

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019 IN THE MAPLE ROOM OF HILTON GARDEN INN HOTEL, 26225 N. RIVERWOODS BOULEVARD, METTAWA, ILLINOIS**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sheldon called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Sheldon and Members Bohm and Pink

Absent: None

Chairman Sheldon declared a quorum present.

Also, Present: Village Administrator, Bob Irvin; Village Clerk, Sandy Gallo; Village Engineer, Scott Anderson and Trustee Towne

Attendees: Patricia Cork, Pam Fantus, David Johansson from Forest Builder, Drew Johnson from Fiore Landscaping, Laura and Peter Liphardt

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY MEETING**

Meeting minutes of July 10, 2019 were reviewed.

Member Bohm inquired on Perfect Cut's progress tree removal at the two parks. Trustee Towne said they are doing a great job and the project was moving along. Chairman Sheldon said all the trees and stumps have been removed. The bushes at Whippoorwill Park have been trimmed.

It was moved by Member Bohm and seconded by Chairman Sheldon that the meeting minutes be approved and placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. UPDATE ON BERM PROJECT FOR VILLAGE PROPERTY ON ST. MARYS ROAD**

Village Engineer Scott Anderson said they are still working on revising the project plans. Member Bohm said there is a fence and a few evergreens to the southside of the lot. Member Bohm added he saw no issues clearing the lot up to the southside of the fence. Village Engineer Scott Anderson asked the Committee if they saw any trees that they would like to keep. Chairman Sheldon said once they start clearing the lot further back, we will determine the health of those trees. At this point, this lot is too thick with foliage to decide if any trees are worth saving.

Trustee Towne asked if the bids could go out for the next meeting. Village Engineer Scott Anderson said he believes he could have bids for the September's Committee meeting.

**E. DISCUSS MAINTENANCE FOR THE OASIS PARK AND BRADLEY NATURE AREAS**

Chairman Sheldon had requested from Village Administrator Irvin to consolidate all of the expenses which have been spent at the Oasis Park for the last few years. The Committee was provided an expense listing for the Oasis Park prior to the meeting. Chairman Sheldon said any future additions should consider long and short-term maintenance of this location. Village Administrator Irvin discussed the expense listing.

Member Bohm said we approved seeding to occur in the spring but the weather did not allow it to be completed. Member Bohm said the seeding needs to be done this fall.

Chairman Sheldon said she had a company called Native Restoration come out Oasis Park to assess the soil. Native Restoration assessed the land and recommended testing the soil. Chairman Sheldon said the Committee should consider to not seed the park and mow the whole park. Chairman Sheldon said she would like the Committee to consider making smaller pollinator gardens or small nature areas. Planting smaller areas can result in a successful prairie.

Forest Builders representative, David Johansson said the plants that were placed early this year in Oasis Park will take time to grow. Mr. Johansson said the plants do not have a warranty; however, he anticipates 90% plant survival. Member Bohm mentioned Whippoorwill Park is beginning to fill-in from the 2014 plantings. Member Bohm said the Oasis Park improvements are being applied against the berm's income of \$220,000. Whippoorwill Park is starting to be established due to ILM's maintenance program.

Member Bohm said he does not approve of Oasis Park being planned in 1-acre areas but he does approve of the soil testing to determine the best seeds for this park.

Chairman Sheldon said the Committee should considered the long-term stewardship and could that be reviewed before seeding the area. Member Bohm said seeding needs to occur for this fall. Chairman Sheldon said seeding has been completed in the past and it was not successful. Village Administrator Irvin said the tree planting planning will need to be discussed prior to doing any seeding. Seeding should occur after the trees have been placed.

**F. DISCUSS TREE PLANTING PROPOSAL FOR OASIS PARK**

Chairman Sheldon provided the Committee tree proposals from Poul's Nursery and John Irvin Landscaping. A tree location map was drafted by Drew Johnson. Chairman Sheldon added the Village would be able to tag their desired trees to ensure their size are adequate given Poul's is a large nursery. Mr. Johnson walked the park and marked which trees should be planted in a specific area.

Member Pink asked why Member Bohm was not included in the conceptional planning. Chairman Sheldon said Member Bohm's proposal was received late in the day. As a result, Member Bohm's proposal will be part of Phase II of the Oasis Park plantings.

Member Bohm asked why are planning to plant trees in the center of the Oasis Park. Member Bohm said he objects to the Poul's plans that include non-native trees. Chairman Sheldon said the trees listed will provide shade. Mr. Johnson indicated planting trees in the center of the park, scales back the park from feeling so large.

Chairman Sheldon said she needs to address some of Member Bohm's included items prior to moving forward with the Phase II of the park plantings. Chairman Sheldon said she has been asked by the Mayor and residents to plant trees this fall.

Chairman Sheldon made a recommendation to approve Poul's Nursery proposal as Phase I of the tree planting at Oasis Park.

Member Pink said the initial planning was to always consider native plantings. The Poul's proposal includes non-native trees. Member Pink said she is opposed to the number of trees listed on the proposal. Trustee Towne said bald cypress trees were recommended by Storm Water Management. Member Pink said even though the nursery has indicated their trees are available, that does not mean we want to plant them.

Resident Fantus asked if the soil testing should be considered prior to planting trees. Chairman Sheldon said the soil testing is for seeding.

Member Bohm provided the Committee a revised listing of his tree planting proposal completed by David Johannsen. The provided plans reflect the resident's feedback of their desire for trees on the south end of the park to help screen the homes and along the trail for shade. Member Bohm's plans also include Stormwater Management's tree recommendation for the north end grant area. The goal is to retain the prairie's vista. The proposal includes shrubs and trees that are native that will provide color throughout the seasons. Please reference Member Bohm's spreadsheets for quantities of trees and shrub types.

Chairman Sheldon said the goal is to keep the park as a prairie. Mr. Johnson said shrub layers can present an issue when the prairie is scheduled to be burned. Mr. Johannson remarked some of the shrubs will bring color and their rapid growth will allow them to recover from a burn.

Trustee Towne said the two proposals provided to the Committee should be married to plant trees this fall. Chairman Sheldon added some of the trees presented are rapid growers to provide shade and be visually pleasing. Chairman Sheldon said we would add a second grouping of trees for Phase II to be completed in spring of 2020. Member Bohm replied he was not aware of the two phases. Member Bohm questioned where Chairman Sheldon had received \$22,000 approval to spend on trees. Village Administrator Irvin said the Committee has a budget of \$150,000. Village Administrator Irvin suggested to add the requirement from the Nursery to water the plantings. Village Administrator Irvin mentioned short shrubs will be problematic if rings are not mowed to reduce the grass growing through.

Mr. Liphardt mentioned he would like the Oasis Park to reflect a manicured area. Mr. Liphardt added the Village should consider placing a bench at the park too.

Member Bohm mentioned the shrubs would be flowering shrubs to add color and benefit the butterflies and the bees. Mr. Johansson mentioned the shrubs would also be used for screening.

Chairman Sheldon said Poul's Nursery will provide the park some larger trees. In the meantime, the Chairman asked Member Bohm what he would like to add to the Phase I proposal plantings. Member Bohm said he would remove the center trees and keep the native trees on the south and north end. Member Bohm added he would remove the London Plane trees from the list and add Red Oak trees or add the Serviceberry trees.

Member Pink mentioned the only plantings listed on the Poul's proposal for Phase II are Bald Cypress trees. Chairman Sheldon said the Bald Cypress trees were an add-on to the Poul's original proposal after Stormwater Management had made their recommendation. The Phase II is Member Bohm's plantings plans.

Member Bohm questioned the trees being planted on the south end of the park until the buckthorn is cleared. Member Pink added the residents would like some screening to be planted prior to the buckthorn being cleared. Chairman Sheldon said the residents on the south end of the park would be excited to see progress when we plant some trees prior to clearing the area.

Chairman Sheldon mentioned she would like to make a recommendation to send the Poul's proposal to the Board to approve the tree plantings. Chairman Sheldon added she will remove the Sycamore trees and add 9 Serviceberry trees. Member Bohm requested that the trees at the edge of the berm and those in the center of the park be removed from the plans.

Member Bohm mentioned that the Committee should initially agree on the location of the trees prior to determining which trees to plant. Chairman Sheldon indicated the tree placement should follow Mr. Johnson's proposed map. Member Bohm disagreed and indicated the trees should be planted along the trail to provide shade. Member Bohm mentioned he would like the screening to occur on the south end closer to Bradley Road prior to the buckthorn being cleared.

Member Bohm said this park is set to be a prairie. No trees are needed in the center of the park. Chairman Sheldon said her goal is to plant trees at this park as the residents have requested for some time. Village Administrator Irvin said no trails will be made; it will be mowed areas.

Trustee Towne suggested that the two-tree expert's hybrid the two proposed planting plans, remove the unwanted trees and determine their location to be able to place an order. Member Bohm mentioned he would like to remove a River Birch and add a Speckled Alder tree.

Village Administrator Irvin said we will need to waive sealed bids and disclose the species of trees to be planted.

A recommendation was made to approve tree planting at the Oasis Park in the Amount of \$30,000, waive sealed bids, subject to final planting plans to be reviewed by the Committee for the fall plantings. The motion was moved by Member Bohm and seconded by Chairman Sheldon. The motion carried.

**G. DISCUSS OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE**

Village Administrator Irvin said the current agreement with V3 will end in 2019. The next maintenance year will be for 2020. The Committee currently has some time to determine if they would like to rebid the maintenance or make no changes to the existing program.

Village Administrator Irvin reminded the Committee that they approved earlier this year seeding to be done at Oasis Park. If no seeding is desired, V3 will need to be notified of this change. Member Bohm said he agrees the soil should be tested to help determine what grass seed to be utilized. Village Administrator Irvin said he will contact V3 regarding the hold on spreading seeds.

Chairman Sheldon made a recommendation to complete soil testing at Oasis Park prior to going forward on spreading seeds. Member Bohm agreed. The motion was moved by Chairman Sheldon and seconded by Member Bohm. The motion carried.

**H. PHASE II OF THE OASIS PARK PLANTINGS TO BE DISCUSSED**

Chairman Sheldon said the Oasis Park plantings will be completed in phases and the park will be beautified.

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

Member Bohm said MOLA would like to hold their fall event at Whipoorwill Park on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Member Bohm said wine will be served. MOLA will provide the Village their certificate of insurance for the event.

Trustee Towne asked that the parking limitation be mentioned.

Member Bohm said he would like to recommend the Board approve the MOLA event held at Whipoorwill Park on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The motion was moved by Member Bohm and seconded by Member Pink. The motion carried.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Chairman Sheldon and seconded by Member Bohm to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk