; orientation of building is flexible.

Whippoorwill: - easement for driveway exists off of Mettawa Woods Drive; sewer and water are accessible; parking is adequate; building entrance can be positioned away from the traffic noise.

Costco parcel: - overflow parking can be borrowed from Costco site; location tucked away in the woods nicely; access drive dedicated to village already.

Discussion ensued among attendees about the pros and cons of each site. Member Lane inquired if Costco was on board with this idea, to which Chairman Towne replied that they were unaware and it would be up to Mayor Urlacher to approach the owners to see if they would be receptive to the idea. Denis Bohm inquired if Costco unloading activity was an evening event, to which Scott Anderson replied that it was an early morning event. Member Armstrong suggested that they could suggest this site to the village board, and after Mayor Urlacher talked to Costco about such an idea, they would only then present the idea to the HOs.

Bob Irvin suggested that the building be relocated and reoriented on the site so that the front of the village hall building would not be facing the back of the Costco building. Chairman Towne thought that there was much flexibility in that regard. Rick Phillips cautioned that if built at that location, they needed to keep in mind that the function of the surrounding outdoor space would be important for the visual, sound and sensory impact on village sponsored outdoor events. Denis Bohm thought that it would be hard to maintain a “rural” feel to the building if it was facing the Costco building.

Bob Irvin inquired if there was room for a pedestrian walkway and traffic light if the building site were the Dreikosen property. Scott Anderson thought such an endeavor would be expensive, estimating at around \$75K. Drew Johnson thought that any outdoor events on that property might be oriented around the parking lot. Chairman Towne replied that orientation considerations would be premature at this point, that everyone should focus on which location was best. All other village-owned properties were eliminated for consideration as a result of the Village Board input.

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

Bob Irvin reported that the village was approached to share in the cost of the city of Lake Forest trail connection (located along the north side of Route 60, connecting to the I94 bridge and runs along Riverwoods Blvd across from Mettawa Woods Drive. He furnished site photos, trail map and the Christopher Burke engineering proposal for \$24,100 for the Phase 1 study for the purpose of applying for grant funds to build the trail. According to his email, the city of Lake Forest was requesting that they, Conway Office Park and village of Mettawa each pay one-third of the cost.

The suggestion was met with strident objections from Chairman Towne, as he felt that the village already had a promised trail from Route 60 to the I94 tollway that was funded by Hamilton Partners, per a previous agreement. He further felt that the benefit for the trail was for the city of Lake Forest, not the residents of Mettawa. Mayor Urlacher thought that the Mettawa residents would also use the trail, and it would be a neighborly gesture to participate. Bob Irvin recounted a conversation he had with Tim Bicheck of Hamilton Partners that indicated that the SSA funds would cover the N-S part of the trail, not the E-W part of the trail.

Chairman Towne reviewed the presented map and it immediately became obvious to him that while the village was being asked to cover one-third of the engineering costs, that the village-owned portion of the trail on the map was only 10% - 15%. This further entrenched his position that this proposal was inequitable for the village, citing that if they approved one-third of the costs for engineering Phase 1, that would easily commit them to one-third of the costs anticipated to bring the project to completion, to which Member Lane agreed. He further argued that part of this trail was going thru a private subdivision and the HOs along this trail would be unhappy with this decision, and that they needed to be consulted, to which Bob Irvin agreed.

Bob Irvin suggested an IDOT right-of-way and tie in between Deerpath Road and Whippoorwill Park, possibly. Scott Anderson replied that the area is crowded already with previously existing structures. Bob Irvin then suggested Mettawa Woods Drive, or along Route 60. Chairman Towne was not interested in having the village pay for a regional link that might benefit 500 people of Mettawa, versus the 25,000 inhabitants of Lake Forest, projected 6,000 people in the CDW building and another 14,000 people in Conway Office Park, to which Member Lane agreed. Mayor Urlacher felt that committee and village could come up with another percentage number of shared costs that would work for the village.

Bob Irvin shared that the LCFP had a budget of \$900K to build the bridge, which predicated all the previously mentioned activity, and the lowest bid had come in at \$1.7M. He stated that the LCFP was now pursuing grant applications to gain funding assistance to make the project possible. Chairman Towne reiterated that he would not consider one-third of the trails costs. Denis Bohm noted that these discussions were premature if the funds for the LCFP bridge project were not forthcoming. Bob Irvin understood the reluctance, but felt that the cost contribution number could be reworked and report back to the city of Lake Forest the results of this discussion. Member Armstrong felt that a light button to cross Route 60 would be hazardous.

Chairman Towne agreed to put this item on the agenda for further discussion at the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on November 12, 2014. Mayor Urlacher explained that Bob Irvin was asking for direction, that the committee might want to talk to the residents and look for other options. Bob Irvin noted that if you make the trail too difficult, those using it would find their own easier solutions, not necessarily safer and inquired about what a fairer cost contribution number would be. Scott Anderson estimated at 10% - 15%, to which Chairman Towne agreed, but if the LCFP bridge project was not built, there would be no benefit to Mettawa. Jeff Clark urged to wait and see if the funds for this project were forthcoming before paying for engineering costs, to which Member Lane and Chairman Towne agreed. Denis Bohm suggested a good faith letter supporting the project under those conditions, to which Bob Irvin and Chairman Towne replied that one had been previously issued. Bob Irvin stated that he would get back to the city of Lake Forest with the committee's opinion and report back.

I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:39pm, 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.