



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

**Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, April 12th, 2022 at the Village of Riverside Township Hall, Room 22, Riverside, IL 60546. Chairperson Lambros called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Present: Chairperson Lambros, Commissioners Rubin, Barrs, Plunkett, Juister, Schaff

Absent: Commissioner Coombes

Also Present: Forester Collins, Communications, Marketing, and Events Specialist Amy Downing, Management Intern Bueno, Trustee Marsh-Ozga, Resident Ben Sells, Resident Jill Mateo

**III. Consider Approval of March 1st, 2022 Rescheduled Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the March 1st, 2022, rescheduled meeting minutes by Commissioner Rubin.  
Seconded by Commissioner Schaff.

AYES: Rubin, Juister, Schaff, Barrs, Plunkett, Lambros

ABSENT: Coombes

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

**IV. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**V. New Trustee Liaison to LAC – Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga**

Trustee Marsh-Ozga is the new facilitator of communication between the Board of Trustees and the Landscape Advisory Commission. There is a section in Village Board meetings to discuss commission

business and she offered to provide commission information to the Village Board regarding initiatives and events and relay items of concern to the commission moving forward.

#### **VI. New Village Communications, Marketing, and Events Specialist – Amy Downing**

Communications, Marketing, and Events Specialist's primary role is to communicate with residents via social media, the Village website, eflash and also to publicize special events. She addressed the commission and offered her assistance in communicating initiatives or events. She also expressed a need for nature photos that can be sent via a thumb drive or google doc.

#### **VII. No Mow May**

Chairperson Lambros has reached out to Shorewood Hills, WI regarding the No Mow May (NMM). Discussion has taken place regarding the use of public space owned by Riverside to help educate residents on the concept of NMM. Chairperson Lambros has also discussed the initiative with President Ballerine via email. Director Tabb approved reserving a 400 sq. ft. area west of the library to showcase the concept to the public. Chairperson Lambros discussed the idea of NMM and educational approaches for private and public property. Commissioner Schaff stated that the Village supporting NMM would be a contradiction to support because the Village Board voted to mow public spaces 2-3 times a week in the month of May to reduce dandelion visibility. The commission discussed the concern of not mowing and the impacts of the excessive hay generated on public spaces and the maintenance required to catch up on a NMM policy shift. Commissioners Plunkett and Barrs provided insights based on their experiences on their own property and the need for public engagement on this issue. It is important to educate residents regarding the positive impact of not mowing can have on the wildlife/ insects in the Village. Trustee Marsh-Ozga suggested having weekly educational updates to showcase the benefits of NMM and communicate with the public. Resident Ben Sells expressed his support for going big with NMM and letting people participate in their front yards. He also recommended expanding public areas by implementing NMM ribbons around natural areas and referenced recent research and progress made in Appleton, WI. Resident Mateo suggested that the Village Board could consider waiving code enforcement to allow residents to participate during the month of May. Chairperson Lambros suggested starting small will be more manageable under current time constraints. Trustee Marsh-Ozga recommended that the topic be added to the Village Board agenda for more discussion and recommended the commission address the Village board. Commissioners Rubin and Juister volunteered to be co-leads on the initiative. Forester Collins pointed out that calls generated and code enforcement related to NMM would likely impact the Community Development Department as a private property issue.

Motion to approve an experimental 400 sq. ft. NMM plot west of the public library and recommending the Village Board consider waiving code enforcement for the month of May made by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Plunkett.

