

REGULAR MEETING 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 13, 2021 VIA ZOOM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

The Village meetings are being conducted in accordance with the recently amended provisions of the Open Meetings Act, the Governor's Disaster Proclamation and the Governor's Executive Order which provides that meetings attended by more than 25 persons are not feasible, an in-person meeting is not practical nor prudent at this time. Therefore, the meeting is being conducted in a virtual conference format.

B. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Bohm and Members Pink and Towne

Absent: None

Chairman Bohm declared a quorum present.

Also, on the call: Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson, Trustee Sheldon

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

Meeting minutes of November 11, 2020 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Pink and seconded by Member Towne that the regular meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

D. UPDATE ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE HAMILTON ESTATES PROPERTY ON RIVERWOODS BLVD

Chairman Bohm said at the last Committee meeting, it was agreed upon that the Village would provide the stewardship for this property. Village Administrator Irvin indicated the original Committee idea was to amend the conservation easement to expand the area in which the Village could complete the conservation maintenance. The second idea that was being explored was to grant the Village ownership of the property. Either way, both of these concepts would require a 2/3rd or 3/4th vote approval from the homeowner's associations. Village Administrator Irvin indicated an issue at hand is that the Village would be spending money on private property outside the easement we already have responsibility to maintain. The Village Attorney recommends an amendment to the current easement or the Village to become owners of the property. Member Towne commented he strongly urges the Village to take ownership of this property. Chairman Bohm agreed the Village should pursue the purchase of this property. Chairman Bohm said he will contact the current two association's presidents. Chairman Bohm stated the Committee will be making the recommendation to pursue this property at the next Board meeting. Village Administrator Irvin added the Village Attorney can draft a letter to the two associations to explain the transaction and the benefits in transferring this property to the Village. Chairman Bohm asked on how the land pricing would be handled. Village Administrator Irvin replied this type of transaction would have no exchange of money for the land, it would be a quit claim deed. The

major benefit for these two associations to turn over the land to the Village, it will create a reduction in their liability insurance. Trustee Sheldon asked if this transaction would be handled like the trails were “vacationed” to the Village. Village Administrator Irvin remarked vacationing land, would be to vacate a holding of a property. This transaction would be a quit claim deed.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board to pursue the acquisition of the Hamilton Estate property on Riverwoods Blvd. The motion was made by Member Pink and seconded by Member Towne. The motion was carried.

E. UPDATE ON BUILDING A BERM ON THE VILLAGE LOT LOCATED ON ROUTE 60 AND ST. MARY’S ROAD

Chairman Bohm stated DiTomasso’s proposal did not include a deadline. Member Towne mentioned the contract does not state the trees on the north would be removed. The contract’s wording needs to be fine-tuned to ensure clarity on the project’s expectations. Village Administrator Irvin stated it would be easier if DiTomasso agreed to the original berm specifications contract that also included the seed mix. Village Administrator Irvin added this project will also be delayed until April 15th, to allow the wetland delineation to be completed. Chairman Bohm indicated no trees will be saved on the berm sight. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said we can ask the SMC to allow the project to be started at a specific location that does not impact the wetlands. Chairman Bohm and Village Engineer Scott Anderson will continue this conversation with Carl DiTomasso. Village Engineer Scott Anderson added Lima Contractors are still considering this project. Chairman Bohm stated he would like DiTomasso to agree to the original specification and add a time period for completion to ensure the project is not extended. Member Towne commented DiTomasso should take the time to understand the specifications of the agreement prior to agreeing to the work.

F. DISCUSS WHIPPOORWILL PARK MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Chairman Bohm said his goal is to obtain one landscaping company to complete all of Whippoorwill Park’s maintenance. Chairman Bohm indicated a few metal strips need to be removed; patio stones need to be adjusted, among other items are also been included on the maintenance list. Trustee Sheldon indicated to Chairman Bohm to follow-up with the vendors she provided him last year to inquire on their interest for this work. Village Administrator Irvin stated that all of the specifications will need to be listed and a map of the park should be included. Trustee Sheldon indicated she provided Chairman Bohm prior year contracts to understand what work has been completed at this location. Chairman Bohm stated he will create the listing and provide those details to the Committee at next month’s meeting.

Resident, Karen Carruthers (25220 Shagbark Road) asked if the fire hydrant was in working order to ensure any new plantings could be watered. Trustee Sheldon stated a meter needs to be added to allow the hydrant to work. Chairman Bohm commented he has the hydrant and the need for new hoses as part of the list.

Chairman Bohm asked if the Committee would consider adding picnic tables and trash cans at Whippoorwill Park. This matter can be further discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Carruthers commented she would like to suggest that part of Whippoorwill Park be naturalized. Maybe converting a portion of the grassy area to native plantings. Chairman Bohm mentioned he noted adding native shrubs or plants to this location for future discussions. Member Pink said she agreed with Mrs. Carruthers suggestion.

G. DISCUSSION THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PLAN

Chairman Bohm said he would like the Committee to review the WRD Survey report detailing the Village properties. Village Administrator Irvin said we will include the recommendations report and a map of each property to the agenda item next month. Member Towne indicated this planning exercise was put on hold earlier due to the Grainger property purchase not having been finalized. Chairman Bohm replied we will add the Grainger location upon the acquisition being completed.

Village Administrator Irvin indicated when the report was created in 2015, some property site reports did not have extensive details included due to the intended use of that lot. Village Administrator Irvin suggested to discuss the lots that have budget implementations. Chairman Bohm indicated lots 4,5,6,7 and 12 will be discussed next month.

Mrs. Carruthers asked if the Committee should begin their discussions with determining what are the driving forces to decide the criteria to evaluate each property. Chairman Bohm said with each lot's discussion the maintenance and ongoing expenses will be deliberated. Mrs. Carruthers added if certain lots have already been predetermined that no further development will be necessary, those lots would have no further discussions.

Member Towne inquired about resident Barry MacLean's tree donation spoken about at a prior Committee meeting and at a Board meeting. Trustee Brennan had indicated she would speak with Barry MacLean regarding the tree donation. Chairman Bohm said he will follow-up with Trustee Brennan. Member Towne added the Committee should enhance those lots that impact the residents. However, the Committee should be sensitive to those lots that residents do not want their screening to be removed.

H. UPDATE ON THE MACLEAN PRESERVE RESTORATION

Chairman Bohm indicated Pizzo & Associates was able to complete the prescribed burn at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park. Pizzo was also able to amend the soil and complete the seeding. Chairman Bohm said he looks forward to seeing their success in the spring. Member Towne indicated the seeding seemed to be done late in the season and he has some concern.

Mrs. Hirsch mentioned she had spoken with the various Board members regarding planting trees at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park. Nothing has been confirmed since the initial conversation about four years. The trees would be reducing the noise and light pollution. Chairman Bohm indicated to plant trees at the top of the berm may be limiting due to the slow growth period. Chairman Bohm said he will discuss with Pizzo and Associates about planting trees at the top of the berm to test which trees can successfully grow in this location.

I. DISCUSS THE PLANT TREES FOR THE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Chairman Bohm said he received an email from the Morton Arboretum in December, they are urging communities to plant at least one tree within the Village. Chairman Bohm indicated he would like the Committee to consider participating in the community program. Member Towne said the Village can agree to plant a tree given we have planted a number of trees in the past.

Chairman Bohm asked for a consensus to notify Morton Arboretum that Mettawa would participate in their program. A consensus was reached to participate in the program. Village Administrator Irvin asked the Committee to make a recommendation to the Board to participate in this program. Chairman Bohm stated the tree will be tagged to indicate we are participating in this program.

Mrs. Carruthers added the Korhumel site has very mature trees on the property. This location could use some younger trees on the west side of the property. Chairman Bohm added the Forest Preserve has made efforts to clear some of the top canopies to allow the saplings to get established. Trustee Sheldon asked that the Committee consider clearing the top canopies as well as it has been about 5-years since the last time this maintenance was performed.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board the Village's participation in the plant trees for communities' program. The motion was made by Member Pink and seconded by Member Towne. Member Towne added that the Village should plant more than one tree. 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

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk