

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024 IN THE COTTONWOOD ROOM A**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Clark and Member Armstrong

Absent: Member Pelech

Chairman Clark declared a quorum present.

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

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

Meeting minutes of November 10, 2023 were reviewed. Chairman Clark had a few minor edits with no content change. It was moved by Chairman Clark and seconded by Member Armstrong that the regular meeting minutes be approved with the edits and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

**D. UPDATE ON THE MAINTENANCE AT 24880 AND 24881 N. RIVERWOODS ROAD**

Chairman Clark indicated the CK Contractor is making great progress with clearing away the buckthorn from the Mettawa Savanna parcel. The clearing of the east parcel will commence next week. Chairman Clark reported Maneval Construction cleared the temporary gravel road and they also removed an old telephone pole with the foundation that was found. The pole removal was an additional \$2,500 charge. Overall, the final invoice was received and was lower than the approved amount. The Mettawa Savanna site looks prettier as its southeast corner has been cleared. A few cherry trees were discovered after the buckthorn was cleared. Village Engineer Scott Anderson indicated his crew can pick-up the remaining metal pieces.

**E. DISCUSS A HORSE CROSSING WALKWAY AT 600 BRADLEY ROAD**

Chairman Clark stated Trustee Towne had inquired if a cross walkway could be considered for his horse rider to safely cross Bradley Road. Trustee Towne added a 40-foot mowed path would be ideal for his rider to access the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park trail. Trustee Towne indicated in 2013 a plan was drafted that included this access path for horse riders to utilize the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park trail. Bradley Road drivers speed despite the speed limit signs. Trustee Towne added he would like the sign CROSSING added to the current yellow sign with a rider on a horse, at his location. Trustee Towne added he would like Bradley Road to be striped for the crosswalk and he would pay for this expense. Village Administrator Florip stated she spoke with the Village Attorney. The Village Attorney remarked he was concerned with adding a pedestrian walkway in the roadway would result in a village liability. Village Administrator Florip asked the Village Engineer to complete a vernacular study. Village Administrator Florip stated if the Committee is contemplating this matter all liabilities will need to be discussed. Village Administrator Florip recommended the Committee visit the site and determine if the traffic on the road warrants this crosswalk. A discussion from the vernacular study and the Committee's visit can be explored next month. This will give transparency on the Committee's outcome. Chairman Clark stated this will be further discussed next month.

**F. DISCUSS THE NEW TRAIL SIGN REQUIREMENTS**

Chairman Clark stated Village Engineer Jamie Anderson provided the Committee several pictures of signs to comply with the recent trail sign law. This new requirement results in the village installing several safety signs to notify any one on the trail that they are about to exit a trail onto a road. Village Engineer Scott Anderson remarked they have already reached out to the Lake County Forest Preserve. The goal is for the villages and the preserves new trail signs to be the same. They have approved of the signs presented. The insurance will also have to agree on the trail signs. Village Engineer Scott Anderson stated this project will cost the village about \$30K. Village Administrator Florip added this law was passed very quickly due to two cyclists having been hit when exiting a trail and not stopping. This law was effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Signs will need to be installed 150 feet prior to exiting a trail. Another component of this law is that the village will be held responsible to monitor their trails. Village Administrator Florip recommended the village trails be walked twice a year to ensure no tree obstructions or other matters need to be addressed. The village will need to document they are visiting the trails and addressing matters. The signs will be ordered from TAPCO.

**G. UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE LOT BERM LOCATED AT ILLINOIS ROUTE 60 AND ST. MARYS ROAD**

Chairman Clark added she spoke to the contractor working on the berm and he will be removing three dead trees. The silt fence will remain on the parcel until June when the grass will be determined as successful or reseeding is required.

**H. DISCUSS UPDATING THE PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE MAPS FROM TESKA ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Chairman Clark stated the village trail map has not been updated since 2021. Teska Associates, Inc. will be updating the maps with the newly acquired parcels.

A motion was made to approve the Teska Associates, Inc. proposal in the amount of \$800. The motion was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Chairman Clark. The motion was carried.

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

Chairman Clark stated she has begun to obtain proposals for the maintenance to be completed at 0 Old School Road. This parcel will need to be mowed twice a year once it has all been acquired. No work will commence until the closing on the property to occur next month.

Member Armstrong mentioned she received requests from residents for a shredding day. Member Armstrong asked if a survey could be taken to determine if enough residents are interested in this event. Member Armstrong spoke to Paper Tiger, they offer Saturday visits for 3-hours in the amount of \$649. Trustee Towne replied he does not know if enough residents would be interested in a shredding day. Village Clerk Gallo asked Member Armstrong to present this matter during the Board meeting for a consensus to host a shredding day.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Chairman Clark to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm. The motion was carried. Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk