

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
DEER MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7:05 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 7:05 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: Annette Madden, Ingrid Liu

Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

2. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

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

Roll call:

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

Absent: Annette Madden, Ingrid Liu

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lena Georgiev, 441 Lathrop. Ms. Georgiev asked questions about survey controls and ensuring a representative sample is achieved. She also asked what type of additional research will be done and how deer counts will be factored into the Village's decisions.

Ms. Armstrong noted that the Survey Subcommittee had thoughtful discussions about the direction of the survey, including proposing a suggested set of questions, for the Committee to consider in its next steps.

Chairperson Cargie briefly discussed the Open Meetings Act requirements. He asked that the members send materials meant for the entire Committee to Ms. Phyfer for distribution.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Flynn made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kozbur, to approve the April 30, 2020 meeting minutes.

Chairperson Cargie clarified that Tim Preuss from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is a resource available to anyone who would like to speak with him at any point in this process, and that he can share Mr. Preuss' contact information with anyone who would like to reach out to him.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Annette Madden, Ingrid Liu

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

5. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

Ms. Armstrong summarized the work completed by the Survey Subcommittee, which included suggested questions.

In response to a question from Ms. Hughes about the Forest Preserves' role in deer management, Chairperson Cargie stated that the Forest Preserves does not have the funds for a deer management program in River Forest.

In response to a comment from Ms. Gillard, Chairperson Cargie assured that they are a willing partner in this process, but he reiterated the Forest Preserves' spending priorities are elsewhere and that the Village does not have any legal recourse. He noted that the Village President and Village Administrator have had several discussions with Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri.

In response to a follow up question from Ms. Christmas, Chairperson Cargie explained that the Forest Preserves does not complete herd counts but does monitor and assess habitat degradation due to deer.

In response to a comment from Ms. Kozbur, Chairperson Cargie stated that it is the Forest Preserve's opinion that the habitat in River Forest is sufficiently damaged to warrant culling.

Chairperson Cargie spoke to the Subcommittee's idea of hiring an independent survey consultant but noted the costs associated with doing that. He suggested using Survey Monkey as a low cost option.

The Committee members briefly discussed implementation options and types of questions to include. The members also discussed the next steps in this process, including when to bring Tim Preuss into the discussion.

Ms. Hughes and Ms. Armstrong reiterated that the work their subcommittee completed is unbiased and represents all views.

Chairperson Cargie asked the Multidisciplinary Subcommittee and Communication Subcommittee to meet and discuss ideas prior to the next meeting. He noted one important issue for this Committee is to ensure the survey results represent an adequate cross-section of the community and not just those with an agenda.

In response to a question from Ms. Armstrong about survey timing, Chairperson Cargie stated he is hoping to get the survey out in June, which would give the Committee enough time to collate responses and make its recommendation in September.

Mr. Lueking shared four areas as ideas for the Multidisciplinary Subcommittee to discuss: habitat modification, repellent, exclusion (fencing), and removal or relocation of deer. He noted his experience with deer management programs in Wisconsin, and he stated he believed the June timeline is realistic and that the Survey Subcommittee's preliminary work covers a lot of the issues discussed so far.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Continued Discussion and Vote on Baseline Questionnaire

The Committee members discussed the use of the Humane Society survey as the baseline for the River Forest survey.

Mr. Flynn commented about protecting people's properties from damage. He also raised the question of the potential for differing responses for individuals living in single-family and multi-family properties. Ms. Hughes stated it would be worthwhile to include a question to that effect.

Several members expressed concerns about utilizing the Humane Society survey, noting that it appears biased. Chairperson Cargie clarified that right now, they are just determining the format for the Village's survey. He also noted that Ms. Madden, who was absent, favored using the Humane Society survey as the baseline survey.

The Committee members continued discussing whether the Humane Society survey was too biased, but the members came to a consensus that they would move forward with its format and write their own questions, unique to the information the Committee is seeking to best represent the views and issues of the community.

Ms. Kozbur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lemar to use the Survey Subcommittee's proposed survey as a baseline for discussion.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur, John Flynn
Absent: Annette Madden, Ingrid Liu
Nays: None
Motion Passes.

7. NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Cargie stated that the goal of the next meeting will be to discuss critiques of and suggestions to the materials presented by the Survey Subcommittee and ideally arrive at a final product of the survey.

The Committee members discussed how to convey these comments in an efficient manner. The members came to a consensus to send all comments about the Subcommittee's work product to Ms. Christmas by Tuesday, May 19 at 5 p.m. The Survey Subcommittee will collate the responses.

The Committee members came to a consensus to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lueking made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roeger to adjourn the Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur, John Flynn
Absent: Annette Madden, Ingrid Liu
Nays: None

Sara Phyfer, Secretary