



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

Tuesday May 10th, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 at the Village of Riverside Township Hall, Room 4, Riverside, IL 60546. Commissioner Plunkett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Rubin, Plunkett, Juister, Coombes, Barrs (8:20)

Absent: Lambros, Schaff

Also Present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins, Parks and Rec Director Malchiodi, Trustee Marsh-Ozga, Village President Ballerine

III. Consider Approval of April 12th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the April 12th, 2022, regular meeting minutes as amended by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Juister.

AYES: Rubin, Juister, Plunkett, Coombes

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: Coombes

ABSENT: Lambros, Schaff, Barrs (8:20)

Motion carried.

Changes include: Item 14, Triangles - "tringles to triangles"

IV. Public Comment

The Riverside Parks and Recreation Director Ron Malchiodi read a letter from the Parks and Recreation Chairperson Elizabeth Kos. See attached letter.

Commissioner Coombes requested a summary of the projects referenced in the letter read by Director Malchiodi. Director Tabb stated the proposed projects, funded by monies freed up as part of a grant,

include redoing an athletic field at Indian Gardens along with installing a sidewalk through Turtle Park that would connect Nuttall Road, Longcommon Road, and Big Ball Park. Director Tabb mentioned that he and Forester Collins walked the Turtle Park site to determine the route which would be the least impactful to the trees. This information, along with the engineering survey will be used to produce a site plan containing the final proposed sidewalk route. Trustee Marsh-Ozga mentioned that during the April 14th, 2022 preservation meeting, the commission didn't have any objections to the crosswalk access into Turtle Park and Big Ball Park. Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that from a use and impact standpoint the Preservation Commission preferred a crushed gravel path leading from the Longcommon Road crosswalk into the Turtle Park area that would mirror the Nuttall Road side as opposed to a path paralleling Shenstone Road. Trustee Marsh-Ozga explained it was the Preservation Commission's thought that most people do not want to cross over from Longcommon Road to Nuttall Road at that junction instead they are crossing to utilize the parks. In addition, there was concern about the tree roots systems and the difference in installation depths, therefore, the Preservation Commission preferred crushed granite versus concrete.

Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that any confusion with the Parks and Recreation Department on the sidewalk issue may have resulted from an informal conversation she had with the Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson Elizabeth Kos in which Elizabeth Kos stated the Parks and Recreation Board was not wed to concrete. Director Tabb mentioned that at the request of the Village Board future discussions and recommendations, regarding the Turtle Park sidewalk, would begin with the Preservation and Landscape Advisory Commissions. The recommendation of each commission would then be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board. The Parks and Recreation Board would at that point make a recommendation to the Village Board for final approval.

Commissioner Juister asked if a map is available for viewing of the proposed sidewalk layout. Director Tabb stated that a preliminary map was produced by KLOA, however, that map is not a good representation of the final product.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Review and Discuss Swan Pond Cedar Split Rail Fence Installation

Director Tabb provided a summary on why the cedar split rail fence was installed. Director Tabb explained that the fence was approved for installation by the Village Board understanding that safety and timing was of the essence. The Village Board did request that the Landscape Advisory Commission and the Preservation Commission review and comment on the installation after it was installed. Commissioner Plunkett stated while the fence does stand out, she understands the need for safety in the area. Commissioner Rubin explained that the fence stands out because it's new. Director Tabb commented that the fence will gray over time as it becomes weathered. Commissioner Juister feels the cedar fence is okay, but from a safety standpoint accomplishes what it was intended for. Commissioner Juister stated that if the fence were to be replaced she would like to see the material changed to either stone, cobblestone, or a more modern look like steel and wire with the understanding that these alternatives would be expensive. Commissioner Coombes explained that the fence was discussed on social media with varying opinions. Coombes further stated the overwhelming tone was negative with concerns ranging from wildlife to kids climbing on it. Coombes's personal opinion is the fence does not

fit the setting and is akin to something on a dude ranch or found in Texas. Coombes preferred the fence in the historical photo that showed a dimensional wooden fence. Coombes questioned the placement of the fence to which Director Tabb explained the curve of the path in conjunction with the drop off to the river were the main drivers on placement. Commissioner Plunkett requested the official opinion of the LAC be postponed until the June meeting in order to get the opinions of the members not in attendance. Director Tabb stated the topic would be included on the June agenda. Commissioner Plunkett requested commissioners bring ideas for other types of fencing if they have a strong opinion on the current fence.

