

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013, IN THE MAPLE BOARDROOM OF THE HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Towne called the meeting to order, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll, the following persons were:

Present: Member Armstrong, Member Lane (at 5:35pm) and Chairman Towne

Absent: None

Also present: Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Drew Johnson (of MOLA), Mayor-elect Casey Urlacher, Franziska Lys and Jeff Clark residents; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk. Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from March 13, 2013.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of March 13, 2013 as presented and Chairman Towne seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR METTAWA 2025 UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

Chairman Towne opened the discussion by presenting the previous version of Teska and Associates Comprehensive Plan and solicited input from those present. He started off by saying that the Mettawa Village Mission should be added at the beginning, the topic of Regional Planning could be updated and Regional Location content, as well as Planning History was still appropriate. He felt that the Demographics content looked good, but could be updated, including age distribution.

On page 11, Existing Land Use content needed to be updated due to the Oasis Business Park east side of tollway and south portion residential should be zoned R1, as it is now zoned Business Research. Chairman Towne noted that the LCFP owns the land, but he felt that it should be zoned R1, as a hedge against development, should the county sell the parcel. He also noted that the Oasis Park and 10 acres of woods across from HSBC should be designated as village managed. Chairman Towne noted that on page 12 recent Land Use changes, and background of major developments needed to be listed as HSBC, CDW, hotels, etc. were added; and on page 13, Residential Growth content should carry through to 2013.

Chairman Towne referenced page 15 topic Flora and Fauna and shared that he found a rare bird on his pond, Smew, which could be added to the report. Under Community Services, it should note that there are public water access and wells, but that they were striving to increase potable water. He also felt that the Police and Fire topic should include the Howe Security services, the new siren system and the plan for Libertyville and Vernon Hills overlapping for fire service. He further felt that the Traffic topic needed updating and

Improvement topic as well, since some items were done already. He thought it would be useful to record the recent improvements of street paving, to save the trouble of researching it when the topic would resurface again. Chairman Towne referenced page 21 topic of removal of trees and improvement of summer maintenance and felt it could be enhanced more. Scott Anderson and Jeff Clark cautioned about right-of-way to access same. He further noted that on page 22 Ecology topic should include the elimination of invasives and wanted a program to reforest Mettawa. Jeff Clark thought resident participation could be encouraged with tree planting. Drew Johnson wanted to revisit the topic of buckthorn removal from the Millennium property line and finish the equestrian trail connection and he offered to get the easement access in writing to finish said task.

Chairman Towne referenced the Transport and Trail System topic, which included securing tunnels for crossing at Route 60 and Riverwoods Road and questioned if the committee really wanted that. Member Armstrong said he was not in favor of that. Chairman Towne noted that Route 60 and St. Mary's Road intersection was dangerous and tough for riding a horse across the street. Jeff Clark felt that this topic was too specific for this comprehensive plan. Chairman Towne wanted the opportunity to pursue Granger to allow a trail and Member Armstrong was not in agreement with that. Jeff Clark felt it was worth investigating whether or not this was even feasible.

Franziska Lys shared that pursuant to Chairman Towne suggestion at the March Public Works Committee meeting, she polled residents in her area and found that 80% do not want the trail south of Route 60, that it comes too close to their property lines. Jeff Clark felt that the loop would be good, would make sense and that the residents polled do not know about the pending LCFP 2014 trail plans. He felt that the committee should balance the benefit of the loop against the drawbacks and thought it was worth investigating. Member Armstrong wanted a set of objective criteria to measure the goals of said trail. Member Lane cited another previous conflict about adding a trail, which ultimately was created and it is now used. He also reminded those present that the trails are a protective hedge against road expansion, which is not aligned with the village's goals. Franziska Lys repeated that the majority of the residents in her area do not want the trail, will not use the trail, nor will they grant easement access to work on the trail. Drew Johnson added that the trails would provide access to the resident's property features, such as a pond and threatens their privacy. Franziska Lys noted that the cost of the trail connection was estimated between \$476K to \$521K and felt that the funds could be better utilized elsewhere.

Member Lane reminded all present that there was a difference between the comprehensive plan concept and a plan to construct it. Member Armstrong is in agreement with the concept, but not the details of the trail loop. Franziska Lys questioned the purpose of the concept of the trail, if the polled residents stated that they did not want it located as such on the plan and felt that the committee was not receptive to their opinions. Chairman Towne was worried about the traffic at the intersection of Route 60 & St. Mary's Road and wants a tunnel to link up the north and south sides of Route 60. Members Lane and Armstrong suggested polling all residents before pursuing such a plan. It was decided that Chairman Towne and Member Lane walk the area alongside Granger to gain a better understanding and will leave the topic for further discussion with the Village Board.

Franziska Lys replied that those residents located close to the proposed trail on the comprehensive plan do not want to walk out of their house and be on a trail, to which Chairman Towne questioned about the opinion of all the residents of Mettawa, not just those close to the trail. He further stated that the comprehensive plan was put together as a result of previous open hearings, resident input and land acquisition and the trails existing or planned were the result. Chairman Towne felt that instead of comprehensive resident polling, that the plan should be reviewed first and then have a village discussion about any points of contention, i.e. open space, trails, etc.

Chairman Towne also wanted an updated zoning map and an updated land use map showing the recent acquisitions. Scott Anderson mentioned that Mettawa would pay taxes if JAWA accessed water and annexed any Mettawa property in their plans, whether or not water was used. Chairman Towne suggested that the committee take to the Village Board the first draft of the comprehensive plan, when completed and ask for a village work session.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Lane to recommend to the Village Board that they set up a village workshop session after first draft of COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR METTAWA 2025 is created. The motion was carried.**

**E. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE BOARD**

Chairman Towne reported that the large amount of dirt that was part of the Whippoorwill berm will be knocked down and graded. He also presented the Teska proposal plan for linking the Whippoorwill Farm and the Whippoorwill Park for \$4,000. Jeff Clark did not feel the necessity of a Teska proposal for the purpose of passive use of this parcel. Chairman Towne reminded those present that he was asked by Drew Johnson of MOLA for such a plan before they could become engaged in this project of enhancing this parcel and working with the village. Member Lane felt that Teska did wonderful work, but that their plans were too fancy for the village's purpose for this parcel. Drew Johnson offered to create a master plan with the help of getting a study map from Anderson, which would be ready by the May committee meeting. Member Lane felt that if the committee did not like this plan, then they would authorize Teska to create the plan for the \$4,000 fee.

Anderson reported that he wrote the specifications for the Oasis Park berm for contractor bids, and Ferolo reviewed and deleted key information that needed to be part of the bid if it were to be solicited. He said that Mayor Ray wanted the bid to be advertised but Chairman Towne noted that the flow of money was flowing in the opposite direction of most advertised bids and it was not necessary. Anderson projects that the work would need to be finished by September 15, if they wanted to start the Bradley Road project. Chairman Towne felt that this was unrealistic, since the timing was late, already getting into the construction season. Member Armstrong wanted to proceed regardless, since the project must be done. Chairman Towne felt that a Dec 01, 2013 was more realistic. Drew Johnson offered to provide Anderson with the seed mix information for the berm specifications.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Lane to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm, seconded by Member Armstrong. The motion was carried.

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Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Clerk

*This document is subject to correction as noted on next meeting's minutes.*