AYES: Rubin, Juister, Bars, Plunkett, Schaff, Lambros

ABSENT: Coombes

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

#### **VIII. FLOS Workday – July 23rd – T18 Triangle - Mary & Eve**

Holly Machina and Cindy Kellogg are Landscape Committee chairs for the Olmsted Society of Riverside. Forester Collins and Director Tabb met with them to discuss landscape workdays in the Village. These workdays are a partnership between the Village and the Olmsted Society. They have agreed to designate a workday for a triangle, located at Akenside and Longcommon (T18), to address buckthorn and other concerns. The date has been set for July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022. Commissioner Plunkett encouraged other commissioners to participate. The commission expressed concern over the Open Meeting Act. Ultimately, the commissioners were instructed to abstain from discussion of official commission business and come prepared to work on the triangle. Trustee Marsh-Ozga noted the Adopt-a-Triangle program and the need for public outreach and engagement for this concept. In follow up, Commissioner Barrs also expressed an idea for sponsoring/donating funds for a triangle. Some residents have the funds but not the time to maintain a triangular park.

#### **IX. National Park Service (NPS) & Riverside's NHL District – Boundary Change**

According to Trustee Marsh-Ozga, an amendment to expand the boundaries of Riverside's landscape district and add an architectural component is proposed by NPS. On May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a hearing on this amendment in Washington D.C. NPS is proposing to expand the boundaries westward, in line with the original Olmsted vision and rendering of the community. The status change will not impact how the district is managed. It most likely grants greater protection for the area. To date, agenda materials have not been posted.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **X. Website – Commissioner Coombes**

**(Absent)**

#### **XI. 2022 Calendar**

##### **A. March 5th Seed Starting with RCG & Library – Commissioner Plunkett – Review**

The event was held in the library and had a large attendance. Another seed swap is scheduled for the month of May. Commissioner Plunkett felt the space should be more regulated or confined. Commissioner Plunkett also commended Commissioners Coombes and Rubin for their contributions to the day.

##### **B. April 30th Arbor Day**

The landscape workday at Indian Gardens is scheduled (9am-12pm) to pull garlic mustard, remove buckthorn, clean up the area, and plant three trees for Arbor Day as part of an Arbor Day celebration. Trees donations were made by Bob Finn and the Olmsted Society.

##### **C. May Seed and Plant Swap with RCG & Library –Kimber & Mary –Date**

TBD

##### **D. Triangle 55 & Triangle 56 Updates- Lisa**

One scout has decided to postpone her project and another scout will move forward (T55).

#### **E. June Swan Pond Training – Dave & Eve**

Forester Collins informed the commission that training costs will be a total of \$600, which is \$300 per two hour site visit proposed. Training will be late spring and early summer. Forester Collins inquired about how best to structure the training. Ideally, we would meet at the Township Hall and call the meeting to order and proceed to Swan Pond for training purposes. Residents will be allowed at training but will exclusively be observers not active participants. The training will be crafted as a special meeting and commissioners may video tape the training informally. Forester Collins will work to provide dates and times for the two trainings. The commission will provide dates that would be a conflict. The commission will provide specific recommendations regarding training that Forester Collins will relay to the contractor.

#### **F. July 4th Celebration – Table/Booth**

Commissioner Plunkett has offered to run the table and Commissioner Schaff has offered to help and provide posters and craft ideas.

#### **G. Farmers Market Booth – September 14th, 2:30-7:00 – Sign Up**

Date has been selected and posters will be distributed.

#### **H. September 18th Picnic By the Pond – Julie & Dave**

Commissioner Schaff created a new picnic logo design and presented the concept to the commission. A Prototype postcard was proposed for residents to pick up at the Village offices or to be mailed to advertise with a QR code for more detailed information. Per Commissioner Schaff, 500 post cards will cost approximately \$60 and the banner will cost \$100 to replace. Riverside Arts Center has offered to collaborate with the commission to provide crafts at the event.

Motion to approve \$60 postcard expense and to insert a QR code, providing detailed Information for the picnic was made by Commissioner Schaff. Seconded by Commissioner Rubin.

AYES: Rubin, Juister, Bars, Plunkett, Schaff, Lambros

ABSENT: Coombes

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

#### **I. Oak-Tober – Lisa & Kimber**

Agenda item pushed to May

#### **XII. New Education Tri Fold for Residences – Kimber & Bridget**

Agenda item pushed to May

#### **XIII. Chairperson's Report**

##### **A. Collaboration**

The commission is looking to collaborate with other organizations in the village.

