



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

Tuesday, March 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, March 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 (7:04), Tarverdi (7:04), and Barker.

Also Present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins, Trustee Marsh-Ozga, Management Intern Sanduski, and members of the Central School Girl Scout Troop.

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

Motion to approve the February 14th, 2023 regular meeting minutes with noted edits by Commissioner Barker. Seconded by Commissioner Barrs.

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

ABSTAIN: Schaff, Tarverdi

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment, per Director Tabb.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Wild Ones Conference

Chairperson Lambros reported that she and Commissioner Plunkett recently attended the Wild Ones Conference, held in Rosemont, IL. With about 2,000 in attendance, there was valuable education and ecology information gained, also with many local vendors in attendance.

VI. Native Plant Sale and the LAC

Chairperson Lambros explained to the group that a Riverside resident would like to sell native plants to other residents, but was seeking a host commission to help with this effort. Lambros to meet with the Village Board to see if the LAC is able to help the resident sell plants as an advisory commission.

OLD BUSINESS

VII. Central School 5th Grade Girl Scout Presentation on T56

Three girls from Central School's 5th grade Girl Scout troop gave a presentation to the LAC regarding their proposed project to renovate T56, the triangle located at the intersection of Westover and Northgate Roads. The troop, comprised of about 16 fifth-grade girls, is seeking donations totaling \$800 to cover the cost of native plants and materials needed. The project would begin this spring and resume all summer with the girls watering their new native plants into fall 2023.

Motion to approve the proposed Girl Scout Troop renovation of triangle T56 was made by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Plunkett.

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

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

VIII. C4 Update

Trustee Marsh-Ozga updated the group with the latest C4 initiatives, mentioning that Chicago Wilderness will be including Riverside in its vulnerability assessment data research as they continue to provide training sessions about climate change. Chairperson Lambros said that she will provide information to Chicago Wilderness and Friends of the Chicago River from Riverside's Master Landscape Plan for inclusion in their data. Trustee Marsh-Ozga also told the Commissioners that there is a group of 54 regions throughout Chicago that has invited various villages, including Riverside, to participate in a joint zoom meeting later this month for idea sharing of topics related to climate change, environmental impact and technical issues. A virtual meeting will be held on July 20 with climate change issues being addressed. After that, there will be sector meetings scheduled to address sub-topics, such as libraries, public works, etc. Information sharing within villages is becoming essential, Marsh-Ozga noted.

The next C4 meeting will be held on Thursday, March 30th during which all priority groups will be reporting back on their initial phases. The C4 priority committees are in the process of meeting separately to sift through all their individual ideas to come up with priorities and solutions and a thoughtful framework for implementing the process with the overarching goal of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050. Trustee Marsh-Ozga also advised the Commissioners to refer other Riverside residents with their C4 questions to Riverside's website, though sub-groups will be meeting on an ad-hoc basis to better allow for flexible schedules. Riverside's C4 Committee will continue to share information with surrounding communities as each tries to cope with and derive solutions for climate change.

IX. Standing Discussion Topics

A. Master Landscape Plan – New Updates for VBOT

• Swan Pond – Update

Commissioner Schaff reported that she and Commissioner Rubin made no substantive changes to the Master Landscape Plan since the plan was discussed in detail with all Commissioners at the last LAC meeting on February 14th. The Master Landscape Plan as it stands will be presented to the Village Board of Trustees by Commissioners Rubin and Schaff during their next meeting this week on Thursday, March 16th.

Motion to approve the final revisions to the Master Landscape Plan was made by Commissioner Barker. Seconded by Commissioner Barrs.

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

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

• Triangles

Commissioner Barrs explained to the LAC members that the topic of triangles is covered under the Master Landscape Plan on page 45. Both Commissioners Barrs and Plunkett proposed to the group that the LAC members design a grading standard for the objective assessment of each Riverside triangle annually. Beginning in May once spring growth is evident, the LAC Commissioners can assess each triangle by Commissioner sub-groups, using a reasonable schedule that works for those sub-group members, to review each triangle using objective criteria (number of canopy trees, land area covered, number of understory trees, number of native plants, etc.) including photos of current conditions. Findings of each triangle will be recorded for archival purposes. Priorities of those triangles needing immediate attention to be given.

