

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 VIA ZOOM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Bohm and Members Clark and Pink

Absent: None

Chairman Bohm declared a quorum present.

Also, on the call: Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson; Village Administrator, Mandi Florip, Trustees Armstrong and Towne

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING**

Meeting minutes of August 11, 2021 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Clarke and seconded by Member Pink that the regular meeting minutes be approved and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. UPDATE ON PIZZO & ASSOCIATES LTD. PROGRESS AT THE MACLEAN PRESERVE AT OASIS PARK**

Chairman Bohm introduced Pizzo & Associates representative Seth Crackel, who provided an update at the MacLean Preserve at the Oasis Park. The Village is currently in the second year of the Pizzo & Associates contract. This year Zone 1 was seeded. Mr. Crackel indicated they did some soil testing, burning of the area and over seeded Zone 1(western side of the site/area along the trails). The weeds appear to be under control in Zone 1. Pizzo & Associates installed a large amount of soil amendments in the same area to generate successful growth. Chairman Bohm asked what the outcome was of last year's seeding. Mr. Crackel indicated the drill seeding was successful, however the dry spring delayed some of the germination. It takes three years from the first seeding to see great success and establishment of any plantings. Mr. Crackel added they have been preparing Zone 2(central stripe) and Zone 3(eastern side), by applying herbicide and mowing these areas. This fall Zone 2 and 3 will be seeded and the woody control work will be completed along with removal of buckthorn on these two sites. One area of concern is along the Oasis service drive. This soil is being crushed due to the parking of vehicles in the area, which is not allowing any seeds to cultivate. The wetland area is responding really well to the stewardship.

Member Pink asked why the Pizzo & Associates proposal stated they did not include a one-year guarantee for the trees being planting on the berm. Chairman Bohm stated he sought this proposal in efforts to screen the tollway lights for the residents. Mr. Crackel indicated when the berm was constructed the soil utilized was not quality dirt. As a result, the berm is experiencing hazardous conditions with the heat and winter's salt particles from the tollway. Chairman Bohm added the planting of the trees on the berm is being done to test the survival of vegetation at the top. Chairman Bohm indicated he would consider decreasing the number of trees being planted as a test

for survival until signs of success is achieved. Member Pink commented the trees success would increase if the plantings' area was dug wide enough to add quality black dirt to support the tree. Chairman Bohm said he did indicate the condition of the berm when the proposal was sought for the plantings. Member Clark asked if the placement of these trees would be distributed when the stormwater drainage issues are addressed with the grant. Chairman Bohm added no drainage issues occur at the top of the berm. Chairman Bohm added that when the Committee is ready to discuss the drainage issues Hey & Associates has identified for this park, Pizzo & Associates will be participating in those meetings to ensure that we do not impact the areas that have already been completed under the stewardship.

**E. UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE LOT BERM LOCATED ON ROUTE 60 AND ST. MARYS ROAD**

Chairman Bohm stated Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) has conceded authority of the wetlands to James Anderson. Village Engineer Scott Anderson added SMC has rescinded their approval since James Anderson completed the wetland delineation and SMC will now be delineating the wetland. A follow-up to SMC's email will be sent upon David Johannesen's return to the office. Chairman Bohm remarked no dirt has been loaded onto the berm. Trustee Towne indicated several dead trees are located around the little pond and they should be removed. Village Engineer Scott Anderson replied the berm area was cleared first and tree removal at this site will follow shortly.

**F. UPDATE ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE HAMILTON ESTATES PROPERTY ON RIVERWOOD BLVD**

Chairman Bohm said the Village has been discussing with Hamilton Estates HOA members, the interest of receiving the title to this land. This area is along Riverwoods Blvd. which runs through the Village's trail. The HOA is reluctant to release the ownership of the land due to concerns of resale of their properties being perceived as smaller lots. The Village Attorney has suggested that the Committee work with the HOA and establish a long-term stewardship. The stewardship would be drafted to reduce the risk of this area being later reclaimed by the HOA. Resident, Larry Falbe has indicated the HOA would contemplate a long-term stewardship. Member Clark asked if this stewardship would prompt other subdivisions to surrender maintenance of their easements and desire for the Village to steward their open spaces. Chairman Bohm indicated he will follow-up with the Village Attorney. Chairman Bohm mentioned if the land is transferred to the Village, he will draft a restoration plan for this area. With the plan, Chairman Bohm will approach the surrounding businesses whose employees benefit from the trail, to help fund the restoration. Trustee Towne said the Committee should be cautious on how this transfer of open space is managed to avoid other HOA's interest in the same type of transaction. Trustee Towne added each HOA has an obligation to maintain their open space areas and the Village can reinforce this requirement. Village Administrator Florip asked if anyone has addressed the residents' concerns. Village Administrator Florip said she will review the bylaws and work with Village Attorney Rhodes on options.

**G. DISCUSS THE METTAWA AND LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE TRAIL MAPS POSTED ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE**

Chairman Bohm indicated he received a request from a resident for a new trail map to be created to capture the Village trails, the forest preserve trails and their intersections. Teska provided Chairman Bohm an updated map. The map will be posted on the Village website and communicated to the residents.

**H. DISCUSS TRAIL SAFETY ALONG BRADLEY ROAD AND THE OASIS SERVICE ROAD NORTH CORNER**

Village Engineer Scott Anderson stated a sketch was provided to Chairman Bohm depicting the movement of the trail. The movement of the trail is not a viable option due to the utility poles, hydrant location and the culvert under Bradley Road. Chairman Bohm indicated he saw 3-4 feet area for the trail to be moved. Chairman Bohm and Village Engineer Scott Anderson will meet on site to discuss further options.

**I. DISCUSS TREE PLANTINGS PROPOSAL AT THE MACLEAN PRESERVE AT OASIS PARK**

Chairman Bohm indicated he requested tree plantings proposals from three landscaping companies. Pouls Nursery did not have the desired trees to provide a quote. The Committee was provided a copy of the Pizzo and Associates tree proposal. The red bud tree listed on the proposal is part of the Chicago Region Plant Trees for Communities initiatives program. The Committee approved this tree planting in January. The red bud will be planted at the south-end of the Village trail along Bradley Road. A ceremony of this tree planting will be combined with the Barry MacLean bench dedication. Chairman Bohm added he would consider reducing the 10 trees listed on the proposal to 6, three of each specie. Trustee Towne added the arborvitaes may not survive with the strong winds at the top of the berm. Member Pink added she would like the holes for the trees to be dug extra wide with additional black dirt to increase their survival.

A motion was made to amend the Pizzo & Associates proposal to include 3 arborvitaes, 3 red cedars and 1 red bud tree. The motion was moved by Member Pink and seconded by Member Clark. The motion was carried.

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

Member Clark thanked Chairman Bohm for all of his efforts in making Whippoorwill Park a great location for the Village picnic. Chairman Bohm added he made a note of a few shallow holes within the park that will be addressed and seeded for next year's event.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Clark and seconded by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk