

**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 10, 2015, 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 pm.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Present: Chairman Towne, Member Armstrong and Member Pink

Absent: None

Also present: Mayor Urlacher, Denis Bohm (Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel), Trustee Pam Sheldon, Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.

Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from May 13, 2015.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of May 13, 2015 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN (PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED TO COMMITTEE).**

Member Armstrong felt that conservation easements needed to be better defined and that some conservation easements might achieve their purpose more so than others. Chairman Towne noted on page 11 that MOLA commented that they do not want their name associated with any pending project prior to their discussion and approval. Denis Bohm agreed and already replaced all specific names of organizations and such with generic titles. Chairman Towne noted on page 23 that parcel #4, 1.5 acre site village owned was recommended to be put into a permanent conservation easement, but he suggested the stewardship should be a generic title, again not naming any specific entity. He also referred to pages 31, 35, 39, 45, 49 & 53 for the same purpose.

Chairman Towne noted that for page 31, parcel #6, another permanent conservation easement was recommended, but it should be noted that there should be reference to an easement already on the trail. Mayor Urlacher stated that this is a site that might possibly sell should a restaurant be developed and he did not want any restrictions in the way. Chairman Towne focused on page 45, the church property that is adjacent to the court agreement parcel owned by Grainger, which is 100 acres that flanks the village owned property. He stated he was hesitant to follow the recommendation of a permanent conservation easement, should Grainger in the future propose a parcel swap that would favor the village. He stated he did not want to restrict a future board from taking advantage of such an opportunity. Mayor Urlacher questioned if the village could leave open this parcel until Grainger defines its master plan, or change the use of their land.

Member Sheldon questioned if Chairman Towne wanted the parcel zoned for open space and not a permanent conservation easement, to which he replied yes. Denis Bohm clearly objected to such an idea because 1) this is contrary to what the majority residents wanted for the open land and 2) this was contrary to the purpose of the plan and the intent to limit the future board from making decisions that were not sympathetic to the open lands sentiment. Member Sheldon reminded those present that this was only a plan and nothing was final and they could leave the wording “permanent conservation easement” in and not act on it. Chairman Towne shared his same sentiment about the removal of “permanent conservation easement” wording for that parcel. Denis Bohm did not have a problem with parcel# 12, but wanted the wording left as is, as this was the result of what the residents expressed what was important to them. Member Armstrong suggested a disclaimer blanket statement informing the plan reader that each permanent conservation easement recommended would be considered one at a time. Member Sheldon cautioned that this (Open Lands Management Plan) was a plan or a guideline, and many residents may perceive it as a finalized project.

Member Armstrong noted on page 64, the wording was “permanent conservation easement with exceptions” – what were the exceptions? He felt that this was undefined. Chairman Towne still pushed for the church property parcel to be available for a swap with Grainger. Denis Bohm pointed out that there was 60 acres on that corner and Chairman Towne referred to it as a 19-acre parcel. He again reminded Chairman Towne that the residents have already expressed that they wanted the parcel locked up as open land, not available for future use. Trustee Pink agreed and suggested the use of a disclaimer to remind all residents that recommendation for each property would be considered on an individual basis and that they call this plan a “guide”. Mayor Urlacher suggested working on one piece at a time after prioritizing the parcels and that this plan should be considered evolving, as they may purchase more land in the future or use changes, this was a work in progress. Denis Bohm suggested that there should be regularly scheduled reviews of the plan and the comparison of work performed, to which Mayor Urlacher agreed. Trustee Pink suggested adding the disclaimer, but leaving the “permanent conservation easement” wording as is.

Rick Phillips suggested wording the title of the plan “Open Lands Management Recommendations”, to which Mayor Urlacher agreed and Denis Bohm promised to contact Jay Womack of WRD to inform him of the name change. Member Sheldon suggested adding a mission statement. He further reiterated his position that the “permanent conservation easement” recommendations remain as is in the document, to which Chairman Towne objected, citing not wanting to hamstring any future board with regard to land swapping. Denis Bohm replied that this was the specific intent of the document, to restrict any future board not sympathetic with open land from making any contrary decisions to this plan, to which Trustee Pink agreed. Rick Phillips also stated that the recommendations should stand, as that is what they are, and the Village Board could decide to accept or reject them, to which Member Armstrong agreed, as this is the result of the residents’ input. Chairman Towne thought that the Village Board already made this decision to remove the “permanent conservation easement” wording at one of the last meetings. Denis Bohm recalled no such decision being made and Mayor Urlacher suggesting checking with Bob Irvin, Village Administrator to see if the minutes reflected such a change and any change regarding this wording could be postponed.

**E. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BID FOR THE OASIS PARK TRAIL RELOCATION PROJECT (OPENING OF BIDS ON 6/09/15).**

Scott Anderson shared the bid tabulations and noted that the lowest responsible bidder was still twice the anticipated budgeted amount. He cited numerous reasons: the two year time lapse from the original price reference for the 2012 Whippoorwill work that was done; more ancillary work necessary (storm sewer work, grading, seeding) and all the contractors are busy with work being plentiful. The lowest bidder was \$104/ft. and highest bidder was \$183/ft., noting that there were only 4 bidders who responded and back in 2012, 10 bidders responded to the call for bids, indicating the contractors were more hungry for work in 2012, and they are quite busy now.

Chairman Towne suggesting scrapping the plan for relocation of the trail and sending out for new bids for repairs of the existing trails, as the prices were twice the anticipated cost. Member Armstrong felt that the meandering path away from Bradley Road was more in character with the Oasis Park and would like to adhere to the original plan. He suggested waiting for fall to rebid the project, when the contractors were running out of work, and not imposing a deadline, which also drives up the price.

**It was moved by Chairman Towne, and seconded by Member Armstrong, to recommend to the Village Board that they not accept any and all bids for the trail work at Oasis Park, due to lack of funds and rebid the project in the fall. The motion was carried.**

**F. UPDATE ON ILM (INTEGRATED LAKES MGMT) MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR WHIPPOORWILL PARK**

Chairman Towne reported that he had not heard from Keith Gray regarding his inquiry for status, but he will pursue same. Denis Bohm noted the abundance of red clover on the berm on the street side, however, a lack of any vegetation on the north and top of the berm and wondered if the seeding was uneven. Chairman Towne thought that it was still early for blooming and to keep observing for change.

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

Scott Anderson shared that regarding the Route 60 trail, a letter from IDOT was sent to the hydraulic and traffic sections of the county for review. Chairman Towne noted that their Whippoorwill trails have been used a lot by corporate residents.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 6:38pm, seconded by Chairman Towne. The motion was carried.

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Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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