B. Outreach and Education

Ecology Club – RBHS

Commissioner Barrs reported that she continues to work with Mr. Monti, RBHS Biology/Ecology teacher, to promote mosquito buckets for distribution throughout Riverside this spring. The buckets, which feature a chemical to kill mosquito larvae, will be given to volunteer Riverside residents in early May.

C. Invasive Trade in – Residential

Commissioner Barrs reported that 30 trees have been put on hold with a local nursery for the LAC's spring invasive trade-in program, whereby Riverside residents can cut down and trade in their invasive species of buckthorn, honeysuckle and tree of heaven varieties in exchange for small trees, purchased by the LAC. Residents will need to register via form prior to the exchange date, and pick-up will be held at the Public Works parking lot in May with Commissioners overseeing the exchange.

D. Swan Pond – Spring Burn – ILM FQI

Forester Collins reported that he is scheduling a spring burn in Swan Pond by early April. Specific date to be announced as weather permits.

X. No Mow May / Pollinator Focus

Commissioner Rubin told the LAC group that he will be attending the Village Board of Trustees meeting later this week, on Thursday, March 16th, representing the LAC's motion to repeat last year's practice of a No Mow May educational initiative with a pollinator focus, allowing residents the opportunity to suspend the front yard mowing enforcement ordinance from May 1-31, 2023. If approved by the Board, the LAC Commissioners will then use last year's promotional signage in front of public spaces (Library, Village Hall, Swan Pond) to educate residents about the benefits of not mowing and focusing on the spring pollination process.

XI. Marketing

A. Website – Updates

Chairperson Lambros congratulated the group on their recent collective marketing efforts on the LAC website and other platforms. She suggested that upcoming marketing could include media coverage on upcoming spring initiatives, including mosquito buckets, the invasive trade-in program and the spring burn at Swan Pond, for example.

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

Director Tabb presented the group with freshly printed copies of their new Landscaping Guide tri-fold brochure, which is now featured on the LAC's website page. The LAC members agreed to distribute copies of the brochure at the Farmer's Market when they host the community tent on June 7th. They will also ask permission to distribute the brochures at the Village Hall lobby, Public Library, Public Works department building and perhaps with local realtors. Copies will also be distributed in new resident packets when they are finally approved and printed by Village Hall managers.

XII. Grants Update

The LAC Commissioners discussed the need to coordinate a spreadsheet with applicable grants relevant to native plants that would benefit the Village of Riverside. Commissioner Barker volunteered to design a spreadsheet with any relevant grants that the LAC members should consider for application. The group discussed the potential need to set aside a specific fund of money each year in the LAC's annual budget, as many grants will match funds set aside by the applicant group. One commissioner pointed out that the LAC may potentially benefit from the recent Federal Inflation Reduction Act, which includes funds that the federal government will be distributing in 2024 for forestry initiatives.

XIII. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Lambros had nothing to report.

XIV. Forester's Report

Forester Collins reported to the group that Public Works will be trimming trees around Hauser Jr. High and Central Elementary School during the students' spring break week, beginning on March 27th. In April, Forester Collins will be leading the spring burn project in Swan Pond. He also told the group that Saturday, March 25th from 9 a.m. to noon will be a Work Day in Harrington Park. In addition, April 15th will be Community Day, during which the Public Works team along with the RBHS PTO will be hosting high school students to work in Indian Gardens, with possible sites also including Guthrie Park and Patriots Park, depending on volunteer attendance. Forester Collins also told the LAC members that

April 22 will be a clean-up day at Patriots Park and April 29 will be another Work Day at the triangle located at Longcommon and Downing streets with Riverside residents invited to volunteer these days.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Lambros reminded all commissioners that the LAC will be hosting the community tent during the Riverside Farmer's Market on June 7th and will also host its own table on July 4th in Guthrie Park after the morning's parade concludes. Chairperson Lambros also mentioned that two Riverside triangles are being included in this year's summer garden tour. The two triangles include: T54 located between Bartram and Northwood Roads, and T55, located at Bartram and Northgate Roads. On September 13th, the C4 will host a table at the Farmers Market. There may be room at the table for the LAC to participate as well. ; Trustee Marsh-Ozga to advise.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11.

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

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

NAYES: None

Motion carried.