

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, FEBRUARY 10, 2021 VIA ZOOM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at 6:29 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

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING

Meeting minutes of January 13, 2021 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink that the regular meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

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

Chairman Bohm indicated DiTomasso Excavating, Ltd. is still interested in building the berm on the Village's property. Village Engineer Scott Anderson will connect and review the contract with Mr. DiTomasso. Trustee Sheldon asked the Village Engineer to ensure that the contract included the removal of the trees on the property.

E. DISCUSS WHIPPOORWILL PARK MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Chairman Bohm stated he along with the Village Clerk created a list of items to be maintained at Whippoorwill Park. The list will be added to the contract details for the potential contractors sent by James Anderson. Village Engineer Scott Anderson indicated a map will be added to the contract. Village Administrator Irvin added the bid timing on the contract should be adjusted due to the snow and the pavers listed cannot be seen. The bid date should be modified to early April. Village Engineer Scott Anderson will work on the final timing with Village Administrator. Trustee Sheldon asked that Perfect Cut be included as a bidder.

F. DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Chairman Bohm stated today the Committee will be discussing the Village properties #4 (701 Riverwoods Blvd), #5 (Riverwoods Blvd), #6 (26230 Riverwoods Blvd), #7 (Whippoorwill

Preserve/Farm) and #12 (25960 St. Mary's Road). The discussion will be a review of the WRD survey report completed in 2015. **Parcel #4**, is a corner property that is less than an acre and maintained by ILM. This parcel's restoration plans have included, some buckthorn removal, native plants added in the shady areas and along the split fence which are growing nicely. No new recommendations were made. **Parcel #5**, the west side buckthorn and the metal fence were removed, MOLA cleared buckthorn on the east side around an oak tree, the vernal pond on the south end received approval for restoration. Chairman Bohm indicated the goal is to remove additional buckthorn in the winter and plant additional native plantings. Member Towne indicated the removal of the buckthorn will need to be cleared in stages to ensure the residents screening is not removed before the new vegetation has filled in the area. Chairman Bohm duly noted Member Towne's suggestion. Chairman Bohm asked Trustee Sheldon if seeding was done along the west side after the buckthorn was cleared. Trustee Sheldon replied when buckthorn is removed, it needs to be followed-up with treatment prior to seeding. Mrs. Carruthers stated buckthorn does need to be chemically treated prior to the native plant's growth commencing. Village Administrator Irvin replied the right-of-way on Riverwoods Blvd is handled by SSA#3, Hamilton Partners. If the Committee would like to extend native plantings, we would need to discuss these plans with them. No recommendations were made. **Parcel #6**, is known as the restaurant property, the annexation agreement for this construction ended in 2018. Member Towne mentioned this area should continue to be mowed. No further recommendations were made. **Parcel #7**, Whippoorwill Park has had a number of improvements. ILM is doing a great job removing buckthorn at this area. A grant has been received for some additional plantings at the north end of the lot by Mettawa Woods Drive. Chairman Bohm indicated this park is being handled well. Member Pink asked if the completed items could be indicated on the recommendations. Chairman Bohm asked the Committee if they would like to add a screen fence or additional plants to separate the patio areas. Member Towne indicated he would rather have more plants to create the screen. Member Towne also requested that the wishing well receive some maintenance to preserve the stones. Mrs. Carruthers added the current shrubbery requires additional watering and care to fully bloom. Mrs. Carruthers mentioned at a prior meeting, the Committee agreed to reduce the grassy areas and make some of this area naturalized. **Parcel #12**, the plans for this location include a possible berm to be built by DiTomasso Excavating Ltd. Chairman Bohm indicated with the berm being built, the buckthorn will be removed. Member Towne indicated with the berm it will also address the old trees being removed. Chairman Bohm indicated the berm will be seeded and mowed a few times each year. Mrs. Carruthers addressed her concern with the type of soil used to build the berm directly impacts the planting's success.