When a general question arose on what the Preservation Commission's opinion was on the fence Trustee Marsh-Ozga explained that the Preservation Commission would not be in favor of removing the fence due to the costs already incurred by its installation, however, should it need to be replaced they would like to see something similar to the fence in the historical photo that was provided during the meeting.

VI. Review and Discuss Future Carriage Walk Installations (for properties without driveways)

Director Tabb summarized that the Village Board has requested the Preservation Commission and the Landscape Advisory Commission discuss the possibility of having staff do internal reviews on the installation of carriage walks, for the properties that do not have driveways, as opposed to going through the hardscape permit application process. Director Tabb acknowledged that this would only apply to a limited number of properties because the majority of the homes in Riverside have driveways. Tabb mentioned the internal process would be similar to the parkway planting application that staff currently reviews. Commissioner Coombes stated the hardscape permit application process is a form of checks and balances and she would prefer to see the process continue as it currently exists. Commissioner Rubin mentioned that someone with no other form of access to the front of their property should not have to go through the commission review process. Commissioner Juister stated that the building permitting process would provide the oversight for a proper install. Juister continued, that from her experience a project can get bogged down when a review is required to go through a total of three commission and board reviews. Commissioner Plunkett explained that the Village oversight is important throughout the process, but does not believe going through the commissions is necessary. Commissioner Coombes expressed concern that curb-like features would be incorporated into the carriage walks if not properly reviewed. Director Tabb explained that the curb-like feature Commissioner Coombes was concerned about, results from the inability to regrade certain areas of parkway while trying to bring a walkway into ADA compliance. Tabb reiterated that the carriage walks would not be ADA compliant, therefore this design feature would not apply. Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that ADA compliance does not require curb-like features along walkways and that regrading should be done wherever possible. Director Tabb commented that the curbs are installed on the walkways when they are in close proximity to trees or private property where grading cannot be accomplished.

Motion by Commissioner Rubin to allow carriage walk installation applications, for properties without driveways, to be reviewed and approved internally by staff and not require commission review.
Seconded by Commissioner Juister.

AYES: Rubin, Juister, Plunkett,

NAYES: Coombes

ABSENT: Lambros, Schaff, Barrs (8:20)

Motion Carried.

VII. Synthetic Turf Field – Hauser – Aberdeen

For informational purposes only, Trustee Marsh-Ozga explained that Central-Hauser School and District 96 are in discussion with their architects to redesign the field adjacent to the rear parking lot to increase the play area for kids. There is a current proposal to replace the natural grass field with a synthetic turf field comprised of a crumb rubber material made from recycled tires. Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated she attended a recent District 96 meeting where she, along with members of the public, had concerns with this type of field being included in the plan. Marsh-Ozga stated there are health concerns with artificial play surfaces backed by a number of studies to which the school district was made aware of. It was stated that the school district would most likely take a pause and have the architect review the cost analysis. After the architect review, the district would then open it up for further discussion. Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated she wanted the LAC to be aware of this topic. Commissioner Juister asked if this project would have to be reviewed by the Preservation Commission. Director Tabb stated that because the project is located on private property it would not require review by the commissions. Commissioner Coombes inquired about a previous proposal that would have installed synthetic surfaces in a number of parks. Director Tabb stated he was not aware of that proposal moving forward. Commissioner Coombes questioned whether the Village should allow such surfaces to be installed while there are initiatives already in place that attempt to reduce the impact on the environment. Commissioner Plunkett explained that as a small community it is the resident's responsibility to be apprised of what is going on related to issues such as this.

VIII. Champion for Monarch Butterflies – Discussion – 2023 Consideration/Education

Commissioner Plunkett explained there is an initiative by 1,000 mayors to support monarch butterflies in their communities. The commission will look into this effort as part of a 2023 initiative. Commissioner Juister will chair this project. A co-chair will be discussed at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Trustee Marsh-Ozga thanked the commission for their letter of support pertaining to the Village's historic boundary change. The Landscape Advisory Commission letter was submitted to the National Park Service, along with letters from other commissions and the Village Board. Trustee Marsh-Ozga explained the original documentation submitted in 1969 was not up to today's standards and further documents have since been submitted on contributing and non-contributing properties that will support the boundary change. President Ballerine and Trustee Marsh-Ozga will be on the National Park Service call for the nomination of the boundary change. Trustee Marsh-Ozga will provide updates as the process moves forward.

