

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE  
VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 5:30 P.M.  
ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2015, 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 pm.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Present: Chairman Towne, Member Armstrong and Member Sheldon

Absent: None

Also present: Rick Phillips, architect; Bob Irvin, Village Administrator; Denis Bohm (Open Lands Ad Hoc Panel); Scott Anderson, Village Engineer; Colleen Liberacki, Deputy Village Clerk.

Chairman Towne declared a quorum present.

**C. Approval of minutes from August 12, 2015.**

Member Armstrong moved to accept the minutes of August 12, 2015 as presented, and Member Sheldon seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**D. DISCUSS THE ILM PROPOSAL FOR WHIPPOORWILL PARK**

Chairman Towne presented the ILM proposal for Whippoorwill Park and noted that it included a fall burn recommendation. He stated that he was not a big fan of prairie burning due to safety concerns and hearing of a couple of instances where it got out of control and harmed other homes and landscaping, but he was open to discussion. Member Armstrong inquired if the cut landscaping would be burned and reseeded, to which Member Sheldon replied yes. She further stated that if there was no fall burn, but a proposed spring burn and reseeding, she would not support this, because she felt a spring seeding would be a waste of money.

Denis Bohm inquired if it was an appropriate time to consider a stewardship plan/contract for Whippoorwill Park, to which Member Sheldon added as a reminder that Stephen Christy, landscape architect, was originally considered for involvement with WRD for the open lands management plan and his abundance of Mettawa history would benefit the village. Denis Bohm stressed the expertise was needed now and it was a good time to pursue this. Chairman Towne believed that the ILM contract for this area continued into 2016, however Member Armstrong and Bob Irvin corrected him by saying that ILM had only two more visits left in their contract. Denis Bohm pushed for seeking bids for a three-year stewardship contract. Chairman Towne agreed to put this on the October agenda to be voted on, since it was not on the present agenda and nothing could be done.

There was concern for accepting and acting on the ILM proposal for Whippoorwill Park, due to the unfortunate accidental mowing by Brickman. The concern was that there would not be

enough fuel to burn the prairie after this accidental mowing, therefore, the proposal might be irrelevant. It was decided to contact April Nielsen to see if this mowing made a difference in their proposed strategy. Chairman Towne was aware that fall mowing was good for some plants and not others, as the same with spring mowing, but he wanted to consult April Nielsen for her opinion. Member Sheldon added that she consulted Stephen Christy on this issue and he felt that no harm was done by the accidental mowing.

#### **E. DISCUSSION OF THE BRICKMAN MOWING PROPOSAL FOR OASIS PARK**

Chairman Towne noted that Brickman was behind the original mowing schedule and now more effort and equipment was involved to complete the job. Scott Anderson noted that \$1440 was the price for mowing three sites: Whippoorwill, Restaurant and Oasis sites, and Member Armstrong thought about foregoing the mow for this late in the year. Chairman Towne received an email that Dr. Bob Haraden was willing to mow Oasis Park for \$1K, despite the thickening foliage, which Bob Irvin questioned as an accurate price. Chairman Towne read the email from Jaime Anderson and Dr. Bob Haraden, which spelled out the terms. Member Armstrong was willing to accept the proposal, providing it was put in writing to the Village of Mettawa.

**It was moved by Member Sheldon, and seconded by Member Armstrong, to recommend to the Village Board to accept a formal written proposal from Dr. Bob Haraden for \$1K to mow the Oasis Park site. The motion was carried.**

Bob Irvin brought up the Brickman mowing the original areas/trails for which they were paid \$3252 in May and now another fall mowing was being discussed. Member Sheldon suggested getting a quote from Dr. Bob Haraden for the same work, and Scott Anderson cautioned that this parcel was a different type of site, thus different work was involved. Chairman Towne suggested that if they were getting another bid, then Grundstrom should also be included, stating he was disappointed in the delay in the Brickman mowing schedule, which created complications in addition to the accidental mowing of Whippoorwill Park. He also noted the erroneous map that they were following that led to the accidental mowing.

