

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
DEER MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee was held on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, Annette Madden, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Ingid Liu, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur

Absent: John Flynn

Also Present: Village President Cathy Adduci, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

2. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Lemar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hollenbach to allow electronic participation.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, Annette Madden, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Ingid Liu, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur

Absent: John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Cargie read public comment submitted via email by Lena Georgiev, 441 Lathrop, into the record. She noted her opposition to spending money on culling during this time and commented that there are not so many deer that culling is necessary. She further stated that people going into the woods and being infected by ticks is not the fault of the deer.

President Adduci thanked the committee members for being here tonight. She assured them that this is still an important issue for the Village Board and the community, noting her appreciation for their help thinking through this issue. She stated she hoped everyone's families are safe and well during these unprecedented times. *President Adduci left the meeting.*

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Gillard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes, to approve the February 26, 2020 meeting minutes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, Annette Madden, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Ingid Liu, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur

Absent: John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of appropriate questions for the community questionnaire on deer

Chairperson Cargie began discussing the community survey. He stated the Committee's packet includes sample surveys from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. He asked that everyone review the materials and that the goal of the next meeting would be to determine what the survey would look like and which questions to include. He stated that Ms. Phyfer will distribute to the Committee members the Humane Society survey that Ms. Liu referred to. Chairperson Cargie also stated that after the survey is created, the Committee will have to discuss to best ways to distribute it and getting as much input as possible from the community.

In response to a question from Ms. Armstrong, Chairperson Cargie suggested selecting a survey to use as a baseline to work off of and then crafting the language and questions that everyone agrees to.

The Committee discussed what the focus of the survey should be, including concerns about identifying what conflicts people are experiencing and whether certain surveys were leading.

In response to a question from Ms. Christmas about data, Chairperson Cargie clarified that the survey is an information gathering tool and not just to answer the question of do we or do we not cull. He stated that the data will make that decision. He stated he would like to develop an incident report for people to fill out on the Village website.

The Committee came to a consensus to vote on a baseline survey at the next meeting.

- b. Creation of subcommittees: (1) to discuss and present viable effective alternatives to culling; and (2) develop a strategy on communicating with the community regarding deer management

Chairperson Cargie suggested three subcommittees: survey, communication, viable alternatives to culling.

Ms. Mizgala suggested a multidisciplinary approach and focusing on having a deer management program rather than just focusing on the question of culling or not culling.

In response to a question from Mr. Roeger, Chairperson Cargie stated his thought is to not have the subcommittees wait for survey results, but rather to begin examining what can be done, rather than what should be done. He assured that the subcommittees can further consider their recommendations after the survey is complete.

Chairperson Cargie asked Mr. Lueking about his experience with deer management programs. Mr. Lueking stated he is part of a program in Wisconsin, and he emphasized the importance of using the survey to see where the community aligns on this issue and to research all options on deer management. He explained that deer control follows ecological recommendations and suggested considering a multidisciplinary approach.

The Committee discussed the various subcommittees and the members volunteered for the subcommittees as follows:

Multidisciplinary Subcommittee: Marta Kozbur, Dawn Mizgala, Ron Lemar, Joel Lueking.

Survey Subcommittee: Julie Armstrong, Laurie Gillard, Cathleen Hughes, Katharine Christmas.

Communication Subcommittee: Ingrid Liu, John Roeger, Annette Madden, Dan Hollenbach.

The Committee members discussed how to collect more data and whether it was too soon to be researching options prior to getting the results of the survey.

Ms. Hughes stated they needed to acknowledge they have lost time already and cautioned that researching management options will take time. She stated researching these options does not mean they will be implemented if the survey does not dictate that. Chairperson Cargie concurred.

Chairperson Cargie stated he would like the Communication Subcommittee to develop a deer incident report/deer encounter form for the Village website, which would be for residents to fill out. He stated this can be another form of data in addition to the incidents reported to dispatch.

In response to a question from Mr. Hollenbach, Chairperson Cargie stated that once the survey and plan have been created, the Committee can request input from the Forest Preserves and Tim Preuss at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The Committee briefly discussed involving these agencies with formulating plans and considering communication options.

- c. Discussion of any other subcommittee the committee considers necessary or appropriate

Ms. Kozbur asked whether there should be a research subcommittee. Chairperson Cargie stated that the Village gathers the accident information, and it was suggested that this could be consolidated into the communication subcommittee.

6. NEXT MEETING

The Committee came to a consensus to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson Cargie reiterated that the goal of the next meeting is to decide on the baseline format for the survey.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Ms. Liu to adjourn the Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, Annette Madden, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Ingid Liu, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur

Absent: John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary