



VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday February 14th, 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, February 14th, 2023 in 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, Schaff, Tarverdi, and Barker.
Also Present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins, Trustee Marsh-Ozga, Management Intern Sanduski, and Riverside resident guest Tom Wilkens.

III. Consider Approval of January 10th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the January 10th, 2023 regular meeting minutes by Commissioner Barker.
Seconded by Commissioner Schaff.

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

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Morton Arboretum – Urban Heat Island and Urban Trees Panel

Chairperson Lambros recently attended a seminar at the Morton Arboretum entitled “Hot Topics and Urban Trees – Resiliency in the Face of Urban Heat and Climate Change”, which consisted of four panelists from various professions who discussed climate change as it relates to trees and their resiliency to cope. With more than 100 years of tree research and data, the staff of the Morton Arboretum is a great resource to lean on for understanding climate change. Lambros reported that discussions included the topics of water levels and rain levels, critical to the future of our trees in a changing environment. Lambros said that a key workshop take-away for her was that trees in the northern climate zones are struggling, though

these trees also still need to be resilient enough to withstand harsh winters and polar vortexes. Further, participants of the workshop learned that southern zone trees can't simply be planted in our northern zones. Key considerations need to include weather, soil and moisture in an evolving environment. Lambros and guest Tom Wilkens mentioned that a critical focus will need to be placed on planting trees now. Tree species will need to be selected that can handle all the new water / flood levels. Lambros also mentioned that the Morton Arboretum workshop featured presentation boards around the room, with one from a recent Eagle Scout project involving the planting of trees agreeable to the area, a critical step for us all to take going forward during a future of climate change.

VI. New Girl Scout Request – Central School 5th Grade – Amy Bilow

Chairperson Lambros mentioned a recent interest of a 5th Grade Girl Scout Troop, to clean up a Riverside triangle. Commissioners Barrs and Plunkett will work with the troop of 10-12 girls from Central School. Forester Collins to research and find a suitable triangle for the troop of girls to clean up and plant a couple new trees. The most likely schedule will be cleaning out the triangle and planting new native plants in May, followed by watering throughout the summer and planting the new trees in fall. Forester Collins warned the LAC Commissioners about the potentially harmful cicada hatch predicted for spring 2024, which most likely could cause major damage to small trees planted in 2023. He also announced to the group that no new trees will be planted in the Village during the spring of 2024 due to the harmful cicada hatch.

OLD BUSINESS

VII. C4 – Update Lisa and Aberdeen

Trustee Marsh-Ozga discussed with the LAC Commissioners the Village's initial C4 (Cross Community Climate Collaborative) meeting held on January 19, 2023. She reported that 75-100 Riverside residents were in attendance, ranging in age from youth to seniors, and it was a room filled with great ideas. The initiative includes priorities, such as Connectivity, Resource Regeneration, Health and Wellbeing, Prosperity, Living Infrastructure and Place. The overarching goal is to share the ideas with other C4 local communities in an effort to reduce our village gas emissions. Marsh-Ozga explained that there will be a series of monthly meetings scheduled at the Riverside Public Library, with the next scheduled for February 23 at 7:30 p.m. The initial goal at the meetings is to establish a decision tree, flow chart and timeline for each priority, keeping in mind sustainability and ease of implementation. Priority leaders will lead the various smaller teams with the goal of finding a detailed approach to each priority, whereby holding residents and stakeholders accountable. Future meetings would then do a threshold analysis for each idea, asking: does this help to reduce our gas emissions, or does it help increase our resiliency? Marsh-Ozga gave an example of neighboring Oak Park, also with a C4 Initiative, having recently purchased electric equipment for their Public Works team, including electric riding mowers, trimmers and other lawn and tree maintenance equipment, along with a trailer solar-powered charging station, for easy charging capabilities. This simple initiative has made a big positive impact to the Oak Park staff and residents toward working toward their C4 initiative. Director Tabb reported that Riverside's Public Works team had also just recently purchased an electric commercial lawn mower with a charging station/trailer, as well.

VIII. Standing Discussion Topics

A. Master Landscape Plan – New Updates for VBOT

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

Commissioners Schaff and Rubin reported that the recent research on Swan Pond will be presented to the Village Board of Trustees later this year. The recent report from the ILM

captures the current status of Swan Pond, utilizing FQI as a gauge. The LAC discussed the need to revisit the walking trails along the river bed and the possibility of hiring landscape architect Heidi Natura of Living Habitats for an additional \$1500 fee to conduct a current site visit of the area. Chairperson Lambros to check the LAC budget to see if there are sufficient funds to cover this site visit fee before Commissioners Schaff and Rubin present this proposed plan to the Village Board.

- **Triangles – Update – Mary & Eve**

Commissioners Plunkett and Barrs reported that they are currently in the process of evaluating each of Riverside's many triangles. Chairperson Lambros to distribute a new assessment survey so that all the LAC Commissioners can objectively assess each triangle's sightline, setback and safety issues. Any work performed on each triangle needs to include before and after photos in the files and should be posted as an appendix to the Master Landscape Plan.

B. Outreach and Education

- **Nature Viewer – Dave R.**

Commissioner Rubin reported that the nature viewer is located in the Riverside Public Library.

- **Seed Library – Mary & Dave R.**

Commissioners Plunkett and Rubin reported that they have been checking on the seed library collections regularly, and the program has been well-received by residents. Recent activity shows that 150 seed packets have been taken by residents, with another 148 packets donated.

- **Ecology Club – RBHS – Eve & Dave T.**

Commissioner Barrs reported that she had recently spoken with Mr. Dave Monti and his Ecology Club at Riverside-Brookfield High School has been moving ahead with their mosquito bucket projects. Additionally, the LAC Commissioners will be planting monarch butterfly gardens in various Riverside parks and triangles later this year. Visiting LAC guest Tom Wilkens volunteered to help plant in the monarch butterfly gardens. Related to this, Chairperson Lambros announced to the group that June 7 was the date assigned to the LAC for the Farmer's Market community tent.

C. Invasive Trade-In – Residential – Eve & Dave R.

Commissioner Barrs reported to the group about her recent conversation with Possibility Place Nursery regarding potential trees available for residents who participate in Riverside's upcoming invasive trade-in program. Commissioners agreed that invasive species would include buckthorn, honeysuckle and tree of heaven. When traded in, residents would in turn receive a small tree to plant. Available varieties from the nursery include Oak, Blue Beach, Serviceberry, Pagoda Dogwood, Ironwood or River Birch, though the LAC would narrow it down to 2-3 varieties and advise residents on a specific species, based on their space and shade requirements with a maximum of one tree per residential property. The LAC group will be promoting the invasive trade-in program to the Village in an upcoming e-blast report. The Commissioners agreed on purchasing 30 trees to start the program. Commissioner Barrs to draft e-blast verbiage for Forester Collins to review.

D. Swan Pond – Spring Burn – ILM FQI

Forester Collins told the group that he is planning a controlled spring burn of the fields in Swan Pond. Dependent on weather, the burn will take place in March or April with the EPA to advise on specific dates.

IX. No Mow May / Pollinator Focus – Lisa

The group discussed its plans to repeat last year's No Mow May program messaging the village through the signage used last year in front of Village public buildings. This year, there would be more emphasis on messaging residents about educating the public about spring ephemeral plants. Commissioners also suggested that the program possibly be incorporated into the Village's C4 initiative, promoting spring insect pollination and lowering the Village's carbon footprint by non-mowing measures. The LAC members discussed the issue of suspending the Village ordinance for mowing the front of yards during the entire month of May this year so that residents could practice a No Mow May policy if they so choose. Other communities that practice No Mow May ask residents to register and give them a yard sign; this could be considered for Riverside, as well. A vote was taken to practice another soft launch of No Mow May in Riverside using last year's signage in public areas. The motion was passed to use No Mow May as an educational initiative – rather than a promotional one – and to suspend the front yard mowing enforcement ordinance, which limits the height of grass in front lawns, during May 1 – 31st, 2023 to any resident wanting to participate. Commissioner Rubin to present this topic to the Village Board of Trustees.

Motion to use No Mow May as an educational piece and not for promotional purposes by Commissioner Barrs. Seconded by Commissioner Schaff.

AYES: Lambros, Rubin, Barrs, Plunkett, Schaff, Tarverdi, Barker

NAYES: None

Motion Passed

Motion to suspend the Village ordinance limiting the height of grass to 8" between May 1st and May 31st by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Barrs.

AYES: Rubin, Plunkett, Barrs, Lambros

NAYES: Tarverdi, Barker, Schaff

Motion Passed

X. Marketing

A. Website – Updates – David R & Amy – Season Update / Spring

Commissioners discussed posting the spring invasive trade-in program on the Village website as well as hosting a spring clean-up event. The LAC group also agreed it advantageous to post the newly approved tri-fold brochure on its website.

B. New Education Tri-Fold for Residents – Printing / Electronic – Dave R. & Dan

The LAC group also agreed it advantageous to post the newly approved tri-fold brochure on its website.

XI. Grants Update – Dave B. / Dan / Lisa

Chairman Lambros reported to the group that she is researching potential AARP grants. Director Tabb said that he would also do some research on the Trees Forever grant as well as a butterfly grant and report back with his findings at the next LAC meeting.

XII. Chairperson's Report

A. April Meeting

Chairperson Lambros told the group that she will not be available during the LAC meeting on Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Rubin will lead the meeting.

B. C4 and Subcommittees / OMA

Trustee Marsh-Ozga gave an update on the initial C4 village meeting and told the group about the upcoming plans for gaining more insight about potential Village initiatives from residents, with Trustees and Commissioners leading discussions with sub-committees. Commissioners from all of the various village commissions are being urged to participate in the important C4 initiative.

XIII. Forester's Report

Forester Collins reported that his immediate focus was on the upcoming spring tree planting. Collins will be working on tree trimming around the Hauser/Central School area during their spring break. He also mentioned that the FLOS group had recently made a few more donations, which will be used to secure equipment for Public Works department. Caroline Huson also recently donated \$10,000 to the Village for plantings and sedges.

OTHER BUSINESS

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:56 p.m. by Commissioner Barker. Seconded by Commissioner Schaff.

AYES: Lambros, Rubin, Barrs, Plunkett, Schaff, Tarverdi, Barker.

NAYES: None

Motion Passed.

Minutes Taken By:

Linda Sanduski

Minutes Approved By:
