

VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING

October 3, 2018
7:00 P.M.
Village Hall Board Room
40 East Center Avenue

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

The Village of Lake Bluff Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC) met on October 3, 2018 in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Avenue) at 7:03 p.m. and the following members were present:

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Marina Carney Puryear, Co-Chair
Sophie Twichell
Nan Patterson
Emma Johnson

Absent: Brian Rener, Co-Chair
Leslie Bishop
Anne Sorensen

Also Present: Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator (AVA)
John Scopelliti, Administrative Intern (AI)
Jake Terlap, Public Works Superintendent (PWS)
Bob Hertel, Village Arborist (VA)
Larry McCotter, President of Lake Bluff Open Lands
Bill Nordeen, Member of Lake Bluff Open Lands
Marietta Hance, Lake Bluff Garden Club
Rob Douglass
Jodi Mariano, Principal Urban Designer at Teska Associates
Cliff Miller

3. **Non-Agenda Items and Visitors**

Co-Chair Puryear stated that the SEC allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the SEC on any matter not listed on the agenda.

There were no requests to address the SEC for items not on the agenda.

4. **Order of the Meeting**

The Co-Chairs will entertain requests from anyone present on the order of business to be conducted during the Meeting.

There was no request to change the order of the meeting.

5. General Business

a) Stakeholder Workshop for Corridor Beautification Study

Jodi Mariano explained the goal and outcomes of this meeting and the goals of this plan. Jodi started explaining the Landscape Identity and Character Map that showed a high-level view of what we must work with for this project. She stated that she worked with LCDOT and the Village of Lake Bluff to create the parcel map. Jodi explained a zoomed in map of the Route 176 corridor to show the types of landscape patterns that exist currently along Route 176. She explained that this is important to know what is beyond the roadway and what needs to be removed and what is kept.

Co-Chair Puryear asked a question towards what the parcel trust map is. Jodi explained that it deals with someone's property.

Jodi Mariano explained a graph highlighting Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Lake County Department of Transportation (LCDOT) which explained their stakeholder initiatives/projects they are currently working on/going to work on in the future. She stated the requirements that need to be present from these two organizations for this project to occur.

Jodi explained a chart that stated what LBOLA has to offer along with Lake Bluff Garden Club, Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee, and Lake Bluff Public Works.

Marietta Hance stated that she was curious if Kinnucan had pulled the permits yet for the project at Washington Park. AVA Cole stated that this was a two-phase project.

Jodi Mariano explained a chart that showed the consensus from the first meeting, specifically the strategies and landscape typologies to be addressed in the playbook. Jodi explained an aerial map of the opportunities for Route 176 enhancements. Jodi explained a map called the Route 176 Corridor representing existing trees.

Larry McCotter asked Jodi how she was defining the right of way and if it was from the centerline of the road. Jodi stated that she was using the center of the roadway.

Member Twichell asked why there will be large amounts of lawn instead of native prairies.

Cliff Miller stated the ease of maintenance along with the areas and avenues that we carry the lawn from the golf course. He stated that the idea of islands and organic features are the goals from this concept.

Bill Nordeen stated that he had a question about what kind of grass it would be, he was curious about if blue grass is a possible option. He stated that he likes the idea if it is native plantings and low grass, not a lawn.

Rob Douglass stated that he was curious if we are going to be getting more definite decisions towards these views. Rob explained the 3 layers, lawn, prairie, and tree.

Cliff Miller talked about what the grass could possibly be and how much land it will take up.

Co-Chair Puryear stated she would prefer the word low-grass instead of lawn.

Jodi Mariano stated that you still want this area to be low since the normal person's view from their car is at 3.5 feet. Jodi introduced guard rail fence to the group and she knew Public Works would not be in favor of this.

PWS Terlap stated that he does not support this plan due to the amount of maintenance and time that would be dedicated to this. PWS Terlap stated that he spends 300 hours a month with cutting lawn during the summer.

Cliff Miller stated that he understands the public works point of view and that the fences would be located within the islands, so it wouldn't be an area that they truly have to maintain besides cutting the grass around the islands. Cliff stated that the use of natives would be very important in these islands. A brief discussion commenced.

Jodi Mariano stated that we all should move the conversation to the Route 176/Green Bay Road intersection which would contain many drifts in the proposed plans.

Bill Nordeen asked a question as to the cost of how much money it would take to complete a project like this.

Cliff Miller stated that we have not conducted a price cost yet and that this is the next step moving forward.

Jodi Mariano stated that this is something that has been talked about internally but also something that needs to be discussed here in this group.

Bill Nordeen asked a question about the length of this project. He stated that he was curious if Jodi and Cliff believed this project would take approximately 5-10 years to complete.

Cliff Miller stated that this is the next step and we don't know the price or duration of time yet.

Rob Douglass stated that he was curious about the continuation of the buckthorn ratification to see what we have here and what we must work with.

Cliff Miller stated that he agreed with Rob's comments and then explained a similar situation that happened with Sunset Park. A brief discussion commenced.

Bill Nordeen stated that the first step in this process is buckthorn ratification.

Jodi Mariano stated that buckthorn ratification is the first step of this process and that you have been doing that already.

Larry McCotter explained the history behind the proposed LBOLA project for this corridor that was approved and recommended by this commission. A brief discussion commenced.

Cliff Miller stated that he understood what happened with LBOLA's proposed project for

this corridor.

Cliff Miller stated that he had a question about buckthorn and other invasive species and if those items should be included with the ratification of buckthorn. He emphasized the importance of nurse trees. Cliff Miller explained a sketch that he created for a view of Route 176 and what was proposed looking west and showing the rail fence being located within the island areas.

Member Johnson stated she was curious about prairie grasses and the location they would be in the islands or even around the islands.

Cliff Miller stated that this needs to have a different look and texture. He explained the development of the bike path project that went under green bay road.

VA Hertel and PWS Terlap explained the “moonwalk” scape that is super hard to plant on the south side of Route 176.

Cliff Miller stated that the issue was a lack of appropriate trees and care for those trees before the time of PWS Terlap and VA Hertel. Cliff Miller expressed how important it is to care for trees within the first 2-3 of its growth otherwise it will not succeed.

Jodi Mariano explained a list of plant characteristics and plant lists we will be considering for this corridor study. She explained that the plant list consists of trees, forests, scrub woodland, tree lawn, prairie, and wetland.

Jodi Mariano introduced the Landscape Playbook Outline, which consisted of the following items: 1) Introduction and Purpose of the Playbook; 2) Context: Village Wide Landscape Identity; 3) Process and Stakeholder Coordination; 4) Best Practices to Preserve and Promote Existing Landscape Patters; 5) New Landscape Typologies; and 6) Implementation.

Cliff Miller and Jodi Mariano asked the present stakeholders to partake in an ‘implementation discussion’ as the final exercise in this workshop. Cliff and Jodi explained that they wanted to hear everyone’s thoughts on the following question, “Which plan elements provide the most value to the corridor?”.

Cliff Miller started off by stating that there really isn’t one and it is more the removal of a value; i.e. buckthorn.

Member Johnson asked if there was a time commitment to the removal of buckthorn.

Bill Nordeen stated that LBOLA would have to figure out a dollar figure, but he believes they could start this removal in January.

Marietta Hance asked about using the resources available from the Village of Lake Bluff.

Larry McCotter stated that LBOLA was already receiving resources and effort from the Village of Lake Bluff. He stated that he believes the Village needs to show more effort in promoting the removal of buckthorn.

Marietta Hance stated that she was curious about the continued engagement to these local

resources, such Mariani Landscape and Kinnucan Tree Experts and Landscape Company.

Bill Nordeen stated that we need to emphasize this as a community project because it would show a great example of what this community is all about.

Rob Douglass expressed that this is village land and that Jodi and Cliff will essentially need to sell this to the village board.

Marietta Hance promoted Washington Park as being an example as to what we want to do.

Rob Douglass stated that he is curious as to the process for these types of plans.

AVA Cole explained the process that these plans need to be viewed and recommended by an advisory board then the Village Board needs to approve it in the means of a resolution.

Rob Douglass asked a question regarding the taxing bodies and if there is a possibility for grants money for this project.

Jodi Mariano stated that she has worked with corridor plans and has the experience just like Cliff Miller. She stated that there is an opportunity for grant money to be applied for due to the volunteer commitment from many stakeholders.

Marietta Hance stated that the education piece needs to be emphasized in the playbook because residents need to know that there are alternative uses for screening, so they can get rid of buckthorn.

Member Twichell stated that she wants this committee to take on this movement and support it and educate our community about this movement. She stated that we need to promote resiliency and climate change.

Co-Chair Puryear stated that two areas of high importance for this committee is the removal of buckthorn and the promotion of this movement through our corridor plan.

Marietta Hance promoted that before and after pictures speak a million words, along with promoting the work that is being done via a website or social media.

Jodi Mariano and Bill Nordeen started drawing the areas of buckthorn removal that has already occurred. A brief discussion commenced.

Bill Nordeen stated that they believe they can begin removing buckthorn by January 1, 2019.

Cliff Miller expressed the idea of clearing out an area to show residents what can be done and the potential opportunity that sits at this corridor.

Jodi Mariano stated that we can draft a letter to the residents from all the stakeholders to explain the project in detail.

Rob Douglass stated that he believes the Lake Bluff Park District Board would be supportive of this project.

Co-Chair Puryear mentioned the possibly of the inclusion of Lake Forest High School too for this proposed letter by Jodi and Cliff.

Marietta Hance stated that we need to emphasis how we are addressing stormwater management through this plan.

PWS Terlap stated that he was curious about the three years of maintenance and who is going to take care of that. A brief discussion commenced.

Jodi explained the next steps in this process and stated that we need to package this report and then this will be sent to the Village staff for review. She stated that we have a 3rd workshop set up for November possibly and that she believes that we will have a plan together by the end of the year so that way we can start implementing this plan January 1, 2019.

Rob Douglass stated that this needs to be considered a “living document”. He stated that this document should be connected to the Village of Lake Bluff Strategic Plan. A brief discussion commenced.

6. Village Staff Report

AVA Cole explained meeting dates to the SEC and recommended to move our October 31 SEC meeting to October 24. He stated that he wanted to know if this would work for anyone. AVA Cole stated that staff would circulate a date for the October meeting.

Member Twichell asked if we have a list of all the normal SEC Meeting dates. AVA Cole stated that we do and that he will send it to her.

AVA Cole expressed that Co-Chair Rener asked if the move of dates is a possibility for our normal meeting dates from Wednesdays to another day during the week. AVA Cole expressed to the committee to think about days that would work with their schedules.

AVA Cole recommended that everyone look at the most previous draft of the sustainability plan because we will have a Dark Sky speaker at our next meeting.

Member Patterson asked if some of the garbage/recycle cans can be moved as they are present right next to two benches on both sides of the Village Green. AVA Cole stated that he will notify the appropriate people.

7. Member’s Report

There was no Member’s Report.

8. Co-Chair’s Report

There was no Co-Chair’s Report.

9. Adjournment

As no further business came before the SEC, Member Twichell moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Member Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Scopelliti
Administrative Intern