Chairman Bohm mentioned Riverside Preserve changed their sign to, Riverside Forest. Village Administrator Irvin replied he spoke to the Village Engineer Yamin about the renaming. The Village Engineer replied the official name for that subdivision is Riverside Forest. Village Engineer Scott Anderson added the name change was recorded 10 years ago.

G. DISCUSS THE CHICAGO REGION TREE INITIATIVE REQUEST

Chairman Bohm indicated he received a communication from Chicago Region Tree. They inquired if the Village had an inventory of their trees to be provided. They are developing an application with a GPS in order to list the surrounding municipalities trees. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said James Anderson is able to capture this information due to the equipment they own. Member

Towne indicated the Forest Preserve perhaps already has a tree inventory listing. Chairman Bohm said they are only asking for Village owned trees. Trustee Sheldon said at one time MOLA was entertaining this process. Chairman Bohm commented he spoke to the president of MOLA and they indicated this project is too voluminous for their manpower. Trustee Sheldon added the Deerpath Farm trees have been inventoried by Lake Forest Open Lands. Member Towne remarked he does not see the benefit in completing this exercise. The Committee's consensus was to not participate in inventorying the Village's trees at this time.

H. DISCUSS THE MACLEAN PRESERVE AT OASIS PARK POLLINATOR GARDEN MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Chairman Bohm stated the Committee received the Forest Builders proposal for the butterfly garden maintenance at the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park. Member Pink asked about the ComEd grant for the butterfly garden. Chairman Bohm replied this proposal is for the maintenance at MacLean Preserve and the grant pertains to Whippoorwill Park. Chairman Bohm added last year Pizzo and Associates performed some maintenance to the butterfly garden but instead removed plants, not knowing which were plants or weeds.

A motion was made to approve the Forest Builders proposal for the maintenance at MacLean Preserve pollinator gardens for \$3,700. The motion was made by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

Trustee Sheldon added the Committee should consider seeding areas at the park to help reduce cost.

I. DISCUSS THE HAMILTON ESTATES PROPERTY ON RIVERWOODS BLVD PURCHASE STATUS

Chairman Bohm said at the last Board meeting, it was decided to approach the Hamilton Estates homeowner's associations regarding the Village's interest of purchasing this property. The Village Attorney is currently drafting a proposal to present the homeowner's associations to determine their interest in this land sale. Village Administrator Irvin stated the Village Attorney's suggestion for the Committee was to consider plans and include the vernal pond in those plans to present the homeowner's association in the letter of interest. Chairman Bohm replied he will summarize his seasonal ideas and plans for a year-around flowering garden.

Mrs. Carruthers said several entities offer free native plants design expertise that can provide the Village some guidance for this area. Chairman Bohm replied he would also like to hire an arborist to determine some of the trees conditions to plan a budget accordingly.

J. DISCUSS MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ITEMS FOR FY2021-2022 BUDGET

Village Administrator Irvin indicated the budget for mowing and maintenance of Whippoorwill Park was reduced from last year. One reduction was in the fertilization. The tree removal expense is an estimate from prior maintenance cost. Trustee Sheldon asked if Trustee Brennan spoke to Barry MacLean regarding his tree donation. Chairman Bohm said he will follow-up with Trustee Brennan regarding this matter. Member Towne mentioned we should consider the residents to the north of the park to add some new plantings to create screening after the drainage study. Village

Administrator Irvin added the planting of trees expense line item is for any type of property plantings. Trustee Sheldon mentioned there are several grants to consider for additional support.

Ms. Carruthers mentioned that the Grainger's property soon to be owned by the Village, is not in great conditions. Member Towne indicated the Village has a farmer who farms the east side of that land. Chairman Bohm said at this time the maintenance will include mowing of this land. Chairman Bohm asked if a budget amount should be added for maintenance of this property. Village Administrator Irvin replied once a plan has been developed the budget can be amended at a later time.

Please see the Village Administrator Irvin draft budget for full details. Village Administrator Irvin said the budget will be on the March meeting again to capture any budget changes.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Towne and seconded by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk