



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
DEER MANAGEMENT AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 – 7:30 PM
Village Hall – 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL 60305
Community Room

AGENDA

Physical attendance at this public meeting is limited to 10 individuals, with Committee members and staff having priority over members of the public. Public comments and any responses will be read into the public meeting record. You may submit your public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: Sara Phyfer at sphyfer@vrf.us. You may listen to the meeting by participating in a telephone conference call as follows, dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 885 6002 1352. If you would like to participate over the phone, please email sphyfer@vrf.us by 5:00 PM on June 8, 2020. **THAT SAID, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GOAL IS TO CONDUCT THE MEETING VIRTUALLY, SO ONLY COME TO VILLAGE HALL FOR THE MEETING IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of Electronic Participation
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
5. Reports from Subcommittees
6. Old Business
 - a. Continued Discussion and Consideration for Approval of the River Forest Deer Questionnaire
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

**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 7:00 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 7:05 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.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary

Village of River Forest Deer Questionnaire

Questionnaire Objective: The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather River Forest residents' point of view on the deer population and its impacts on the community. This questionnaire will help guide the RF Deer Committee on making recommendations to next steps and is for information gathering purposes only.

Add definition of culling to the survey. Include that the deer meat will be donated to food pantries.

- 1) Do you live in River Forest and are you at least 18 years of age? Yes or No.
 - If No, please do not complete the questionnaire.
 - If Yes, all River Forest residents ages 18 and older residing at your address are encouraged to answer the questionnaire.
- 2) What is your address?
- 3) How do you feel about deer?
 - a) I enjoy the presence of deer
 - b) I enjoy the presence of deer, BUT I am experiencing some conflicts
 - c) I do not enjoy the presence of deer and regard them as nuisances
 - d) Other: _____

Committee disagreed as to whether to change this question to following: a) I enjoy the presence of deer in the wild b) I enjoy the presence of deer on my property

- 4) In the past 24 months, have you seen deer **on your property**?
 - a) N/A, I live in an apartment/condo
 - b) Frequently (once a week or more), during ____ (winter/spring/summer/fall) season
 - c) Frequently (once a week or more), all year long
 - d) Occasionally (once a month or more), during ____ (winter/spring/summer/fall) season
 - e) Occasionally (once a month or more), all year long
 - f) Rarely (only a couple times a year)
 - g) NeverOn average, how many deer do you see on your property per occurrence? _____
- 5) In the past 24 months, have you seen deer within River Forest **outside of your property**?
 - a) Frequently (once a week or more), during ____ (winter/spring/summer/fall) season
 - b) Frequently (once a week or more), all year long
 - c) Occasionally (once a month or more), during ____ (winter/spring/summer/fall) season
 - d) Occasionally (once a month or more), all year long
 - e) Rarely (only a couple times a year)
 - f) Never
 - g) Please provide some detail regarding where in RF you've seen the deer, i.e. street intersection or park: _____

- 6) Are you experiencing any deer issues currently?
___ Yes ___ No
- 7) What deer-related issues are you experiencing/have you experienced since living in River Forest?
a) Lyme disease and tick borne infections
b) Deer-auto collision or near miss/dangerous distraction
c) Damage to vegetable gardens / flowers / lawn / shrubs /plants
d) Human-habituated "too tame" deer
e) Neighbor feeding deer and attracting them to my yard
f) Feces in yard
g) Other: _____
- 8) Please rank the below deer issues in order of importance to you, with 1 being the most important and 6 being the least important (or 7 if you listed something under "Other")
a) ___ Lyme disease and tick borne infections
b) ___ Deer-auto collision or near miss/dangerous distraction
c) ___ Damage to vegetable gardens / flowers / lawn / shrubs /plants
d) ___ Human-habituated "too tame" deer
e) ___ Neighbor feeding deer and attracting them to my yard
f) ___ Feces in yard
g) ___ Other: _____
- 9) Have you taken any actions to alleviate the deer issues? If no, please continue to Question 11.
Yes___ No___
- 10) What actions have you taken? (circle all that apply, and indicate how successful the action was on a 1-5 scale—with 1 being ineffective and 5 being highly effective)
a) ___ No action
b) ___ Switched to planting deer-resistant plants
c) ___ Used fencing / netting / barriers
d) ___ Used repellents
e) ___ Used scare tactics or mechanisms
f) ___ Other: _____
- 11) What kind of deer conflict management program is acceptable to you?
a) Do nothing and leave deer alone
b) Prefer non-lethal (no killing of deer) options only (i.e. more traffic signs, education)
c) Prefer lethal (killing of deer via professional sharpshooting) option only
d) Prefer a combination of both options above for managing issues
e) No opinion/ do not care
f) Other option (please specify): _____

12) Do you believe the Village of River Forest should take action on resolving deer conflicts in the Village of River Forest? Yes or No.

- a) If Yes, do you support committing public funds toward the effort of limiting human/deer conflicts via non-population control methods such as, but not limited to, fencing, speed bumps/stop signs, supporting deer-resistant plantings, etc.? No Yes
- b) And/or, if Yes, do you support committing to multi-seasonal public funds toward the effort of limiting human/deer conflicts via deer population control methods such as, but not limited to, culling. No Yes

13) Please provide additional comments or a description of issues that you would like to make the committee aware of regarding deer.

Please consider visiting the following websites for further information about deer management:

VRF IDNR presentation link

Other links?

Open Questions:

1. How will we conduct the questionnaire?
2. How will we keep things fair by number of responses per household? Keep anonymous, etc?
3. Paper or Electronic?
4. Is there an actual option for the deer meat to be donated?
5. Can we have an expert come and speak to the Committee?
 - a. Need help determining the lifecycle of culling and how long will the management be needed

From: [Katharine Christmas](#)
To: [Sara Phyfer](#); [Thomas Cargie \(x\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Survey comments
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 7:27:50 PM

Sara and Tom,
Please include Dawn's note below in the packet for the next meeting. I didn't add it to the questionnaire at this point since we'd need to discuss as a group.
Thanks,
Katharine

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Dawn Mizgala [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 12:12:45 PM CDT
Subject: Survey comments

Hi Katharine,
Thank you for your efforts in organizing our community survey. As discussed last night at our full meeting I am forwarding suggestions for question #8.

I agree that terminology should be defined and I think question #8 is a good place to define the different options of deer conflict management.

8. What kind of deer conflict management program is acceptable to you?

- a) Do nothing and leave deer alone
- b) Non-population control methods (no killing of deer) This method will not control the numbers of deer in the community. (i.e. more traffic signs, education,)
- c) Deer population control method in partnership with the Cook County Forest Preserve. This method will reduce the numbers of deer in the community and take place on forest preserve property in River Forest. (culling program)
- d) A multidisciplinary approach that includes a combination of methods such as education, signage, and culling of deer .
- e) No opinion/do not care
- f) other option (please specify) _____

In previous edits I suggested that we add a question about how often do you see deer on your property (or something like this)

daily____ weekly____ or monthly_____

I also support adding a separate question about public health (i.e. lyme disease).

Regards
Dawn