

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022 AT HILTON GARDEN INN IN THE COTTONWOOD ROOM A**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bohm called the meeting to order at 7:15 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.

Attendees: Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Administrator, Mandi Florip; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson and Trustees Armstrong and Towne

Also: Village Attorney Rhodes

**C. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2022**

Meeting minutes of March 9, 2022 were reviewed. Member Pink asked that the meeting start time be removed from the top section of the meeting minutes. Chairman Bohm indicated on page 2 the fence height should be changed from 8 to 6 feet. It was moved by Member Pink and seconded by Member Clark that the regular meeting minutes be approved with modifications and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. UPDATE ON AN ARBORIST TO INSPECT ALL VILLAGE OWNED OAK TREES**

Chairman Bohm stated there are a number of matured oak trees throughout the Village. As a result, Chairman Bohm reached out to two arborists to request proposals to determine if the village's oak trees had oak wilt. One arborist visited the Village properties and looked over the oak tree health. The priority location is to treat trees at Whippoorwill Park. The arborist commented the oak trees would remain healthy if the surrounding buckthorn was not disturbed. The arborist will send a proposal with their recommendations. Village Clerk Gallo asked if the expense of an arborist was included in the budget. Chairman Bohm replied the Committee has a budget for plantings that should also cover this expense. The Committee consensus was to add an additional \$10K to the budget for the arborist treatment plan. Chairman Bohm noted as the trees were being considered with the arborist, there were a few trees that require some trimming to enhance their beauty.

Chairman Bohm added next month the 5-year plan of the Village's open space properties will be discussed and one lot should be considered for buckthorn removal in the winter.

**E. DISCUSS ANNUAL TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

Chairman Bohm asked the Village Engineer Scott if they were ready to perform the annual maintenance. Village Engineer Scott replied the trails will need to dry in order to complete the filling and leveling required in some locations. In prior years, the trail maintenance was priced out based on the number of truckloads of material utilized. Village Engineer Scott asked if the Committee wishes for them to also treat the weeds on the trail while they are completing the maintenance.

A motion was made approve the trail maintenance in the amount not to exceed \$12,000. The motion was made by Member Clark and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

An amended motion was made to approve the trail maintenance in the amount not to exceed \$15,000 to include the treatment of the weeds. The motion was made by Member Clark and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

Member Clark asked Village Engineer Scott to notify the Village Clerk when the weeds are being treated on the trails. A communication will be sent out to the residents for their awareness.

**F. DISCUSS MACLEAN PRESERVE AT OASIS PARK TREE AND SHRUB WATERING CONTRACT**

Chairman Bohm indicated a proposal from Poul’s Nursery was received in the amount of \$2,400 per watering visit. Last year, the cost was \$1,800 per visit. The Village has since added six trees at the top of the berm which increased this year’s proposal. Member Clark asked how often were the trees watered last year. Village Clerk indicated she will provide the Committee the number of visits that occurred in 2021.

A motion was made to approve Poul’s Nursery watering proposal in the amount of \$2,400 per visit. The motion was moved by Member Clark and seconded by Member Pink. The motion was carried.

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

Village Attorney Rhodes indicated Village Engineer Jamie Anderson sent out an email to the Committee regarding the issues of placing a stockade fence at Whippoorwill Park along Route 60. Village Attorney Rhodes indicated the village code has a few regulations for the placement of fences. Within the village code, a closed fence up to 8 feet can be installed within the building line or the setback. However, open spaces such as Whippoorwill Park do not have a limitation of setback placement. The setback is determined on site plans approved by the Village Board. No site plans have been approved for this park. A normal setback line throughout the village is 75 feet. Setting a fence along a major road have additional provisions as part of the comprehensive plan that enacts with scenic easement. Any scenic easements along a major roadway is required to remain open. The Village Attorney recommended that the Committee not install a fence at this park. Village Engineer Scott added the Village labeled the areas scenic easement to limit Lake County from widening their road space and impeding into open space areas. Member Pink asked if additional trees could be planted instead as a barrier wall. Village Attorney Rhodes replied yes. Chairman Bohm indicated the intention of the fence was to protect the children and dogs from running out to the road. Additional trees will be considered as an alternative at this location.

Chairman Bohm stated Lake County only provides one hydrate connection to the village. This connection is placed at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park. Whippoorwill Park has a hydrate onsite and asked if a faucet can be installed to water the vegetations. Village Engineer Scott replied the county may recommend placing a meter at this location. The Village might be able to add a yard hydrate after tapping into the water main. A connection is possible, the question at hand is if a water meter will be required by Lake County. Adding a meter could result in a higher expense. Village Engineer Scott will investigate this matter. Chairman Bohm indicated with the two-pollinator gardens, the flowers by the Armstrong bench and the additional plantings being considered, water will be required in the summer months. Village Engineer Scott added if a meter is placed at the park a lock will also need to be installed.

Chairman Bohm stated he would like the Committee to consider officially naming the homesite property to Whippoorwill Park. Village Clerk Gallo will look into the pin numbers associated, along with the name listed by Lake County for location.

Village Clerk Gallo indicated she is waiting to hear from Trustee Maier if the picnic table and waste bin can be purchased in this fiscal year or in May.

Village Clerk Gallo asked if we could consider a date for Barry MacLean's bench dedication this summer. Member Clark said she will work on getting a few dates on Barry's availability.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Pink and seconded by Member Clark to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk