



VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 11th, 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, July 11th, 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, Wilkens, Jakubas, and Tarverdi (7:03 p.m.)

Absent: Commissioners Barker and Barrs.

Also present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins, Management Intern Sanduski and Trustee Marsh-Ozga (7:08 p.m.)

III. Consider Approval of May 9th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the May 9th, 2023 regular meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Chairperson Lambros. Commissioners Wilkens and Jakubas abstained, as their role as Commissioners hadn't yet begun and they were both not present for that meeting.

AYES: Rubin, Tarverdi, Lambros.

ABSTAIN: Wilkens, Jakubas

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

III. Consider Approval of June 13th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the June 13th, 2023 regular meeting minutes with one noted edit was made by Commissioner Jakubas. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkins. Commissioner Rubin abstained, as he was absent for this LAC meeting.

AYES: Tarverdi, Lambros, Wilkens, Jakubas.

ABSTAIN: Rubin

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment, per Director Tabb.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Eagle Scout Presentation – Evan McMullen Troop 92 – Lisa

Evan McMullen, a 17-year old Boy Scout from Riverside Troop 24, presented to the LAC group his proposed Eagle Scout project to revitalize the triangle on Northgate and Selborne. Currently, there is a big cluster of buckthorn and hackberry bushes, which impede the vision of safety for vehicles and bikes driving around the triangle. Evan would like to cut down and, where possible, dig out the roots of the bushes to help with the visual safety and beauty of the triangle and add mulch to the ground around the cuttings. Forester Collins suggested that Evan call JULIE first before starting any digging or cutting.

Motion to approve the project as proposed by D. Rubin. Seconded by D. Tarverdi.

AYES: Tarverdi, Rubin, Lambros, Wilkens, Jakubas.

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

VI. Hardscape Permit Application – 193 Longcommon Road

Director Tabb presented to the LAC that a Riverside resident recently cut down a Norway Maple tree in front of his property at 193 Longcommon. The tree was located 18 inches from the front sidewalk, so the resident assumed that the tree was on his private property, but according to his plat of survey, the tree was actually on Riverside land. At the time that the tree was cut down, the Village of Riverside deemed the tree in poor condition, but never authorized it to be cut down. The resident had the tree cut down – about 10 ft. above the ground – had the cut tree removed, and hired a wood carver to carve an image into the in-ground stump. This totem pole currently sits at the west end of the property near Longcommon Road. The totem pole currently faces Longcommon Road, though it sits on Village property, and the question raised to the LAC Commissioners from Director Tabb is: Should the totem pole remain in its current spot? The Commissioners discussed the topic and resolved that the totem pole needs to be cut down, the stump removed, and a fine must be charged to the resident, which will be used by the Village to pay for the stump removal and purchase a new sapling tree to be planted in a location of the Village's choosing. Director Tabb will report the LAC Commission's resolution to the Village Board for further discussion.

Motion proposing the removal of the totem pole and stump, along with a fine issued to the resident for the purchase of a new tree to be located at the Village's discretion by Commissioner Tarverdi. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkins.

AYES: Tarverdi, Lambros, Wilkens, Jakubas, Rubin.

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

VI. World Nature Conservation Day – Agenda – Lisa and David R

Chairperson Lambros reminded the LAC Commissioners that the Village will be hosting World Nature Conversation Day on Saturday, July 29. During the day several events will be hosted, including a bird watching tour and a kayak adventure tour as well as a Tai Chi class. As well, there will be a tree arboretum tour using the village's tree viewer app. as well as a tour of Swan Pond, including information about ILM and University of Illinois applied research. Further, Chairperson Lambros suggested that the LAC host a tent with tables at the top of Swan Pond to offer information on native plants as well as distribute seed packets and tree saplings. There was also discussion regarding featuring a list of local eateries that offer green dining options.

OLD BUSINESS

VII. C4 – Update – Aberdeen

Trustee Marsh-Ozga gave the LAC members an update that the C4 committee and Riverside residents featured a C4 July 4th parade float, which was well-received, fun and sparked more conversation within the Village regarding its C4 initiative. She also told the group that there was a community mapping event on Tuesday, June 20th. Lambros also mentioned that a recent survey for C4's Living Infrastructure priority had weak survey results. All C4 priority survey results are due July 20th for the Village Board to review. To date, 850 residents have participated in the survey process.

XI. Standing Discussion Topics

A. Master Landscape Plan

- **Triangles – Spreadsheet Update – David B**

Commissioner Barker continues his work of evaluating each of Riverside's triangles as part of the Master Landscape Plan. As he explained to the LAC members in the last meeting, he has created a detailed spreadsheet, which objectively describes the square footage, tree species, native plant species as well as any invasive species on each triangle.

B. Outreach and Education

- **Invasive Trade-in – Residential – Update - Dave R.**

Commissioner Rubin reported that he continues to work with Commissioner Barrs on the Invasive Trade-in program, which was offered in spring with much success. They have secured 10 Blue Beech and 10 Redbud trees with a local nursery for the fall. Commissioner Rubin proposed a September 1st deadline for the fall trade-in program, with a week thereafter for any late-comers. He also proposed that he and Commissioner Barrs thought including protective tree nets to ward off any spring cicadas for the spring 2024 season would be a good offering with each tree. Director Tabb informed the group that there was \$1300 in the budget for this program. There will be no invasive trade-in program offered in spring 2024, due to the projected cicada infestation.

XII. Parkway Tree Watering Program – Dave T.

Commissioner Tarverdi continues to monitor for moisture around the Village's parkway trees, leaving hangtags on doors of those trees needing to be watered. With much rain during these last few weeks of late June and July, the need to monitor the parkway trees hasn't been as severe.

XII. Marketing

A. Website – Updates – David B./David R./Amy - New Content

The LAC Commissioners continue to submit suggested topical content for inclusion in resident e-blast notices. Most recently was a notice on the influx of mosquitos (due to the heavy rains). Other upcoming topics could include rain barrels and rain gardens.

XIII. Grants Update – Lisa / Dan

Chairperson Lambros and Director Tabb noted that Riverside had recently applied for a grant of native seeds. If granted, they will be used in Swan Pond. Director Tabb to let the group know if/when the seeds will arrive.

XVII. Chairperson’s Report - None

Chairperson Lambros had nothing to report.

XVIII. Forester’s Report

Forester Collins reported to the group that there was a FLOS workday in Scottswood Commons last week with others to follow this summer. He happily reported to the group that he recently met with the ILM research group and reported that the invasive species (Reed Canary Grass) in Swan Pond were thinning out from prior years and there seemed to be much overall improvement in Swan Pond, with no endangered species noted, very positive news. The ILM research consultant called Swan Pond a “high quality restoration area”. Forester Collins is planning another fall burn followed by planting native seeds in winter/spring and will treat the area two more times this season.

OTHER BUSINESS

XIX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th, 2023.

Motion to approve meeting adjournment made by Commissioner Wilkins. Seconded by Commissioner Rubin.

AYES: Lambros, Rubin, Tarverdi, Jakubas and Wilkens.

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

Minutes Taken By: Linda Sanduski