



**VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission (LAC) was held in person on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 in the Village of Riverside Township Hall, Room 22, Riverside, IL 60546. In Chairperson Lambros' absence, Commissioner Rubin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Rubin, Barrs, Plunkett, Barker and Tarverdi (7:05).
Also Present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins and Management Intern Sanduski
Absent: Chairperson Lambros, Commissioner Schaff and Trustee Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga.

III. Consider Approval of March 14th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 14th, 2023 regular meeting minutes with one noted edit by Commissioner Barker. Seconded by Commissioner Plunkett.

AYES: Rubin, Barrs, Plunkett, Barker and Tarverdi.

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment, per Director Tabb.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Swan Pond – Landmark Article

Commissioner Rubin reported to the group that a recent Landmark newspaper publication included several articles regarding Riverside landscape projects, including that of Swan Pond, which the article

noted would be a long-term improvement project allowing the natural area to evolve over time with careful monitoring by the Village and LAC members.

VI. New Commissioners for June – Julie Schaff and Mary Plunkett Replacements

Commissioners Schaff and Plunkett will be ending their LAC posts after the conclusion of the May meeting. Commissioner Plunkett mentioned to the group that although her post will end, she would like to continue to attend LAC meetings as a non-commissioner. The current LAC Commissioners will seek potential replacements for these upcoming vacancies so that the Commission can continue to vote with a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS

VII. Native Plant Sale and the LAC

The Riverside Board of Trustees recently voted to approve a local plant sale on June 4th. New Trustee Jill Mateo will host the event with vendor Stellar Native Plant Nursery along with the LAC acting as a visual presence and advisor for any residents' plant questions.

Motion to approve assisting with the June 4th, 2023 plant sale was made by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Barrs.

AYES: Rubin, Barrs, Plunkett, Barker and Tarverdi.

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

VIII. Central School 5th Grade Girl Scout

A local Girl Scout Troop comprised of about 16 fifth graders from Riverside's Central School will begin improvements to T-56, the triangle located on the intersection of Westover Road, Northgate Road and Loudon Road. The troop is in receipt of their necessary funding and will be planting natives on the morning of May 20th. Director Tabb will call JULIE to check for any utilities and mark the triangle accordingly before the planting date.

IX. C4 Update

Commissioner Rubin informed the group that April is Earth Month. Upcoming events, which relate to the Living Infrastructure topic – one of the major C4 priorities – include:

April 12 – Homesteading for the 21st Century – a seminar to be held at the Riverside Library.

April 15 – Riverside-Brookfield High School will be hosting Community Day from 9 am to noon. Assisted by Riverside's Public Works and FLOS teams, the event is open to all residents and RBHS students wanting to volunteer for community work. Locations will include Indian Gardens, Guthrie Park and Patriots Park. Volunteer tasks include clean-up, invasive removal and mulching.

April 19 – Lessons in composting will be held at the Community Garden, Ascension Church.

X. Standing Discussion Topics

A. Master Landscape Plan

a. Swan Pond – Update – Village Board Approval

Commissioner Rubin reported to the group that he and Commissioner Schaff presented an update regarding the Master Landscape Plan, specifically as it relates to Swan Pond, to the Riverside Board of Trustees (BOT) at their most recent meeting on March 16th. The BOT approved the LAC's plan of monitoring the Swan Pond area with a measured approach to match how the natural systems work, rather than applying aggressive herbicidal treatments to change the landscape abruptly, as the consultant group ILM advised. The approved approach will include regular controlled burns, applying selective herbicide treatments, seeding strategic areas with mesic plant seed and continuing to monitor the evolution over time. Village Clerk Ethan Sowl will upload the plan to the Riverside website for public reference.

B. Outreach and Education

a. Ecology Club – RBHS

Commissioner Barrs reported that she had recently spoken to Dave Monti who heads up the Riverside-Brookfield High School's Ecology Club. The student group had recently completed making their initial 35 mosquito buckets with another 35 in production, due to popular request. The group will be assembling and distributing the mosquito buckets to residents soon. The LAC will be sharing the process instructions with residents on its website. The Ecology Club is also working on pollinator and milkweed gardens with upcoming planting dates in the next few weeks.

C. Invasive Trade-in – Residential

Commissioner Barrs shared that two Riverside property owners successfully completed the registration forms for the LAC's approved Invasive Trade-in program. Commissioner Barrs reminded the group that she had secured 30 small native trees (three varieties) for the program. She also suggested that the LAC consider supplying each small tree with a tree net (about \$10 each) as protection from next year's impending cicada hatch and infestation. The small trees will be picked up during the first week of May; residents who have been approved for the Invasive Trade-in program can pick the trees up at the Public Works parking lot where LAC Commissioners will be on hand.

XI. No Mow May / Pollinator Focus

During its most recent March 16th meeting, the Village Board of Trustees voted to allow a No Mow May initiative during the first two weeks of May. With an educational focus on helping pollinators, interested Riverside residents will be allowed the opportunity to suspend the front yard mowing enforcement ordinance from May 1-14, 2023 and they will not need to register with the Village in order to participate. Director Tabb told the LAC Commissioners that he had 20 printed yard signs ready for residents and will ask Village Manager Jessica Frances if the yard signs can be distributed at the Village Hall office. The LAC will ask Marketing Consultant Amy Downing to add promotional verbiage to Riverside's website and create an upcoming e-flash in an effort to educate residents about the benefits of not mowing and focusing on the spring pollination process. The LAC will promote that this year's No Mow May participants either store their yard signs for future use or return them after May so that they can be reused for future years.

XI. Marketing

A. Website – Updates – New Ideas for June

Commissioner Rubin mentioned to the group a number of upcoming events and topics, which the LAC team may want to consider promoting through website posts, including: No Mow May, June 4th native plant sale, rain barrel applications, water downspout removal, wood chips / composting, Arbor Day, and proper mulching practices.

B. New Education Tri Fold for Residences – Printing / Electronic

Commissioner Rubin reviewed that the LAC's new tri-fold brochure is now available at the following locations: Riverside Library, Village Hall, Public Works and will be at the Farmer's Market booth when the LAC hosts the community booth on June 7th.

XIII. Grants Update

Commissioner Barker reported that he has begun researching potential relevant grants, with most grant deadlines occurring in October. He posed to the group that they would need to know Riverside's budget allocation for grant money, with the hope of a one-for-one match to any received grants. Forester Collins added that he would continue to alert the group of any information he receives regarding IRA and state grants from his state, local and other connections, such as Morton Arboretum.

XIII. Chairperson's Report - None

As Chairperson Lambros was absent, there was nothing to report.

XIV. Forester's Report

Forester Collins reported to the group that he was able to conduct a successful burn in Swan Pond on March 29th. His team was also able to accomplish a successful tree trim around Central and Hauser Schools in March when the students were on spring break. He announced that this Saturday, April 15 is Community Day during which local volunteers will participate in three site clean-up sites: Indian Gardens, Guthrie Park and Patriots Park. He added that on April 29th, his team will lead Arbor Day with a tree planting on Longcommon/Downing and another on Longcommon/Kent. On May 1st, his team will begin planting new parkway trees.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Barker noted that he recently sent out a draft spreadsheet to the Commissioners for their review of triangle observations. This will be a discussion topic on next month's agenda. Director Tabb to estimate the square footage of area per triangle.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th.

Motion to approve meeting adjournment made by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Barker.

AYES: Rubin, Barrs, Plunkett, Tarverdi and Barker.

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

Minutes Taken By: Linda Sanduski