

MINUTES OF THE OPEN LANDS PLANNING AD HOC PANEL OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015, IN THE MAPLE BOARDROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Chairman Bohm and Members Cohn, Johnson, Lys and Sheldon

Absent: Members Stephenson and Weiland

Also present: Trustee Pink, Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Bohm declared there was a quorum.

C. Review and approval of minutes from the January 12, 2015 meeting.

Member Sheldon moved to accept the minutes of January 12, 2015 as presented and Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. DISCUSS WRD OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chairman Bohm encouraged members to share any further ideas that should be part of the Open Lands Management Plan. Member Johnson thought that Trustee Clark's name should be listed, even though he is no longer a trustee, since he originally was involved in the Village Board's decisions, as well as the new Trustees Sheldon and Pink. Bob Irvin said it was standard protocol to include all past and present trustees involved in the project as it evolved over the standing election, including Trustee Lane. It was further suggested to eliminate Mayor Urlacher's email address from the page and Member Sheldon thought Chairman Bohm's name should be listed under MOLA as well, due to his involvement there.

Other thoughts about the plan were as follows: regarding Parcel #1, Trustee Pink thought it was important to respect the residents' rights located adjacent to this property. Bob Irvin agreed and recalled that Trustee Towne felt that those residents should be involved regarding any changes.

Chairman Bohm shared that bids would be opened prior to the next Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for work currently scheduled at one of the sites, but that it would not conflict with the plan. Member Johnson shared that he spoke with an employee of the Botanic Garden about planting trees on a berm, who stated that trees would thrive if the hole was dug twice the normal size and filled with healthy soil. Trustee Pink stated that the adjacent residents were very clear about wanting trees to screen the tollway lights. Chairman Bohm suggested that the best screening would be pines, since they keep their needles all year long. He further noted that the Parks & Recreation Committee would decide on the prioritization of sites and send out request for bids for design plans. The only bid active now is for the existing trail in Oasis Park being relocated further from Bradley Road. Member

Cohn needed assurance that this bid was not working against the present WRD plan and he expressed a dislike for the boardwalk.

Member Johnson inquired if the village held the easement for Parcel #5, to which there was no clear answer. Bob Irvin noted that there was no easement language on the plat of survey, and the village was not the underlying property owner. He suggested that the property adjacent to Melody Lane and offices should not have any issue with the existing HOA. Chairman Bohm offered to update the WRD plan with recent photos of Oasis Park and Whippoorwill Preserve, with the addition of the berms.

Member Cohn inquired about who would do the work as recommended in the plan and why WRD did not offer contractors to do the work. Member Sheldon explained the process of how each job would need to go out for bid and the task assigned WRD was to create the Open Space Management Plan, which they accomplished. She further explained that the next steps would be for the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Village Board to adopt the plan, prioritize sites, seek bids, estimates, and hire the contractor, which is down the road yet. Member Cohn inquired about the herbicides being used, to which Member Johnson replied that TallGrass and DePaul University worked on eradicating the Whippoorwill Farm invasives with both herbicides and cutting the plants, and both results were similar. Bob Irvin reminded everyone that these details are not part of the plan, and they are not even close to making these decisions at this level of detail.

Member Cohn recommended hiring George Covington for conservation easement legal procedures, and wondered when it would begin. Bob Irvin stated that this would not begin until after the plan was adopted. Chairman Bohm encouraged Member Cohn to attend the Parks & Recreation Committee and Village Board meetings to pursue this. Member Johnson cautioned that there was great thought put into the wording of each conservation easement and it should be customized to each site, so as not to restrict future desired plans.

There was additional discussion about right-of-ways and inquiry about the proposed bridge over Middlefork that the LCFP was trying to build. Bob Irvin stated that they were still working on gathering the funds through grants, since the proposal prices that came in were higher than anticipated.

It was moved by Member Sheldon, and seconded by Chairman Bohm, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept the WRD Open Lands Management Plan. The motion was carried.

He suggested that the WRD Open Space Management Plan be submitted to Parks & Recreation Committee and MOLA for any further suggestions before it is submitted to the Village Board on 6/10/15. He said he would add the updated pictures for Whippoorwill and Oasis Parks.

E. DISCUSS OPEN SPACES ZONING PROPERTY CANDIDATES

Chairman Bohm reported that Chairman Towne of the Parks & Recreation Committee wanted open space zoning recommendations done before the conservation easements and would be addressing it at the next meeting. Member Cohn expressed a desire to advocate for open space zoning. Bob Irvin shared that outside of the LCFP property, the size and

location considerations are key for zoning and that a buffer purpose is useful, i.e. Oasis Park or 701 Riverwoods Road. Chairman Bohm suggested it was important to follow the conservation easement guide.

F. DISCUSS ROADSIDE MOWING ARTICLE

Chairman Bohm shared the contents of an article he read about mowing a strip alongside the road and planting natives there as well, and how nice it looked.

G. DISCUSS FUTURE ROLE OF THE PANEL

Member Johnson inquired about the future role of the panel and Chairman Bohm thought he would talk to Mayor Urlacher. Member Johnson thought the panel discharged its duty by assisting in the selection of the contractor for the Open Lands Management Plan and a new panel was needed to carry it forward as another task and Member Sheldon agreed. Member Johnson inquired as to how much the Village Board was willing to do and thought that there should be a voice representing this panel to make sure the vision is fulfilled. Chairman Bohm stated that he would stay involved with the Parks & Recreation Committee and keep track of the plan's implementation. He further suggested the idea of a volunteer steward for each site, and Member Sheldon thought more communication is necessary between the LCFP and residents for activities.

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

Chairman Bohm read an email from Member Stephenson praising the group's efforts and results, saying that he would also forward the email to all the panel members. Bob Irvin advised that the Village Board budget did include numbers for removing invasive species.

I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm, and Member Sheldon seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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