BARRINGTON
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Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2020
Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street
Community Conference Room

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee of the Barrington Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Sinnott at 6:02 p.m. on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street, Barrington, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Upon roll being called the following answered present: Jennifer Lucas, Janet Agnoletti, Susan Lenz, Vice-Chairperson Dan Goitein, and Chairperson Faye Sinnott. Renee Blue and Matt Hokanson were absent.

Also in attendance were: Erin Shechtman, Grace Comerford, and Angela Maroulis.
Village Staff: Karen Darch, Scott Anderson, and Jeremie Lukowicz

III. Minutes

Minutes were distributed to the Committee to review.

Motion: A motion was duly made by Commissioner Lucas and seconded by Commissioner Lenz to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2019 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

A voice vote was then called and unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comment

Erin Shechtman stated that she and Grace Comerford have interest in expanding the use of the areas around Bakers Lake. Grace said she tried walking through the area and during rain events it was difficult to walk through the area. When she was in eighth grade she applied for a grant to try and improve the area that is Bakers Lake Hill (also known as the camp site) and include some educational areas. Unfortunately, she here idea did not receive funding. The area is one of a very few areas that is still a natural areas. Angela Maroulis stated she believes that the area could be improved easily with only minor changes. Grace distributed a flyer for the savannah (the flyer is attached).

V. Discussion Re: Current Recycling Items

This item was delayed until Commissioner Blue could attend.

VI. Discussion Re: Bakers Lake Walking Path

Mr. Lukowicz gave background of ownership and control of the publicly held land around Bakers Lake. The Village of Barrington, Citizens for Conservation, Illinois Nature Preserves, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and Barrington Park District all have some form of say in various pieces of

land around the Bakers Lake. Chairperson Sinnott stated that Cook County and as branch of Cook County the Forest Preserve are focused on the southeast side of their territory and the Barrington area is not the highest priority. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Lenz asked if existing trail maintenance would be an easier process than new trials due to potential legal issues and asked how Ms. Shechtman, Miss Comerford, and the Village envisioned the EAC assisting with the trail. Mr. Lukowicz state that the hope was that this group would have the expertise to assist with the potential red tape associated with so many different entities. Especially as it pertained to natural areas. More discussion ensued. Miss Comerford said she hoped that the educational portions of the project could raise awareness for the area and get more people interested. By improving the existing viewing platform and potentially adding seating this could be accomplished. Commissioner Agnoletti asked if the Village could assist in obtaining any covenants and provide them to the EAC. Mr. Lukowicz would provide what the Village is able to obtain. Discussion ensued about the concerns of any improvements to the area. It was stated that there are three main concerns: funding, staff time, and maintenance of the facilities. Chairperson Sinnott stated that the Friends of the Forest Preserve may be able to assist with maintenance.

Motion: A motion was duly made by Vice-Chairperson Goitein and seconded by Commissioner Agnoletti that the committee would assist interested residents and Village personnel in exploring feasibility and restrictions associated with improvement and maintenance of the Bakers Lake walking path and educational area.

Voice Vote: A voice vote was then called and unanimously approved.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Lukowicz stated that on March 18th, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Village Hall there will be a Comprehensive Plan meeting focused on environmental concerns Village residents and business might have. The Village has already had several meetings focused on individual neighborhoods and all meetings are open to all to attend. Following the completion of all meetings Village Staff will take all the comments and formulate them into a document for the Plan Commission to consider. Once the Plan Commission approves the Plan it will be sent to the Board for consideration. The final approved plan will then be used to guide the Village over the next 10 years. Commissioner Lucas requested if the EAC could review the environmental concerns before they are finalized in the Plan and it was agreed that the EAC could do that.

Mr. Lukowicz also stated that the 2020 Lake County Environmental Summit is April 17th. Everyone is open to attend and the event is from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Registration for the event is not available yet but there is a save the date.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was duly made by Commissioner Agnoletti and seconded by Commissioner Lenz to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

A voice vote was then called following which Chairperson Sinnott declared the motion to adjourn had been unanimously adopted and the meeting was adjourned. The time was 7:27 p.m.

Burr Oak Savannah

First Step In The Baker's Lake Project

Two simple steps to engage community in the project:

1. Widen the existing pathway on the hill. Currently, there is a river-like path and the goal is to free it from water overflows.

2. Create a learning area, complete with benches made from spare wood. This will serve as a place for kids to learn about our unique local environment and global climate change, as well as a viewing area.

Significance of the Burr Oak Savannah:

The Burr Oak Savannah was once a popular sledding hill destination, but has recently been neglected by the community. With this new plan, the lake will become the jewel of Barrington conservation and gather support for other conservation efforts in the community.