Scott Anderson cautioned about the additional growth of the sites if they were to delay the work pursuing other bids and possibly not getting the bids returned in a timely manner. Bob Irvin cautioned that the expense they would save with a cheaper bid would be consumed with the additional growth as a result of the delay in seeing the bids, and Chairman Towne suggested imposing a 11/1/15 deadline. It was decided to limit the service to one more mowing of original areas/trails (item #2 on the proposal) for \$3252.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong, and seconded by Chairman Towne, to recommend to the Village Board to accept the Brickman mowing proposal for item #2 of the original areas/trails for \$3252. The motion was carried.**

#### **F. DISCUSSION OF PHASING IMPROVEMENTS TO OASIS PARK**

Chairman Towne advised that the WRD plan affected changes to the Teska plan and he wondered how to and when to proceed. He further advised that the neighbors to the south were concerned that the trail was too close to the road and suggested a wildflower buffer as well as neighbor input. He also reminded those present about the drainage swale at the north end, near the service road.

Scott Anderson remembered that they were to get rid of the buckthorn stumps as a first step, but it was delayed due to the anticipated trail work, but that DiTomasso, if doing the job would use a root rake. Chairman Towne asked Scott Anderson to procure a price for the work to be done before winter, and Member Armstrong felt that the first priority should be addressing the drainage. Member Sheldon felt that they should have a seeding plan in place before the buckthorn/stump removal. Bob Irvin noted that there was already \$10K in the budget for stump removal.

## **G. DISCUSSION OF TALLGRASS PROPOSAL FOR BRADLEY/RIVERWOODS BLVD PROPERTY**

Chairman Towne noted that TallGrass had already been working in the Bradley/Riverwoods area and now presented a proposal of \$6700, comprising of 1,000 plugs at \$6 each (including planting) and \$700 for native seeding, including grasses and sedges. He stated the plugs would be a mixture of wild geraniums, blue bells, goldenrod and phlox along with other species. Member Sheldon felt that the sedge should get planted first to discourage the weed growth and that they should not exceed five to six species of plugs in order to achieve a successful planting. Chairman Towne described the area to be covered as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre and Member Sheldon felt that this was a reasonable price, but questioned if the plugs were to be hand drilled or manually digging, the latter increasing the success rate. It was suggested to accept 1/3 of the price of the contract for 1/3 of the job.

**It was moved by Member Armstrong, and seconded by Chairman Towne, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept 1/3 of the TallGrass proposal for 1/3 of the work, which would amount to \$2,233. The motion was carried.**

## **H. DISCUSSION OF FINAL PAYMENT FROM EHLERS & JUHREND FOR THE OASIS BERM PROJECT**

Chairman Towne reported that \$29,670 was officially owed to the Village by Ehlers & Juhrend according to their contract and a subsequent notice sent out. Ehlers & Juhrend pleaded their case stating that the weather hampered their progress and one of their jobs from where they were sourcing the excavation spoils defaulted on their contract, so they countered with a \$11,170 penalty payment. Member Sheldon questioned the benefit of settling for less than what was promised, and Chairman Towne noted that the berm turned out nice and it was a tough job to do. It was mentioned that \$205K was already paid to the Village for accepting the spoils. Bob Irvin felt accepting the \$11,170 was too generous, as other bidders would have completed the job in a timely fashion and the gravel road was never removed as stated in their contract.

Chairman Towne then suggested splitting the difference, which would be a \$14,835 payment to the village and there was some agreement, but not unanimously.

**It was moved by Member Sheldon, and seconded by Chairman Towne, to recommend to the Village Board that they accept a penalty payment from Ehlers & Juhrend of \$14,835 for the excavation spoils to conclude the job. The vote was 2 yes and 1 no; the motion was carried.**

**I. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FOR  
DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE BOARD.**  
No other items were discussed.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items discussed, it was moved by Member Sheldon to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm, 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.*