



VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE  
RIVERSIDE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PRESERVATION COMMISSION, LANDSCAPE ADVISORY  
COMMISSION, AND PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** The Special Joint Meeting of the Village of Riverside Board of Trustees, Preservation Commission, Landscape Advisory Commission and Parks & Recreation Board was held via Zoom on Thursday, March 18, 2021. President Sells called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call:**

**Village Board of Trustees:** President Sells, Trustee Evans, Trustee Gallegos (7:03 p.m.), Trustee Hannon, Trustee Jisa, Trustee Pollock

**Preservation Commission:** Chairperson Pipal, Commissioner Coombes, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Leary, Commissioner Marsh-Ozga, Commissioner Seymour, Commissioner Walsh

**Parks & Recreation Board:** Chairperson Kos, Board Member Dvorak and Board Member McGlennon

**Landscape Advisory Commission:** Chairperson Maloney, Commissioner Lambros, Commissioner Plunkett and Commissioner Schaff

**Also Present:** Village Manager Frances, Village Attorney Marrs, Village Clerk Haley, Parks & Recreation Director Malchiodi, Public Works Director Tabb, Village Forrester Collins, Village Engineer Galey, Fire Chief Buckley, Police Chief Weitzel, Finance Director Johns

3. **Discussion of, and recommendations/direction to Staff and Village Board regarding the proposed Swan Pond Pike/Pedestrian Path**

President Sells stated that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to engage in a discussion and make recommendations regarding the proposed Swan Pond Bike/Pedestrian Path. Sells noted that the Parks & Recreation Board has jurisdiction of the Swan Pond because it is a designated recreation area within the village; however, due to the importance of the project, both the Trustees and Staff felt it would be appropriate to seek input from the other commissions, especially since the project involves hardscape. He indicated that there would first be a presentation by Staff followed by discussion and recommendations from the Preservation Commission, Landscape Advisory Commission and Parks & Recreation Board. Following the Swan Pond discussion, the process will be repeated for the Swim Club discussion; however, only the Preservation and Landscape Advisory Commissions will weigh in on the Swim Club project.

Attorney Marrs stated that due to the ongoing public health emergency, and consistent with the Governor's most recent emergency declaration, various Executive Orders entered by the Governor, and the recent amendments made to the Open Meetings Act in Public Act 101-640, the meeting was being held electronically. Public comments were welcome when received by email or in writing by the Village Clerk prior to 4:00 p.m. Emailed comments were also permitted and public comments would also be permitted live during the meeting by persons participating via Zoom. Attorney Marrs then confirmed that everyone could hear and understand each other and asked that anyone with questions or experiencing technical issues please notify the other participants.

#### **Staff Presentation on the proposed Swan Pond Bike/Pedestrian Path**

Public Works Director Tabb provided a recap of the Board's prior deliberations on this matter including recent decisions to include shoreline stabilization and river access point. Staff has subsequently conferred with the Village Engineer and several contractors. Tabb outlined the issues associated with pouring dyed concrete and indicated that it would not be in the best interest in terms of durability to move forward with dyed concrete. President Sells then turned the meeting over to Preservation Commission Chairperson Pipal.

#### **Preservation Commission Discussion, Questions and Comments on the Swan Pond Bike/Pedestrian Path**

Chairperson Pipal stated that the Commission has forwarded concerns to Staff via email and Staff has already addressed some of their questions. He also thanked Staff for marking off the path with paint so commissioners were better able to visualize the width of a ten foot path through the Swan Pond.

Commissioner Kaplan expressed concern regarding the appearance of the soil stabilization elements along the river which he said appear contrived, like steps. He emailed photos of the Caldwell Lily Pond to Staff and recommended something more natural in appearance. Village Engineer Galey indicated that something similar to the Caldwell Lily Pond would not be possible, but something less like a staircase is definitely possible. Kaplan also expressed concern regarding the grade changes that might be needed to achieve ADA compliance. Also, with regard to the river access point, Kaplan noted that a canoe launch is typically a very slender path and that might be more appropriate. Chairperson Pipal concurred with Commissioner Kaplan's comments. Pipal asked Galey to comment. Engineer Galey stated that the plan does not include any grade changes because the project is in the floodway. Galey also noted that aesthetically, what was presented is what the launch likely look would like. It will be natural limestone, but will look like steps. Again, because the project is in the floodway, no fill is permitted. It could be made to look more naturalistic, but that will require more work, additional time and more money.

Chairperson Pipal asked if would be possible to stagger the limestone so it does not appear to be just a stripe of stone.

Commissioner Marsh-Ozga thanked Public Works Director Tabb for responding to her questions and concurred with Commissioner Kaplan and Chairperson Pipal that the design should be more naturalistic. She stated that the documents that go out to contractors for bids must show a more naturalistic appearance. Commissioner Marsh-Ozga also expressed concern with the existing discharge valve and pipe which extends eight feet into the river

beyond the shoreline and asked whether anything could be done to minimize its' appearance. Director Tabb stated that Staff can investigate to see if anything can be done to make the pipe less obtrusive. Commissioner Marsh-Ozga asked if the discharge pipe could be shortened without impeding the functionality of the valve. Director Tabb concurred that the existing duck bill valve does have a pronounced vertical design. Engineer Galey stated that it could perhaps be replaced with a less obtrusive in line valve. Commissioner Marsh-Ozga asked if the valve was functioning properly. Director Tabb confirmed that it is functioning as intended. Mr. Galey indicated that the cost for a less obtrusive in line valve would be approximately \$5,000 - \$7,000.

Commissioner Coombes asked if shoreline stabilization would be employed only at the river access point or if stones would line the entire path. Mr. Galey stated that there are three locations along the path that are most susceptible to scouring and shoreline erosion and those three areas will be stabilized using limestone. Other areas are at a higher elevation and are less susceptible to erosion.

Commissioner Coombes asked if a water study has been done and if the proposed river access point is a dangerous location. She also asked if the proposed improvements might have an adverse impact on the village's insurance premiums. President Sells stated that the proposed feature is not really a canoe launch, but rather more of a river access point. The main current is farther from shore, and the proposed river access point is mostly a still area. He acknowledged that his answer is anecdotal. Mr. Galey confirmed that no river study has been done related to the proposed project; however, the river is very shallow in this area when it is not in flood.

Chairperson Pipal called attention to the draft plans and noted that an area marked for removal and disposal crosses the WPA stone wall. He stressed the importance of leaving the stone wall intact and untouched. Mr. Galey noted that they are reviewing a draft document which will be refined before the project goes out to bid.

Chairperson Pipal also called attention to the plans which show a thickened sidewalk edge detail omitted in certain locations and asked if it should be all along the sidewalk. He asked that the plans please be cleaned up before they are finalized for bidding purposes so there is agreement throughout the documents.

Chairperson Pipal expressed concern regarding the 10 foot width of the proposed path. He noted that if the width of the path was reduced by 20%, there would be a cost savings. He asked that staff keep this in mind if there is a cost overrun with the limestone. It was noted that the 10 foot width is necessary for emergency vehicle access.

Chairperson Pipal stated that there are numerous dead trees along the path and he looked forward to hearing the Landscape Advisory Commission's recommendations on plant materials.

Commission Kaplan shared his screen so everyone could see the photos of the Caldwell Lily Pond in Chicago's Lincoln Park which he had forwarded to the village engineer.

**Public Comment – None.**

**Recommendations/Direction by the Preservation Commission on issues related to the Swan Pond Bike/Pedestrian Path**

With regard to the question of whether the proposed project has a negative impact on the village's National Historic Landmark designation, **Commissioner Marsh-Ozga made a motion** to support a finding of no negative impact and support the proposed plan subject to the following revisions being made:

- 1) The limestone materials should appear more naturalistic in a manner comparable to the Caldwell Lily Pond, not linear as set forth in detail 1 of the draft plans. (DET 1 of the construction documents submitted)
- 2) The discharge pipe should be moved as close as possible to shore to minimize its appearance and consideration should be given to replacement with an internal valve as an alternate design.
- 3) The section of the plans denoting demolition and removal of debris should be amended to specify preservation of the WPA wall.
- 4) The Commission recommends a reduction in the width of the path as a cost saving measure if the limestone and in line valve are more costly than anticipated.

Village Engineer Galey expressed concern regarding referencing the Caldwell Lily Pond as it is not a feasible option for this project. He noted that a more naturalistic appearance is possible; however, cavernous overhangs are not.

In response to Mr. Galey's comments, the commission agreed to withdraw the reference to the Caldwell Lily Pond and instead reference the photo that appeared in the March 17, 2021 issue of The Landmark newspaper and include the reference to a more naturalistic appearance.

**Commissioner Walsh seconded** the motion and Chairperson Pipal called for the vote.

**AYES:** Commissioners Coombes, Kaplan, Leary, Marsh-Ozga, Seymour, Walsh & Chairperson Pipal.

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion passed.**

Chairperson Pipal then turned the meeting over to the Landscape Advisory Commission.

**Landscape Advisory Commission Discussion, Questions and Comments**

Landscape Advisory Commission Chairperson Maloney thanked the board for the opportunity to provide input on the project. She then opened the discussion to the commissioners.

Commissioner Schaff expressed concern regarding width of path, especially near Millbridge Road and indicated support for reducing the width by 20% for the third of the path nearest Millbridge. She also expressed concern about the river access point and how the storage of canoes might detract from the larger Swan Pond vista.

Director Tabb noted that an eight foot path is the minimum required to accommodate emergency vehicles and two directional bicycle and pedestrian traffic. With regard to the

attention that might be generated by the river access point, Tabb suggested that Staff will address this item if and when it happens. Commissioner Schaff does not support canoe storage or rental in the Swan Pond. She feels it will create too much of a distraction and detract from the serenity of the area with canoes and kayaks strewn about unattended.

Commissioner Lambros asked how long the coffer dams would be in place. Mr. Galey stated that the coffer dams would only be in place during construction. Commissioner Lambros also noted that there are a lot of scrub trees in the Swan Pond and asked if there is a plan to remove them. Director Tabb stated that the dead trees will be removed prior to construction. She also asked if there is a list of plant materials that the Landscape Advisory Commission can review. Mr. Galey stated that plant materials have not been selected yet, but they will be native plants. He plans to work with the Village Forester to ensure the proper plants are selected.

Commissioner Plunkett concurred with the concerns expressed regarding trees in the Swan Pond and noted that there was significant tree damage during an ice dam incident several years ago. She also expressed concern regarding the heavy machinery that would be required for the project and how the machinery might impact the trees. Commissioner Plunkett expressed confidence that Director Tabb and Forester Collins would ensure that trees were adequately protected. She also expressed concern regarding the 10 foot width of the path and recommended that the river access point not be called a canoe launch. She believes this will encourage too much traffic in the area and will have a negative impact on more passive activities such as fishing. She referred to the Swan Pond as a wonderful, reflective area and expressed the hope that the project would not change the character of the area.

Chairperson Maloney asked if the exposed aggregate will be color checked to make sure it is not too bright. She noted that the color of the aggregate should be muted and this has not always been the case. A discussion ensued regarding how the color of the exposed aggregate is determined by the quarry where the aggregate is sourced. Mr. Galey noted that the bid documents will specify a pea gravel mix and if necessary, a sample pour can be done to make sure that the appearance is appropriate.

Manager Frances asked Chairperson Maloney to share a photo of the aggregate that she felt was too bright so staff understands what she is concerned about. Chairperson Maloney stated that she will find a photo to share with Staff. Manager Frances noted that the bid specifications will be detailed as respects the exposed aggregate.