## **B. Olmsted 200**

Several events are organized to celebrate Frederick Law Olmsted's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## **XIV. Standing Discussion Topics**

### **A. Master Landscape Plan**

- **Swan Pond - Update – Julie & Dave**

Commissioners Rubin and Schaff are rewriting the Swan Pond management plan and are nearly finished. Commissioner Rubin stated that the plan was outdated. Multiple sources will be referenced to highlight the maintenance needs for the area. Chairperson Lambros stated that the commission will likely present the plan to the Village Board in September. Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that the timing would be ideal in terms of budgetary considerations for 2023. Commissioner Schaff stated that several recommendations will be relayed including bringing back Heidi Natura for consultation on the park's management and progress. Commissioner Rubin also suggested more strategy in terms of installing walking paths.

- **Triangles – Review – Mary & Eve**

Field surveys will be conducted to review progress made for select triangular parks throughout the Village. A priority list will be made to see which triangles may require more care each year. The priority is to keep documenting progress made and prioritize work. Commissioner Plunkett stated that the number of triangles make review difficult on an annual basis. Past scout projects were also discussed.

### **B. Outreach and Education**

- **Upcoming Events**

Chairperson Lambros will not be in attendance for the May 10th commission meeting. Commissioner Plunkett has offered to be interim chairperson for the meeting in May.

- **Marketing (Kimber)**

Absent

- **Volunteerism (Lisa) – Scouts & FLOS Workdays**

Agenda item pushed to May

## **XV. Forester's Report**

Forester Collins reported that the first landscape workday was held at Big Ball Park on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to kick off the volunteer season. Two dump trucks of invasive species were removed and one dump truck of woodchips were added to the park.

Fifteen trees will be donated from the Morton Arboretum to the Village as part of their Centennial Celebration. The trees will be planted by students on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Blythe Park. Collaborations

between the Blythe Elementary, The Morton Arboretum, and Village have been on going. Blythe Park has volunteered to water the trees to ensure they survive.

The Swan Pond ecological burn was a success.

Roy Diblik, owner of Northwind Perennial Farms, is also training some volunteers tomorrow morning on transplanting Wild Geranium near the Riverside Public Library to various public spaces throughout the Village. Please feel free to attend.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Marsh-Ozga informed the commission about a recent budgetary request at the previous Village Board meeting pertaining to a sidewalk to be installed from Nuttall Rd., across the Longcommon, to Longcommon Road. The budgetary request came from Parks & Recreation Board to install the sidewalk near Turtle Park. Village Board has requested the Landscape Advisory and Preservation Commissions review and provide recommendations regarding the proposed sidewalk. A tree survey will also be performed to review the impact of the sidewalk on existing trees. Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that she inquired about the sidewalk to the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, Elizabeth Kos and that she had stated that she did not recommend the sidewalk and we do not need the entire run of sidewalk but the cross walks are important. Trustee Marsh-Ozga suggested there may be some sort of miscommunication. For this reason, Trustee Marsh-Ozga has encouraged the commission to reach out to other commission members for clarification or discussion on these items to ensure there are not miscommunications moving forward. Chairperson Lambros also stated that her dialog with the Chair of Parks and Recreation suggested that she was not in favor of the proposed sidewalk. Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that the agenda item indicated that the Parks and Recreation Board had requested funds when in fact the Chair had stated she was not in favor. This item may come to the Landscape Advisory in May or June.

**XVI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. by Commissioner Plunkett. Seconded by Commissioner Barrs.

AYES: Lambros, Rubin, Schaff, Plunkett, Barrs, Juister

ABSENT: Coombes

NAYES: None

Motion Passed.

Minutes Taken By:

Minutes Approved By:

Forester Collins

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