

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020 IN THE MAPLE ROOM OF HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sheldon called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Sheldon and Members Bohm and Pink

Absent: None

Chairman Sheldon declared a quorum present.

Also, Present: Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson and Trustee Towne

Attendees: Karen Carruthers, Patricia Cork and Tom Heinz

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

Meeting minutes of September 11, 2019 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Bohm and seconded by Member Pink that the meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

D. DISCUSS LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP FOR OASIS PARK AND BRADLEY NATURE AREAS

Chairman Sheldon said she and Member Bohm received proposals from ILM and Native Landscaping just this morning and have not had time to review their full details. Chairman Sheldon commented that both contractors did include in their proposal, that mowing the park would reduce the invasive weeds, buckthorn and would allow the new seeds to germinate. Member Bohm mentioned the swale also had some new growth. Chairman Sheldon added with the new trees planted last year, the Committee will need to determine their long-term goals before moving forward with a contractor. Chairman Sheldon asked to table this agenda for next month. Member Bohm agreed to table this matter to allow time to review the received proposals.

A motion was made to table the long-term stewardship discussion for Oasis Park to the February Committee meeting. The motion was moved by Chairman Sheldon and seconded by Member Bohm. The motion was carried.

Member Bohm mentioned he received some soil analysis results from a different client. The information on the report was informative but he acknowledged this type of testing is costly. Chairman Sheldon indicated she would like to wait to see the spring growth results prior to deciding which areas to consider soil testing. Trustee Towne asked if competitive bids were waved for the Committee members to meet with long-term stewardship contractors. Village

Administrator Irvin replied the consensus from the Board was to allow the Committee members to meet with companies, however, it was not a formal bid waiver. Chairman Sheldon replied her goal from these meetings was to receive information and better understand what was really necessary to be done for the park. Member Pink said she is really interested in the soil analysis and the Committee should really consider this work. Chairman Sheldon agreed. Member Bohm said the soil analysis would also provide us direction on which would be the best fertilizer for each section of the park and what would be the ideal seed for that type of dirt. Village Administrator Irvin said some details to consider are the number of visits each company has indicated. Please note Native Landscaping would like 50% payment upon the contract approval.

E. DISCUSS POUL’S NURSERY WATERING PROPOSAL

Chairman Sheldon said Poul’s watering proposal is in the amount of \$600 per visit. The watering would include deep root watering for all of the new plantings. Poul’s would be monitoring the trees and watering them as needed. Member Bohm asked if this cost was for the season or per visit to the park. Chairman Sheldon replied the cost is per visit. Member Pink said she approves of the proposal because it ensures the nursery is being held responsible for the trees watering requirements.

A motion was made to approve Poul’s watering proposal. The motion was made by Chairman Sheldon and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

F. DISCUSS THE BUCKTHORN REMOVAL AT RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD AND BRADLEY ROAD

Chairman Sheldon said she is concerned about the removal of the residents’ screening when the buckthorn is cleared. Chairman Sheldon said she would like a plan before all this buckthorn is removed. Member Bohm said his plan is to remove the buckthorn and the dead ash trees that remain. To date 2/3rd of the buckthorn has already been cleaned out west of the trail, the vernal pond on the south end has been cleaned out and northeast corner has also been cleared of buckthorn. Winter is the best time to remove the buckthorn. The clearing of this area corresponds with MOLA efforts to save the oaks trees. Member Bohm said clearing the buckthorn would allow some of the smaller trees like the oaks and shagbark hickory trees to grow. Member Bohm said after clearing the buckthorn, the Committee should obtain a landscaper to provide ideas of what should be planted to provide a variety of plantings. Chairman Sheldon said she has no issues with these plans but she would like to receive some proposals to better understand expenses and the plans for restoration.

Member Bohm said he would like the Committee to approve to talk to 3-4 landscapers to receive proposals on clearing buckthorn. Village Administrator Irvin added an estimated amount spent already to clear this area is \$20,000. Village Administrator Irvin said he will determine what has been spent to-date. Resident Karen Carruthers mentioned as she was reviewing the Village’s open land areas, she read the Village only has a scenic easement. Village Administrator Irvin made mention this area is a conservation easement not a scenic easement. This area is indeed owned by the homeowner’s association. Village Administrator Irvin said he will follow-up with this area’s document and provide the information to the Committee.

Village Administrator Irvin mentioned to Member Bohm if he obtains proposals from the contracts to be sure to have delineated plans included.

A recommendation was made to have the Village Administrator provide the Committee the legality of the lands rights to determine if buckthorn can be cleared by the Village at Riverwoods Blvd and Bradley Road. Chairman Sheldon asked Member Bohm to obtain proposals for the clearing of the buckthorn and provide the restorations plans for this area. Member Bohm said his goal is to clear the buckthorn this winter.

Chairman Sheldon added the homeowner's association should also receive communication of the Village's plans.

G. DISCUSS PLACING THE RESTORATION IN PROCESS SIGN

Member Bohm said he would like to place a restoration in progress sign at Oasis Park to communicate to the residents that restoration is still in progress. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to avoid placing a new sign. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to discuss the cost and the sign size for the next meeting.

A motion was made to place a restoration temporary sign, restoration in progress at Oasis Park depending on the cost and the size. The motion was made by Member Pink. The motion failed for a lack of a second. Village Administrator said the motion is dependent on the cost and the size.

Member Bohm said he will work on obtaining a proposal for a temporary sign for Oasis Park. Village Administrator Irvin said he can work on a quote if he knew the sign details.

H. DISCUSS THE WHIPPOORWILL PARK ILM RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Sheldon said ILM sent a proposal to address the woody invasive species at Whippoorwill Park.

A recommendation was made to approve the ILM proposal in an amount not to exceed \$3,200. The motion was made by Chairman Sheldon and seconded by Member Bohm. The motion carried.

I. DISCUSS REPLACING DEAD TREES AT KORHUMEL HOME SITE

Chairman Sheldon said a few trees will need to be replaced because they did not survive their initial planting. This project will be discussed in the spring. Resident, Ms. Carruthers said MOLA has discussed dedicating a tree to Larry Falbe. MOLA could consider this location for their tree dedication sight.

J. DISCUSS THE RENAMING/DEDICATED AREA TO BARRY MACLEAN AT OASIS PARK

Chairman Sheldon said she did some research and obtained a copy of Barry Maclean's Oasis Park vision for this location dating back to March 3, 2009. This vision has changed direction to date. In order to have preserved the open space areas, two parks were created, Whippoorwill and Oasis Park. Trustee Towne said a park district cannot annex a Village if

there is a park system. Village Administrator Irvin said if Mettawa did not have any parks other villages can expand their boundaries onto that open land. Chairman Sheldon said the Committee just recently spent a significant amount of resident tax dollars on the two park trail signs. As a result, Chairman Sheldon suggested placing Mr. Maclean's bench with a sign honoring him by the pollinator gardens. The sign can read, Maclean's Preserve at the Oasis Park. This can avoid changing any public records of the parks name and no need to purchase new trail signs. Member Bohm said an honoring was held for Mr. Maclean's and it was announced that the park was going to be renamed. The park was going to be renamed, Maclean's Nature Preserve. Chairman Sheldon replied the manner in which it was conducted of renaming the park did not follow protocol.

Village Administrator Irvin provided a timeline of the Oasis Park Planning Committee from 2008 to the current year. The park was purchased and official name was assigned in 2011. Chairman Sheldon asked Member Bohm if the intention was to rename the whole park after Mr. Maclean and replace the signs. Member Bohm confirmed yes. Chairman Sheldon said she will call Barry Maclean regarding the two park name schemes and hear his feedback on the naming prior to making a recommendation. Chairman Sheldon said she would like to table this matter for next month's meeting.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board the renaming of Oasis Park to Maclean Nature Preserve with conservation easement to protect this land and change the two signs. The motion was made by Member Bohm. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Member Pink said she likes the idea of the park's name to be Barry Maclean Preserve. Member Bohm mentioned the Village has enough trails and other locations as part of the Village park district. Trustee Towne mentioned to be cautious not to remove the word park from the land.

Village Administrator Irvin said he understands the naming scheme, however some investigation will need to be completed regarding the park naming matter. Chairman Sheldon asked Village Administrator Irvin to obtain the legality information regarding the Oasis Park land rights to determine what the renaming for Barry Maclean's honoring could result.

A motion was made to rename the formal Oasis Park to Maclean Nature Preserve and change the two signs. The motion was moved by Member Bohm. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Chairman Sheldon said she would like to rename just a section of the park to Maclean Preserve and allow the Village to keep their existing signs. The new section would include a new sign. Member Pink said the whole park is a preserve not a park. Member Bohm said the land is Village owned and any actions can be taken.

A motion was made to take an area at Oasis Park and rename it to Maclean Preserve at Oasis Park. The motion was moved by Chairman Sheldon. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Member Pink addressed she would like to keep the preservation name because the two pollinator gardens are not the preserve the whole area is. Village Administrator Irvin suggested to not designate an area therefore it can be included as the whole park. Trustee Towne said a plaque by his bench would be a great idea.

Chairman Sheldon said she will talk with Barry Maclean about this matter. Member Pink suggested that Chairman Sheldon talk to both Trustee Brennan and Barry Maclean to vote on this matter next month.

Chairman Sheldon said we would discuss the honoring and renaming of Oasis Park at February's Committee meeting.

K. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION, AND IF APPROVED, BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resident, Patty Cork said the trail on Mettawawoods Drive is washed out. This matter is a drainage issue which will be included for Public Works.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Chairman Sheldon and seconded by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk