

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 09, 2016, IN THE MAPLE BOARDROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Sheldon called the meeting to order at approximately 6:42pm.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Present: Chairwoman Sheldon and Member Armstrong

Absent: Member Brennan

Also present: Mayor Urlacher, Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Denis Bohm and Tom Heinz, MOLA member; Jan Pink, Village Trustee; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.

Chairwoman Sheldon declared a quorum present.

C. Approval of minutes from February 10, 2016.

Chairwoman Sheldon noted that under item F, “Tom Gallback”, should actually be spelled “Galenbach”. Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of February 10, 2016 as presented with the above-mentioned change, and Chairwoman Sheldon seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

D. TRAIL UPDATES

Bob Irvin distributed a site map of the Village trails along Route 60, with the mock-up of a trail that was being requested by the Village of Lake Forest to have the Village of Mettawa join in to link their trails with the proposed bridge that the LCFP was planning to build this summer, after receiving a grant from the State of Illinois. In a prior meeting the sentiment was and has remained unchanged that if the Village of Mettawa consented to join in this project, that the cost would be shared with Lake Forest 80/20%, as Lake Forest had much more land and more benefit to gain, should Mettawa decide to participate.

Resident Patricia Cork inquired when the present trail plans for Bennett Road west to St. Mary’s Road would be formalized, as they have been waiting three years for this to become a reality. Bob Irvin replied that the project had been slow going, much of the onus was on the State of Illinois to respond and the recent communication via phone was that IDOT comments were received, and they instructed the Village that drainage pipe sizes should be revised from 15” to 18” wide, and resubmitted to Tom Galenbach. Bob Irvin also reported receiving a FOIA regarding accident data and related Village insurance policy from a resident, who was not supportive of this project, expressing concerns that the intersection was dangerous for horse riders. He further informed Patricia Cork that the last time they went out for bids, they anticipated a \$100K expense, and what was returned was \$140K lowest bidder.

Trustee Pink inquired about the possibility of grants from the State of Illinois, to which Bob Irvin replied that it would depend on the program and this cooperative project had more

exposure, which would be encouraging. Scott Anderson stated that likely the path must be paved if seeking grant money, as he had never known a grant awarded for a gravel road.

E. JAY WOMAK OF WRD KICKOFF DISCUSSIONS FOR WHIPPOORWILL AND OASIS PARKS.

Chairwoman Sheldon reported that Jay Womak was ill and could not make the meeting tonight. She advised the group that MOLA met on Saturday there were excitement about getting involved in the upcoming season. It was noted that Chairwoman Sheldon, Denis Bohm and Tom Heinz, who were present, were all members of this group. MOLA set a work date for Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 8:30am to eradicate the buckthorn located at Whippoorwill Preserve along the trail and Riverwoods Blvd. Chairwoman Sheldon reported a desire that MOLA be even more involved with anticipated upcoming projects, which called into question the recent ILM proposal, and how to best use the MOLA resources in concert with the ILM proposal.

Chairwoman Sheldon thought this was a good time to review the updated ILM proposal that contained some changes requested by the committee members. She noted that the number of plugs was increased, in addition to two more varieties. The initial contract contained 4 maintenance visits, 2 berm treatments, 1,064 plugs with labor provided, a fall proscribed burn and post burn seeding for a total of \$23,231, however the native grasses were accidentally omitted. It was evaluated if MOLA should perform some of the tasks, but Denis Bohm noted that the timing was critical on many of these steps and MOLA's schedule may not be as favorable as needed. Bob Irvin suggested that the \$9,600 for the four maintenance visits was reasonable, to which Denis Bohm thought that a total of four maintenance visits may not be necessary.

It was suggested to structure the proposal to address the Whippoorwill spring needs separately from the fall needs. Denis Bohm agreed, suggesting that the western end of the Whippoorwill Preserve plant diversity seemed poor, and after a mowing, it may look differently. It was suggested the ILM spring tasks would be: two spring site maintenance visits, labor and planting of 1,064 plugs (native grasses to be included in the price) and two berm treatments. In the fall, after they had reviewed the site, it was suggested the ILM fall tasks would be: two fall spring site maintenance visits, fall burn and post burn seeding and planting the native grasses previously paid for.

Denis Bohm noted that the prairie was in pretty good shape and less teasel and thistle was present, although some trefoil was there. He thought it was important that someone from MOLA be on site for the visits.

It was moved by Member Armstrong, and seconded by Chairwoman Sheldon, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept a proposal from ILM for: 1) 2 spring site maintenance visits, 2) labor and material for planting 1,064 plugs, including native grasses and 3) 2 berm treatments for a total of \$11,706. The motion was carried.

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

Bob Irvin suggested that the Open Space Plan should be reviewed before the next meeting. Denis Bohm requested permission to install a screech owl box on the home side of a tree in the Whippoorwill Park, to which Chairwoman Sheldon agreed.

G. ADJOURNMENT

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm, seconded by Chairwoman Sheldon. The motion was carried.

Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

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