Chairperson Maloney asked where the construction equipment would be staged. She expressed concern not only about trees and root systems that need protection, but also the new plantings in Swan Pond. Director Tabb stated that Staff has already done a preliminary walk through to identify trees that need to be protected. They are anticipating a one way in - one way out scenario for equipment with machinery staying on the path as much as possible. Equipment will be staged and stored in an area devoid of trees and no heavy equipment will traverse the low spots.

Chairperson Maloney also expressed concern regarding the plan in that it traverses the WPA wall. Village Engineer Galey confirmed that there will be no removal of the WPA wall.

Chairperson Maloney then expressed concern regarding the river access point. She stated that she loves the idea of boating, but she is concerned about storage of canoes and kayaks. She noted that signage may be required to tell people what to do and where to park their boats and she is concerned about an increase in signage detracting from the natural setting. She recommended a consistent approach to signage.

With those comments and concerns in mind, **Commissioner Schaff made a motion** to approve the plan subject to the following:

- 1) The village should seek a poured aggregate sample prior to installation of the path.
- 2) Public works will prioritize tree protection and removal efforts in cooperation with the Village Forester.
- 3) The area should be branded as a river access point, not a canoe launch to preserve tranquility and special nature of the Swan Pond.
- 4) The Board should consider tapering the width of the path from 10 feet to 8 feet as appropriate near Millbridge Road.
- 5) Any necessary signage should be uniform, not ad hoc.
- 6) The LAC will consult with Staff regarding appropriate forbs and grasses to be planted.

**Commissioner Lambros seconded** the motion.

**AYES:** Commissioners Plunkett, Schaff, Lambros and Chairperson Maloney.

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion passed.**

Village Attorney Marrs announced that the live stream of the Special Meeting is running long. Anyone who may be tuning in to watch the Regular Meeting should please stay tuned. The Regular Meeting will follow the Special Meeting.

### **Parks & Recreation Board Discussion, Questions and Comments**

Chairperson Kos thanked President Sells for turning the meeting over to the Parks & Recreation Board and invited Board Member Dvorak to begin the discussion.

Ms. Dvorak stated that there seem to be three main river access points. She asked if they will all be similar in appearance. Mr. Galey stated that they will all be similar. Ms. Dvorak inquired as to the purpose of the other two areas. Mr. Galey indicated that the primary purpose of all three access points is shoreline stabilization. Although they are intended to be aesthetically appealing, that is not their primary purpose.

Board Member McGlennon asked if the proposed path will be ADA compliant, and if not, if it should be. Mr. Galey noted that to be ADA compliant, a path cannot have a cross slope greater than 2%. The slope down to the river from Burling Road may not be compliant.

Chairperson Kos asked if ADA compliance is not required. Mr. Galey noted that the entrance to the path from Millbridge is ADA compliant.

Mr. McGlennon asked if the project is required to be ADA compliant and noted that

perhaps a project of this scope should be ADA compliant. Mr. Galey stated that the USACE built the original path and a switchback may be required in order to achieve ADA compliance.

Chairperson Kos expressed concern that if the project will not be ADA compliant, this sends a troubling message to some members of the community. She noted that the Parks & Recreation Board has been working very hard with WSSRA to be inclusive and she believes the issue of ADA compliance should be investigated further.

Mr. McGlennon made a motion to approve the plan subject to ADA review and review of the safety aspects of the river access points.

Chairperson Kos asked Chief Buckley to weigh in with any concerns about enhancing access to the river. President Sells stated that Chief Buckley could weigh in during the Regular Meeting.

This concluded the discussion and recommendations regarding the Swan Pond Path. The discussion then turned to the public sidewalk adjacent to Riverside Swim Club. President Sells noted that only the Preservation and Landscape Advisory Commissions would provide input on this matter.

***4. Discussion of, and recommendations/direction to staff and Village Board regarding, the proposed public sidewalk adjacent to Riverside Swim Club***

**Staff Presentation**

Public Works Director Tabb provided a recap on the Board's prior actions on this matter. He noted that the RSC will be responsible for installation of the sidewalk and the village assume maintenance of the sidewalk.

**Preservation Commission Discussion, Questions and Comment on the proposed public sidewalk adjacent to Riverside Swim Club**

Preservation Commission Chairperson Pipal noted that the proposed sidewalk is entirely within the village right of way, not on pool property. He asked why the location has been changed from the existing sidewalk. Mr. Joel Marhoul, representing the Swim Club, could not provide specifics of why the location of the path changed; however, Chairperson Pipal noted that having the sidewalk on public property makes sense if the village will assume maintenance responsibility. Chairperson Pipal noted that the sidewalk is linear and inquired if it would be possible for the sidewalk to meander a bit. Mr. Marhoul stated that a more curvilinear design had been considered; however, keeping the sidewalk entirely on public property necessitated the more linear design that is being proposed.

It was noted that AT&T mistakenly installed a utility box on Swim Club property years ago. AT&T is going to relocate the box; however, it will not be moved significantly.

Chairperson Pipal's concern regarding the linear design of the sidewalk was shared by Commissioners Coombes and Marsh-Ozga. Mr. Marhoul indicated that he would ask the architect to rework the design to make it as curvilinear as possible.

Commissioner Marsh-Ozga also expressed concern regarding the curbs that are sometimes

used for soil stabilization adjacent to ADA ramps. She would prefer that the adjacent parkway be regraded rather than having the curbs installed.

Commissioner Leary stated that the curbs are likely installed for cost savings since the labor required to regrade the parkway would be more expensive.

Commissioner Kaplan concurred with Chairperson Pipal.

Commissioner Walsh concurred with Commissioner Marsh-Ozga regarding the sidewalk curbs. He also expressed support for a more meandering sidewalk. He stated that not many people use the sidewalk during the off season so if a plow truck pushed snow onto the sidewalk and it was not cleared immediately, it would not create much of a hardship for pedestrians.

Chairperson Pipal noted that 10 trees will be removed due to the installation of the new sidewalk. Village Forester Collins noted that the trees are not of great value and the area will benefit from a reset.

**Commissioner Walsh made a motion** to find that the proposal will have no adverse effect on the village's National Historic Landmark designation along with a recommendation that there be no curbs on sidewalks if possible and the design for the sidewalk be more curvilinear if possible. **Commissioner Marsh-Ozga seconded** the motion. Chairperson Pipal called for the vote.

**AYES:** Commissioners Coombes, Kaplan, Leary, Marsh-Ozga, Seymour, Walsh and Chairperson Pipal.

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion passed.**

Chairperson Pipal thanked everyone involved with these two important projects which the commission believes will be great for the village.

#### **Landscape Advisory Commission Discussion, Questions and Comment on the proposed public sidewalk adjacent to Riverside Swim Club**

LAC Chairperson Maloney polled the commissioners to see if they had anything further to add to the discussion.

Commissioner Schaff stated that she supports Village Forester Collins' appraisal of the situation and is looking forward to the project. Commissioners Lambros and Plunkett concurred.

**Commissioner Plunket made a motion** to support the proposed project and the Forester's recommendations on tree removal and replacement. **Commissioner Schaff seconded** the motion.

**AYES:** Commissioners Lambros, Plunket, Schaff and Chairperson Maloney.

**NAYS:** None.



Motion passed.

5. *Adjournment:*

This concluded the discussion on the public sidewalk adjacent to the Riverside Swim Club. President Sells called for a motion and second to adjourn the Special Meeting. **Trustee Evans made a motion** to adjourn. **Trustee Hannon seconded** the motion.

**AYES:** Trustees Evans, Gallegos, Hannon, Jisa and Pollock.

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion passed.**

President Sells declared the Special Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. He noted that the Regular Meeting would begin shortly and all were welcome to participate.

Village Attorney Marrs noted that to participate in the Regular Meeting a separate Zoom link is required. The link for the Regular Meeting is available on the village website.

Respectfully submitted:

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Village Clerk Haley

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Date Approved