



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

Tuesday, May 9th, 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, May 9th, 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, Barker, Tarverdi and Schaff (8:15).

Also Present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins, Management Intern Sanduski, Communications Specialist Downing, Joe Ballerine and Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga (8:45), and incoming Commissioner Andrea Jakubas.

III. Consider Approval of April 11th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the April 11th, 2023 regular meeting minutes with one noted edit by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Barrs. Chairperson Lambros, who was absent at the last LAC meeting, abstained from the vote.

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

ABSTAIN: Lambros

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment, per Director Tabb.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Julie & Mary – Celebrating Them

Chairperson Lambros recognized Commissioner Plunkett and Commissioner Schaff, who are both leaving the LAC as their commission periods end on June 1st. Both served dutifully for several years, and the LAC appreciated their service, knowledge and diligence, Lambros told the Commissioners.

VI. New Commissioners for June – Tom & Andrea

Chairperson Lambros recognized that Andrea Jakubas and Tom Wilkins will both be joining the LAC as new LAC Commissioners, beginning on June 1st, taking the place of outgoing Commissioners Plunkett and Schaff.

VII. Response to Jackie Paine's Email

Chairperson Lambros told the LAC Commissioners that while she is very open to other residents' perspectives, Lambros did not respond to resident Jackie Paine's recent negative email to the LAC. Lambros told the group that she will not allow her Commissioners or herself as Chairperson to be degraded.

OLD BUSINESS

VIII. Central School 5th Grade Girl Scout

Chairperson Lambros updated the group that the Girl Scout troop from Central School's 5th grade had their first successful clean-up day on May 4th at T-56, the triangle located at Westover, Northgate and Loudon Roads. The girls cleared away much of the buckthorn with another clean-up date slated for May 13th. They have their planting day scheduled for May 20th. The girls have already raised sufficient funds from various local business to cover the cost of the native plants.

IX. Native Plant Sale – June 4th – Sign up / Amy Artwork for Promotion

Preparations are underway for a Native Plant Sale on June 4th afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. Keith Sykora, owner of Stellar Native Plant Nursery of local Naperville, will be hosting the plant sale in Riverside's Green Parking Lot on Burlington Road across from St Mary's Church parking lot, with each Commissioner taking on shifts during the sale to act as plant advisors to Riverside residents wanting to purchase native plants. Communication Specialist Amy Downing created promotional artwork for the sale and will include the plant sale in an upcoming e-flash and also on Riverside's Facebook page. Director Tabb will check for availability for a promotional banner to hang in Guthrie Park and Board of Trustee (BOT) President Ballerine volunteered to include the Plant Sale in his upcoming BOT meeting announcements on May 18th.

X. Farmer's Market Sign Up – June 7th - Lisa

LAC members will be hosting the rotating community tent at the Farmer's Market on June 7th, from 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with commissioners taking shifts to assist with residents' questions regarding native plants and other related topics.

XI. C4 Update – Earth Month – Living Infrastructure

Trustee Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga gave the LAC Commissioners an update regarding Riverside's C4 initiative, as it pertains to the Living Infrastructure priority. She reported that surveys will soon be sent out to Riverside residents regarding the topics of resource regeneration and transportation. Also, the Christopher Burke Consulting firm is working with Riverside's C4 group to write a grant for electric vehicle charging programs, which, if granted, would be housed at Parking Lot 1 and the Green Parking Lot on Burlington. Trustee Marsh-Ozga also mentioned that one of the C4 sectors will be meeting in

Oak Park tomorrow to tour Oak Park green initiatives, which might be applicable to Riverside's C4 program.

XII. Standing Discussion Topics

A. Master Landscape Plan

- **Triangles – Spreadsheet Update – Eve & Mary**

As part of Riverside's Master Landscape Plan, Commissioner Barker has created a spreadsheet to annually evaluate the condition of each of Riverside's triangles. Information will include the square footage of each triangle, the number of canopy trees (and types / locations within triangle) as well as the approximate amount of under-story trees and native plants (and types) with color photos of each triangle scanned for archival purposes. Commissioners have agreed to participate in two trial evaluations at T-12 and T-19 in two teams, with the remaining triangles being evaluated during the blooming months this year. Once completed, all findings will be kept in an archived location with their respective photos.

B. Outreach and Education

- **Ecology Club – RBHS – Dunk Bucket & Milkweed Planting – Eve & Dave T.**

Commissioner Barrs reported that the Riverside-Brookfield High School's Ecology Club, headed by Dave Monti, completed its spring Mosquito Dunk Bucket project. In total, 96 buckets were made and distributed to local residents. The RB students were very excited about the project, its popularity with residents, and will make this project part of next year's curriculum. The Ecology Club also has scheduled a Milkweed Planting event for early June.

- **Invasive Trade-in – Residential – Eve & Dave R.**

Commissioner Barrs shared that several Riverside residents have participated in the LAC's spring Invasive Trade-in initiative, with only a few small trees remaining in the LAC's current inventory. The group agreed to give the initiative one final spring push via social media for more residents to participate. The LAC Commissioners agreed to continue the project this fall, as well, and Commissioner Barrs will check tree inventory stock with vendor The Possibility Place for fall tree varieties. Forester Collins mentioned that if the LAC wanted to offer this Trade-in initiative again next year, he suggested that the group avoid distributing small trees in spring of 2024, but rather hold off with distribution in fall – due to the impending cicada boom predicted for spring 2024.

XIII. No Mow May / Pollinator Focus – Update – Dave R.

No Mow May was a success this year among the 23 Riverside residents that participated with yard signs with their act of not mowing their lawns to further pollinate the local bee / insect population. This year's program ends on May 15th, and participating residents can either keep their yard signs – if they plan on participating again next year – or return them to Public Works for storage.

XIV. Parkway Tree Watering Program – Dave T.

Commissioner Tarverdi volunteered to assist Forester Collins with monitoring the parkways for proper watering and alerting residents when a new tree has too much/too little water. Forester Collins gave Commissioner Terverdi a stack of door hangers, which explain proper new tree

maintenance. Forester Collins also asked all Commissioners to assist with letting him know of any Riverside addresses having a presence of “volcanic mulching” with their parkway trees so that Collins can hang a door hanger and engage in a communication with the resident on proper new tree maintenance.

XI. Marketing

A. Website – Updates – David B./David R./Amy - New Ideas for June

The LAC group discussed upcoming events requiring any marketing and promotional coverage. Relevant events include the end of No Mow May and need to mow lawns (May 15th), Native Plant Sale (June 4th), Farmer’s Market (June 7th), and a last push for the Invasive Trade-in initiative (late spring).

B. Rain Barrels – Composters – Direction on How to Move Forward - All

The group discussed various vendors from which residents can purchase rain barrels. Communications Specialist Downing will include information in an upcoming e-blast with a reference to the local Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for rain barrel purchases, for interested residents.

C. New Education Tri-Fold for Residences –Updates on Packets- Dave R. and Dan

Chairperson Lambros reminded the group that their new educational tri-fold brochure on Riverside natives and landscaping tips is now available. Management Intern Sanduski updated the group that the New Resident packet draft is now under review by Village Officers and would include the tri-fold brochure, when finally issued.

XVI. Grants Update – Dave B. / Dan

Commissioner Barker reported that he has begun researching various grants relevant to trees, landscaping and forestation. He will coordinate his efforts with Forester Collins to ensure that the LAC grants are unique and not already covered under the Public Works Department.

XVII. Chairperson’s Report - None

Chairperson Lambros had nothing to report.

XVIII. Forester’s Report

Forester Collins reported to the group that his team had already installed 65 parkway trees. He also told the group that Riverside’s Community Day, held on April 15th, was a great success with about 100 RB High School students volunteering their time. Collins noted, too, that three trees were planted along with residents on Arbor Day, April 22nd – two trees on Longcommon Road and one at Ames School. He told the group that the next Frederic Law Olmsted Society (FLOS) Workday is on May 15th.

OTHER BUSINESS

XIX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13th.

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

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

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

Minutes Taken By: Linda Sanduski