

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 VIA ZOOM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Member Clark called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Members Clark and Pink

Absent: Chairman Bohm

Member Clark declared a quorum present.

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

Residents in Attendance: Karen Carruthers and Business owner Bill Vignocchi

**C. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER**

Meeting minutes of September 14, 2022 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Clark and seconded by Member Pink that the regular meeting minutes be approved and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. UPDATE ON THE POLLINATOR GARDENS PLANTINGS AT WHIPPOORWILL PARK**

Member Clark stated she spoke to Nick Pizzo from Pizzo & Associates regarding when they anticipated planting the approved plugs. Mr. Pizzo indicated 232 plugs will be completed the following week in the north side of the patio area at Whippoorwill Park. Mr. Pizzo added no additional watering expense was anticipated for this year.

**E. UPDATE ON THE WHIPPOORWILL PARK WATER CONNECTION**

Village Engineer Scott Anderson said he had not received any communication from Lake County as he called them a few days ago.

**F. DISCUSS PLANTINGS AT WHIPPOORWILL PARK AT THE ARMSTRONG BENCH**

Member Clark indicated Mettawa Open Land Association (MOLA) representative Karen Carruthers provided the names of the plants and their location to where they were going to be planted at Whippoorwill Park. Any related expenses for the planting will be provided by MOLA.

**G. DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL FOR AN EARTHEN BERM ON VILLAGE PROPERTY AT 700 RIVERWOODS ROAD**

Member Clark stated the Village received a proposal from John Keno & Company, Inc. inquiring if the village would consider a berm at our lot located at 700 Riverwoods Road. A representative from John Keno & Company, Inc. Bill Vignocchi attended the Zoom call. Village Administrator Florip added the village received a proposal from John Keno & Company as they are completing a project at Lake Forest Hospital and will need to remove the excess dirt from this location and the village could benefit with a berm. The proposal includes the berm measurements, trees to be planted as well as a payment for the construction of the berm. Village Clerk Gallo indicated the Committee received a supplemental email to

view prior berms built by John Keno & Company. Mr. Vignocchi added the timing to receive an approval is critical but it will also maximize the return for the village. The berm would be seeded, no specific tree was not listed on the proposal as the village can determine which species of trees. Member Clark asked what type of soil would be used to build the berm. Mr. Vignocchi commented a berm is built using the existing top soil and clay is imported. The soil used to build the berm does require EPA certification which indicates proper pH levels. Member Clark asked Mr. Vignocchi the timeframe on when the berm would be constructed. Mr. Vignocchi added the land would be prepared in March and it would take about twelve months to be completed. Mr. Vignocchi added the proposal was drafted with a conceptional placement of the berm. The final location can be revised. Village Engineer Scott Anderson added a full set of existing plans of the wetland delineation will be required for a permit. Member Pink commented the village would prefer to have native trees to be planted on the berm. Member Pink stated additional layers of top soil would be needed to help support the growth of new trees. Member Pink added this village restores land and enjoys trees.

Resident, Karen Carruthers asked how many truck loads have been calculated for this berm. Mr. Vignocchi commented 7,000 to 7,500 loads over a period of a year. Mrs. Carruthers added heavy equipment used to build a berm compacts the soil which limits the survival of new plantings afterwards. Mrs. Carruthers stated the berm approval should consider all the factors in which disruption will occur in the years following the construction of this berm.

Trustee Towne added he has worked with John Keno & Company during the construction of his retention pond. Trustee Towne highly approves of the work completed by John Keno & Company. Trustee Towne approved of the berm to be constructed. Trustee Towne added the berm should be shifted north as the village owns the land south of 700 Riverwoods Road. Trustee Towne indicated he would like to be sure that the trucks are not stacking on the road. Member Clark added if we shifted the location of the berm, we would need to be cautious not to impact the lake on southern lot. Member Pink asked if the berm would reduce the noise or lights on this road. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said if the lights of a truck are blocked, it will reduce noise levels. Village Administrator Florip commented Mr. Vignocchi the Committee is not dismissing your proposal but at this time additional information is needed prior to a decision. Mrs. Carruthers added she would also like to ensure no water drainage is impacted due to this construction. Mrs. Carruthers indicated the volume of trucks traveling Riverwoods Road is a big concern too. Mr. Vignocchi replied trucks will not be stacking, the number of trucks will vary from day to day. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said the village ordinance does not allow Sunday as a workday. Member Clark stated we can receive the further details for the November Committee meeting prior to making a recommendation. Village Administrator Florip said the Committee can provide an update at the October Board meeting and we can vote on the final proposal in November.

**H. 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 added the six trees that were planted at the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park berm are not doing well. As a result, no additional tree plants on the berm will occur this fall. The six trees will be assessed next spring prior to any consideration of new plantings.

Trustee Towne indicated the village trails have a few washed-out areas. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said they have repaired the washed-out areas along Old School Road. Trustee Towne indicated a few spots were seen by the hotel. The hotel will need to receive communication to address trail maintenance.

Member Clark asked Village Engineer Scott Anderson for the status of the three elderberry bushes approved for Whippoorwill Park. Village Engineer Scott Anderson replied they have been planted. Mrs. Carruthers asked why the northern pollinator garden was cleared out. Member Clark said she will follow-up with Nick Pizzo about the pollinator gardens maintenance. Member Clark asked Village Engineer Scott Anderson to have David Johansson forward her all emails that were sent to Trustee Bohm regarding the pollinator gardens.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Clark and seconded by Member Pink to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo,  
Village Clerk