



VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, 7:07 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission (LAC) was held in person on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 in the Village of Riverside Township Hall, Room 22, Riverside, IL 60546. Chairperson Lambros called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Lambros, Commissioners Rubin, Wilkens, Jakubas, Tarverdi, Barker and Barrs.
Also present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins and Management Intern Sanduski.

III. Consider Approval of August 8th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the August 8th, 2023 regular meeting minutes was made with one minor edit by Commissioner Rubin. Seconded by Commissioner Barker. The motion was passed.

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

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment, per Director Tabb.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Review and Discuss any New Ideas for the 2024 LAC Budget

Chairperson Lambros reviewed with the group the 2023 LAC budget and the actual amount spent to date. The 2023 LAC budget was \$6,170 and was the highest LAC budget ever. Director Tabb told the group that \$1,200 remained in this year's 2023 budget to still be allocated for this year. Commissioner Jakubas suggested the possibility of purchasing seeds to be used in Swan Pond or another worthy area to re-introduce native species. The group discussed the idea and decided to use the money to purchase Upland

Prairie Seeds to be used this fall during the upcoming FLOS workday on November 4th during which the FLOS group will be working with volunteer residents to clean up invasive species along the east riverbank on Riverside Road east of the Police Station. A motion was made to reallocate the funds that remain in the 2023 budget to using the money for native seeds to be used on Riverside public land during the fall FLOS event. Commissioner Tarverdi made the motion. Commissioner Wilkens seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

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

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

Regarding the LAC 2024 budget, Chairperson Lambros opened up the topic for discussion with the Commissioners. After much discussion, the group decided to increase the 2024 budget slightly to \$6,930 to account for inflation and the various 2024 projected tasks the Commission hopes to target. Chairperson Lambros also shared with the group a long list of accomplishments during 2023, which she hopes to share with the Board of Trustees. A motion was made to set the 2024 budget at \$6,930 by Commissioner Barker and seconded by Commissioner Rubin. The motion was carried.

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

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

VI. Disc Golf Discussion

Chairperson Lambros shared with the group that Riverside's Parks and Recreation Department had set up stakes near Scout Cabin and Indian Gardens where the potential disc golf course baskets would be placed, a topic that had been presented during the LAC's most recent August 8th meeting and also shared with Riverside residents this past summer. The Commissioners shared their thoughts about the design and scope of the proposed course. After much discussion, a motion was made to recommend that a total of nine-disc golf baskets be located on the east side of the driveway leading into Indian Gardens with the land at Scout Cabin having no permanent installation of sports equipment. This motion was made by Commissioner Wilkens and seconded by Commissioner Tarverdi. The motion was passed.

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

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

VII. LAC & FLOS T18 Workday August 19th - Recap

Chairperson Lambros reported that the most recent Village workday was held on August 19th at the Akenside/Longcommon triangle, T18, and was hosted and attended by the LAC and FLOS groups. It was huge success, per Lambros.

VIII. C4 – Update – Lisa & Aberdeen

In Trustee Marsh-Ozga's absence, Chairperson Lambros gave the group an update regarding recent progress made with the Village's C4 Committee. The group met on September 11 during which Chicago Wilderness made a presentation on rainfall, drought and other effects of climate change. The Living Infrastructure sub-group of C4 will be meeting on September 27. Further, Lambros reminded the group that the C4 and LAC will together be hosting the Village community table at the Farmer's Market this week.

IX. Master Landscape Plan

Triangles – Spreadsheet Update – David B

Commissioner Barker reported to the group that he and former Commissioner Plunket had recently visited three Riverside public parks, including Patriots Park, Blythe Park and Harrington Park. He reported to the group his dissatisfaction with each of the three areas as well as the inaccuracy of each of the park's depiction on the Village's tree-viewer app – versus the actual trees located on each site. He told the group that the west end of Patriots Park was overgrown with many invasive species of larger bushes, as well as poisonous species (Pokeweed) that young children might find interesting because of their berries, but with possible harmful effects if ingested. The east end of Patriots Park, per Barker, was also unkempt. Blythe Park, Barker continued, also has many unkempt invasive species, including Buckthorn, Pokeweed and Honeysuckle and is in desperate need of major pruning. Commissioner Barker told the group that Harrington Park, the third site he visited, had a 50-foot tall Tree of Heaven that needed to be removed, as well as another 50-foot dead tree that also needed removal. The area also had several smaller Trees of Heaven, lots of scrappy trees needing to be pruned or removed, and several invasive species of Buckthorn, Giant Ragweed and Deadly Nightshade that needed removal. Commissioner Barker summed up his assessment of these three parks as "in desperate need of clean up." Director Tabb explained to the group that all maintenance of public land, parks and triangles is the responsibility of Riverside's Public Works department, but that he must also adhere within his budget. Tabb explained further that the Village hires outside contractors when needed to help with maintenance to assist his staff. He added that he doesn't have enough resources to maintain all parks at 100 percent satisfaction level, but that his staff maintains the public spaces on a rotational basis throughout the calendar year, which includes cutting the grass and trimming the trees in each public area. Other maintenance duties include trimming the grass around playgrounds, bleachers, fence lines, and other details which all require labor hours. Forester Collins further told the group that he, too, had noticed more overgrowth of invasive species in public spaces within the Village due to the Board of Trustee's decision to no longer use herbicides (ie. RoundUp), which had become socially controversial, but did help to control the weeds and invasive species. Chairperson Lambros suggested that each of the Commissioners visit the three parks named by Commissioner Barker by the next LAC meeting and report back their findings so that the LAC could decide next steps, if appropriate.

X. Outreach and Education

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

Commissioner Barrs reported that the LAC's invasive trade-in program would soon be wrapping up for the fall season. The group agreed that any remaining unclaimed trees would be planted in Riverside's public triangles for all residents to enjoy.

XI. Marketing

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

Director Tabb informed the commission that Amy Downing, Village Communications Specialist, had retired and that Ethan Sowl, Village Clerk, would be the group's new point of contact for marketing. LAC Commissioners offered various ideas for upcoming e-flash notices, including articles on native plants, setback/right-of-way policies, best practices for fall leaves, turning off lights to aid bird migration, and a note to residents who might be interested in becoming stewards of their neighborhood triangles.

XII. Grants Update – Lisa & Dan

There was nothing to report.

XIII. Chairperson's Report - Lisa

Chairperson Lambros reported to the group that Boy Scout Evan McMullen, who presented to the LAC on July 11th, completed his project of cleaning out the invasive Buckthorn bushes at T-58, located on the Selborne/Northgate/Uvedale triangle. Residents around the triangle were very pleased.

XIV. Forester's Report

Forester Collins reported to the group that the most recent FLOS workdays were held in Patriots Park as well as at T-18 on the Akenside/Michaux triangle. He told the group that he had recently mowed at Swan Pond to control the weeds. He also told the group of Commissioners that he was planning on honoring the passing of Riverside resident and committed volunteer Carolyn Huson on October 7th at the Longcommon area, which was her favorite public area in Riverside and a place that she tirelessly weeded. She passed away on August 18th. There was a motion made for the LAC to honor Carolyn Huson's contribution to the Village and to use her final monetary contribution to replace trees on the Longcommon. The motion was made by Commissioner Barker and seconded by Chairperson Lambros.

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

ABSTAIN: None

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m. The next LAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th, 2023.

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

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

NAYES: None

Motion carried.

Minutes Taken By: Linda Sanduski