

**Oasis Park Planning Committee
Minutes
Inaugural Meeting
Sunday, January 11, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Falbe called the Oasis Park Planning Committee ("OPPC") meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that he had appointed Member Borkowski secretary of the Committee.

II. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll, the following Committee members were:

Present: Members Borkowski, Donato, Gray, Towne, Forrest and Tindall; and Chairman Falbe

Absent: Members Breslow and Pickell

III. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Falbe introduced each Committee member.

IV. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS – CHAIRMAN FALBE

Chairman Falbe stated that all of the OPPC meetings are open to the public and that the OPPC will meet as needed. The committee is an advisory committee, formed at Mayor MacLean's request, in order to make one or more recommendations to the Village Board regarding concept plans for a park located adjacent to the Oasis along Bradley Road.

V. MISSION STATEMENT

A. DELIBERATION

Chairman Falbe read the draft Mission Statement for the OPPC, which he had prepared for the Committee's consideration and discussion. There were no remarks.

B. APPROVAL

Member Towne, seconded by Member Tindall, moved that OPPC approve and adopt the Mission Statement and upon roll call the committee members voted:

Aye: Members Borkowski, Donato, Gray, Towne, Forrest and Tindall; and Chairman Falbe

Nay: None

Chairman Falbe declared the motion carried and the Mission Statement approved.

VI. COMMENTS FROM VILLAGE PLANNER

The Village Planner (Nick Patera of Teska Associates) walked the OPPC and the public attendees through a presentation. He noted that his work to date was very preliminary and that he wanted to receive as much input as possible regarding what type of park Mettawa desired. He presented various diagrams showing the land under consideration. He noted that it was not clear

which property parcels would be included in the park: Parcels 1 and 3 are currently for sale (owned by the same person), while Parcel 2 is not currently on the market. He also reviewed in detail a number of other local parks, ranging from low intensity usage to high intensity/highly-programmed parks. He also demonstrated a variety of possible park layouts, using cutouts of soccer fields, baseball diamonds, playgrounds, ponds, and other possible park amenities.

VII. DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING PROCESS

Various alternatives were discussed for involving the public, including mailing a survey, receiving more input at future meetings, and utilizing the Village Planner for recommendations. Discussion occurred regarding obtaining better demographics, such as the number of children in age ranges. The Village Planner offered to provide information on what a typical 400 resident community park might include. The OPPC decided to send out a status update letter, including a request for more input, the Chairman's email address, and an invitation to attend the next meeting and participate in the planning process. Each Committee Member was then given the opportunity to ask questions and to comment. These included:

- . How the park would be managed, given the Village has very limited resources to handle conflicts over usage, maintenance, and other issues that may arise
- . Whether soccer goals would be located in the park and cause a significant increase in insurance premiums [Various people had various opinions about this issue, but there was no consensus, nor any expert opinion provided.]
- . The potential need for additional security and/or policing, given the possibility of underage drinking or other such activity occurring at a park after dark
- . The changing demographics in Mettawa; there are more children. [A number of OPPC members commented that having a park will be a good thing; it will be nice to be able to walk to a park and for kids and families to be able to have a place to play.]
- . The desirability of a more passive, natural park, with an emphasis on open space preservation. [Numerous comments were made that Mettawa is does not need a park with organized sports or highly programmed activities.]
- . Limiting the parking to probably no more than 20-30 spots to help reduce non-residents using the park.
- . Whether one simple multi-purpose court (basketball) would be nice.
- . Not having outdoor lights [This comment was made numerous times.]
- . The desirability of having a pavilion.
- . Whether we are legally permitted to exclude non-residents from using the park, that minimizing parking spaces and/or use of resident stickers are effective ways of handling this. Also, perhaps the use of resident stickers further supports this.

Chairman Falbe noted that, although the OPPC has not discussed it, he envisions park hours as dawn to dusk.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Falbe invited the public to comment. These comments included:

- . A desire for a low-intensity, passive park, without formal programmed activities; more open space play areas and less formal lined-sports fields
- . HSBC employees using the park at lunchtime.
- . Using resident stickers for parking and the issue of enforcement.
- . The desirability of a walking/jogging/biking trail around and perhaps throughout the park, either asphalt or gravel.
- . Security especially given the proximity of the Oasis.
- . A pavilion and/or a fire pit or fire place as amenities.
- . The desirability of having a small pond with one person suggesting having an ice skating area.
- . The question of how many children exist in Mettawa was asked. There was some discussion that the OPPC could do a survey, an informal census, or just talk to a couple

of the younger subdivisions (Hamilton Estates, the Enclave, Forest Haven) to get a general estimate of number of kids in different general age ranges.
The referendum being included in the upcoming April election: Whether residents want a park to be built or not; and why this committee was spending money and doing work prior to the referendum results [Chairman Falbe responded that the OPPC would work towards making basic plans so that people better understood what they were voting on.]
Regarding ownership of the three parcels being considered.
Why this committee is planning a park if we don't even know how much or which parcels of land to include in the plan [Chairman Falbe answered that we would make plans that allowed for flexibility.]
Whether OPPC has a budget and the Village Planner was asked how much he had billed
We should not be spending money before we even know if the Costco deal is going to happen

There was a vocal minority of people voicing displeasure at the concept of building a park at all. Chairman Falbe responded that these comments should be brought to the Village Board, not this committee.

One person requested the history of the committee being formed. Chairman Falbe and the Village Attorney explained that the bonds issued by the Village require that approximately \$3 million dollars would need to be spent within two years if and when a deal with Costco was closed. This prompted discussions from the Village Board about the purchase of the land being discussed for a park, which led to this committee being formed by Mayor MacLean.

IX. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE OPPC MEETINGS

The next OPPC meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009, at 7 pm. At the next meeting, the OPPC plans to further define what elements should be included at this park. The Village Planner was also charged with continuing his preliminary planning, assuming all three parcels are obtained and a second scenario if only Parcels 1 and 3 are acquired. A playground area with equipment for tots and younger children should be included, as well as a small parking area. An emphasis on open space and low-intensity usage should be made. Berming around the oasis should be included, and any other recommended security ideas as the park is adjacent to a highly trafficked tollway oasis.

X. COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING ACT

Member Tindall, seconded by Member Gray, moved that OPPC approve and adopt Resolution No. 09 OPPC 1, setting forth this schedule of the OPPC, and upon roll call the members voted:

Aye: Members Borkowski, Donato, Gray, Towne, Forrest and Tindall; and Chairman Falbe

Nay: None

Chairman Falbe declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, it was moved by Member Gray, seconded by Member Tindall, that the meeting be adjourned. The Committee unanimously voted "AYE" *viva voce*.

Chairman Falbe declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Michael Borkowski, Secretary