X. 2022 Calendar

A. No Mow May – Bridget and David

Commissioner Juister explained that the general response has been positive about the No Mow May promotion, however, there have been a couple negative social media posts. Commissioner Coombes suggested the Commission be more direct with future promotion of such events as No Mow May. The commission discussed the varying opinions of residents on No Mow May and how the idea would be proposed in the future. Director Tabb agreed that the educational component of No Mow May is beneficial, however, the commission should refrain from promoting No Mow May on private property because the Village ordinance, citing property owners for excessive grass height, had not been waived by the Village Board.

B. May Seed and Plant Swap with RCG & Library – Kimber & Mary – Date

The May Seed and Plant Swap will occur Saturday May 14th, at the Community Garden. The Commission will review opportunities for 2023 at future meetings.

C. Triangle 55 Update

Girl Scout Sanduski will be moving forward with her Triangle 55 project. She is beginning to purchase plants through donations. Commissioner Plunkett recognized the assistance of Carolyn Huson during the fall cleanup of the triangle. Commissioner Plunkett noted the number of spring ephemerals found on the triangle.

D. June Swan Pond Training – Dave & Eve

Commissioner Rubin mentioned the Commission will be meeting at the Village Hall at 2:30 p.m. on May 13th for a Special Meeting. The Commission will then meet Integrated Lakes Management at Swan Pond to do training on plant species identification. Forester Collins mentioned that a floristic quality report will be conducted at the May and June trainings.

E. July 4th Celebration – Table/Booth – Sign Up

Commissioners Plunkett and Schaff will be at the celebration doing crafts with kids and handing out posters.

F. FLOS Work Day – Sign Up – July 23rd – Mary & Eve

Commissioner Plunkett made mention of the upcoming FLOS workday and encouraged all commissioners to sign up. Forester Collins described a tree planting he did in partnership with the Morton Arboretum at Blythe School.

G. Picnic by the Pond – Julie – Banner and Postcard Update

Director Tabb made mention that he has a draft of the banner and post cards for the picnic along with a quote. Picnic plans will be discussed at future meetings.

XI. Marketing – Kimber

A. New Education Tri Fold for Residences – Kimber & Bridget

Commissioner Coombes stated she has approximately 70-80% of the trifold completed, but is looking for content. President Ballerine suggested an LAC trifold could be included in his monthly letter to new residents.

XII. Chairperson's Report

None

XIII. Standing Discussion Topics

A. Master Landscape Plan – Only if New Information on Review

Commissioner Plunkett noted an upcoming project where commissioners will pair up and observe triangles relative to the Master Landscape Plan.

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

An update will be provided at a future meeting.

- **Triangles – Review – Mary & Eve**

Commissioner Plunkett requested commissioners take a look at triangles in close proximity to their residences and make note of their condition. Commissioner Coombes suggested planting sedges at the triangle located at Gatesby and Uvedale. Commissioner Coombes adopted the small triangle located at Gatesby and Uvedale and stated she would work with Forester Collins to formulate a game plan for the planting of the sedges.

B. Outreach and Education

None

XIV. Forester's Report

Forester Collins noted he planted 66 trees, consisting of eight different species, in the parkways along with 15 trees as part of the Blythe School project. He anticipates another 20 trees to be planted in the fall. Forester Collins noted his upcoming workday at Harrington Park on May 14th, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Tabb made mention that at a recent Village Board meeting there was discussion about partnering with other communities to form a working group to discuss sustainability initiatives. President Ballerine, Trustee Marsh-Ozga, and Trustee Evans will be representing the Village in this effort. Future initiatives developed as part of the collaboration may be presented to the commissions for review and comment.

Director Tabb requested the Commission present any major 2023 projects to staff along with a budget amount. The proposed projects will be incorporated into the upcoming budget discussions.

Commissioner Rubin explained how new trees are entered into the Village's mapping system and how the benefits are outlined for each tree.

XV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. by Commissioner Coombes. Seconded by Commissioner Rubin.

AYES: Rubin, Plunkett, Barrs, Juister, Coombes

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Lambros, Schaff

Motion Passed.

Minutes Taken By:

Minutes Approved By:

Director Tabb
