

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF METTAWA, ILLINOIS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 IN THE COTTONWOOD ROOM A

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Upon a call of the roll the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Clark and Members Armstrong and Pelech

Absent: None

Chairman Clark declared a quorum present.

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

Resident: Meegan McMillian

C. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY

Meeting minutes of January 10, 2024 were reviewed. It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Pelech that the regular meeting minutes be approved and be placed on file. The motion was carried.

D. DISCUSS THE NAMING SCHEME FOR VILLAGE LOT 701 RIVERWOODS ROAD

Chairman Clark indicated the Committee would like to name two of the Village's lots. Member Pelech stated she would like the Committee to consider naming a parcel after Mayor Urlacher.

A motion was made to name the village lot 25960 N. St. Marys Road to Riverside. The motion was made by Member Pelech and seconded by Member Armstrong. The motion was carried.

A motion was made to name the cluster of village lots 701 Riverwoods Road, 13700 Everett Road, 24955 N Riverwoods Road, 24880 Riverwood Road as Everett Pond. The motion was made by Chairman Clark and seconded by Member Armstrong. The motion was carried.

E. DISCUSS MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ITEMS FOR FY2024-2025 BUDGET

Chairman Clark stated the Trail Maintenance line item on the budget includes an additional \$50K. This amount is an estimate cost for new trail signs. A new state law was recently passed requiring municipalities to install new trail signs to mark when exiting a trail onto a road. We are currently awaiting to hear from Lake County Forest Preserve to duplicate their trail signage. Chairman Clark asked to increase the Mowing and Maintenance budget line item by \$2K to include one or two mowings for the newly acquired parcels. Chairman Clark added the budgeted prescribed burn listed for the Whippoorwill Park can instead be utilized at Whippoorwill Farm if necessary. The Tree Removal budget captures the expense for the larger tree removal program done in the winter. Chairman Clark indicated the Committee will be revisiting the stewardship with Pizzo & Associates Inc., as their contract expires in November. The Committee is planning to install different types of plants at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park and Whippoorwill Park as the native plantings have not survived. The pollinator garden plants at

Whippoorwill Park will not be replenished. Chairman Clark added two of the dead maple trees at MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park will be replaced. Estimates for land clearing and buckthorn removal for 0 Old School Road will be discussed next month. Village Administrator Florip indicated she will provide the modified budget for next month.

F. 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 various open space parcels have had a tree inventory listing compiled with their condition. The inventory listings will allow the Committee to mark the dead trees for the winter tree removal program. As a result, we have received a proposal from Davey Tree Experts to complete two tree inventories at Mettawa Savanna and the berm property located at 25960 N. St. Marys Road. At this time, Mettawa Savanna trees will not receive any maintenance.

A motion was made to approve the Davey Tree Experts proposal to complete two tree inventories in the amount of \$3,750. The motion was made by Member Armstrong and seconded by Member Pelech. The motion was carried.

Chairman Clark stated she had a follow-up conversation with Village Administrator regarding a possible crosswalk at 600 Bradley Road parcel. The Village Engineer Scott Anderson also provided a letter with a crosswalk study. Chairman Clark suggested that Chris from Dunlap Tree Experts place a 2-foot stump along the MacLean Preserve at Oasis Park trail to allow a horse rider to mount their horse after having walked across Bradley Road. Member Pelech expressed her concern of the stump and it not being a natural placement. As a result, the village would be held liable for its placement. Village Administrator Florip will confirm with the Village Attorney on the placement of the stump. Trustee Towne added he is not requesting the road to be striped, nor for the stump. He would like a small area of the right-of-way to be mowed. This would prevent a horse from being spooked if brushed by the vegetation. Trustee Towne stated the Illinois Horse Liability Act exonerates everyone as a horse rider. This act states the rider is held responsible for liability while riding a horse. Chairman Clark indicated the small grassy area will be mowed to allow the horse rider to safely cross Bradley Road and onto the trail.

Resident, Mrs. Carruthers indicated the village lot at the corner to St. Marys Road and Route 60, contains an area of thick buckthorn. Mrs. Carruthers asked if Lake County could clear their area along the village lot line. Village Engineer Scott Anderson added they have communicated various times to Lake County on other areas within the village to be mowed and cleared and it has been unsuccessful.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Member Armstrong and seconded by Chairman Clark to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. The motion was carried.

Sandy Gallo, Village Clerk