

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
DEER MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, June 2, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:30 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 7:35 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, Katharine Christmas, John Roeger, Cathleen Hughes, Dan Hollenbach (joined meeting at 8:17), Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong (left the meeting at 9:00), Dawn Mizgala, Ronald Lemar, Marta Kozbur, Ingrid Liu

Absent: John Flynn, Annette Madden

Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

**2. APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION**

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

Roll call:

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

Absent: Dan Hollenbach, John Flynn, Annette Madden

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Frank Vanker, 1234 Monroe. Mr. Vanker emphasized the importance of the Committee acting on complete and accurate information, and he expressed concern about work that he stated has not been completed by the Cook County Forest Preserves. Additionally, he asserted that culling is not supported by ecological concerns. He stated he is troubled that the Committee seems disinterested with meeting with Tim Preuss of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and encouraged the Committee to meet with him. He expressed concern about questions 8 and 10 on the proposed questionnaire.

Lena Georgiev, 441 Lathrop. Ms. Georgiev concurred with the previous speaker's comments. She expressed concern about the deer population count in River Forest and how that aligned with a typical number of deer per square foot. She also asked how the Committee members were selected because she stated it seemed that some members were not impartial to the question of deer culling.

Chairperson Cargie read into the record comments submitted by Steve MacGregor, 1228 Franklin. Mr. MacGregor expressed frustration that deer have eaten landscaping despite his fencing and noted that a deer once died in his backyard. He stated his opinion that the deer should be culled and encouraged the Committee to study chronic wasting disease.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Roeger made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gillard, to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Dan Hollenbach, John Flynn, Annette Madden

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

#### **5. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

Management Analyst Phyfer reported on the means of communication available to the Committee. She stated these options include social media, the Village's E-Newsletter, robocalls, the Village website, water bill flyers, postcards to every address, Village messaging boards and asking other taxing bodies to make the information available. She noted that the flyer would need to be ready by June 19 in order to be included in the next round of water bills.

In response to a question from Ms. Liu, Ms. Phyfer stated there is no cost to use the Village messaging boards.

In response to a question from Ms. Christmas, Ms. Phyfer stated some email addresses are associated with home addresses, but that not all are.

Mr. Roeger reported that the Communication Subcommittee met last week to discuss these option and stated they also considered a newspaper ad in the Wednesday Journal.

Mr. Lueking reported that the Multidisciplinary Subcommittee discussed four areas to consider building upon to address deer concerns: habitat modification, repellent, exclusion (fencing), deer removal permits with the IDNR.

Ms. Mizgala suggested that the language from the IDNR website that the Subcommittee discussed should be incorporated into the survey.

Mr. Lueking recommended that the Subcommittee would use the website as a tool to construct recommendations based on the survey results.

Several Committee members concurred with this approach.

Chairperson Cargie thanked the Subcommittees for meeting. He reminded the Committee that a report and recommendation is due to the Village Board of Trustees by September 30, 2020.

Ms. Christmas summarized the work completed by the Survey Subcommittee. She noted that most of the Committee members submitted comments and explained that the questions incorporated these comments, emphasizing the Subcommittee made every effort to make the questions as neutral as possible.

In response to a question about the cost of culling, Chairperson Cargie stated that the cost is up to \$40,000 for up to 50 deer, with a one-year renewable contract for a term of 5 years. He explained that it is a variable cost determined by number of deer culled. He noted that the number of deer is within the discretion of the IDNR based on the permit application.

The Committee members discussed the merits of including this information on the survey. Trustee Cargie expressed concern about sharing this cost but not the cost of other methods of deer management.

The Committee members reached a consensus to ask Tim Preuss to attend a Committee meeting to provide his expertise.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Continued Discussion and Consideration for Approval of the River Forest Deer Questionnaire

The Committee reviewed the proposed questionnaire.

The Committee members discussed Question 1 and came to a consensus to require respondents to provide their address but not to limit the responses to one per household.

The Committee members discussed the tone of Question 2 and whether it was biased, as well as whether it should include a reference to public health. The Committee opted to finalize this question at its next meeting.

No Committee members raised concerns about Question 3.

Trustee Cargie suggested Mr. Roeger submit his suggestions about Question 4 to the Survey Subcommittee to address his concerns about public health.

In discussing Question 5, the Committee reached a consensus to move "Lyme disease/tick-borne infections" up in the list of responses and to rank the responses instead of having a 1-5 scale. Ms. Mizgala suggested listing the responses in the same order for Question 4.

Chairperson Cargie suggested adding to Question 6 “if you have not taken any action, skip to Question 8.” No other Committee members raised concerns about Question 6.

In discussing Question 7, Committee members suggested defining or providing examples of the actions to clarify their meaning for respondents.

The Committee members discussed whether Question 8 was biased. Trustee Cargie suggested Ms. Mizgala submit her suggestions about the wording of Question 8 to the Survey Committee based on the IDNR language. The Committee opted to finalize this question at its next meeting.

In response to a question from Ms. Christmas, Chairperson Cargie clarified that part of the cost of the culling program includes the requirement of preparing the meat for food pantry donations. Several Committee members suggested adding the link to the IDNR presentation from last June to the survey.

Regarding Question 9, Chairperson Cargie stated Mr. Preuss can be made available and the Committee would need authorization from the Village Board of Trustees in order to hire someone. The Committee reached a consensus to remove this question.

The Committee reached a consensus to finalize Question 10 at its next meeting.

No Committee members raised concerns about Question 11.

Chairperson Cargie responded to the open questions, stating that: the Communication Subcommittee will determine how to advertise the survey; responses should include an address but will not be limited per household (per Committee consensus); the questionnaire can be primarily electronic but that paper copies should be made available; deer meat can be donated; and Mr. Preuss will be invited to the next meeting.

Chairperson Cargie emphasized that the questionnaire should be completed prior to the next water bill mailing (no later than June 19).

Mr. Lueking suggested adding a question about the frequency with which residents see deer in the Village. Chairperson Cargie suggested adding it between Questions 2 and 3. No Committee member objected to this.

Chairperson Cargie reminded the Committee that all comments to the Survey Subcommittee will be included in the packet for the next meeting.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

The Committee members came to a consensus to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m., contingent on the availability of Tim Preuss of the IDNR.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Roeger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lemar to adjourn the Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: John Flynn, Annette Madden, Julie Armstrong

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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Sara Phyfer, Secretary