

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
DEER MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee was held on Tuesday, November 17, 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 7:38 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Tom Cargie, Laurie Gillard, John Roeger, Joel Lueking, Julie Armstrong, Dawn Mizgala, Marta Kozbur, Ingrid Liu, John Flynn (*joined the meeting at 8:06*), Annette Madden, Katharine Christmas, Dan Hollenbach

Absent: Cathleen Hughes, Ron Lemar

Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Vanker, 1234 Monroe. Ms. Vanker expressed concerns about the way information was being presented in the packet, with particular regard to the maps. She stated they do not reflect the responses accurately and stated the materials are misleading.

Chairperson Cargie commented that Staff has no goal and are simply providing information that was requested.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lueking made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hollenbach. to approve the August 25, 2020 meeting minutes.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Cathleen Hughes, Ron Lemar, John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Vote on Removal of Responses from Non-Residents in Questionnaire Results

Ms. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gillard, to remove responses from non-residents in the questionnaire results.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Cathleen Hughes, Ron Lemar, John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Discussion of Questionnaire Findings

The Committee discussed the maps and questionnaire comments and noted there are strong feelings about this issue in the community. The Committee also discussed the County Forest Preserves' role in the culling process. Some members expressed concern about the lack information from the County.

Chairperson Cargie that the County has prioritized culling in other areas and that they indicated they would have a culling program if the Village provided the funding. He stated the Forest Preserves did not complete a formal study or formal survey but that their response has been that the habitat had been sufficiently destroyed to justify culling.

The Committee discussed the questionnaire comments and how the questions were worded. Member noted the need for education about this issue and what kinds of programs are possible and realistic. It was also noted the decision is cull or do not cull because there is no option to use contraceptives or to relocate deer.

The Committee also discussed how to interpret the questionnaire results, including whether responses should be qualified in some way. There was also discussion about respondents who reported having issues and how they answered Question 13.

Some members expressed concern about needing to do something for the residents who have said the deer are negatively affecting them. Other members expressed concern that other options could be implemented and tried first prior to resorting to culling.

Chairperson Cargie reminded the Committee the Intergovernmental Agreement was for a 5-year program, up to 50 deer per year, \$40,000 per year or \$200,000 total, and that the Village could opt-out each year.

The Committee discussed the responses to each question. It was noted that deer are seen throughout the community and there was a brief discussion about the seasonality of deer sightings. There was more discussion about how to qualify Question 7 and how to characterize the issues people are experiencing.

There was discussion about what other options are available, and it was reiterated that contraceptives and relocation are not options. There was a question about whether catch and euthanize was an option, and it was noted it would be more expensive than a sharpshooter program.

In response to a comment from Ms. Madden, Chairperson Cargie expressed the challenges the Committee faces having this discussion and requested the members be respectful of one another and their opinions.

There was discussion about taking a more three-dimensional approach to the analysis, including identifying the severity levels of respondents' concerns, regardless of whether those concerns are realistic or perceived.

Chairperson Cargie stated the Committee has until the end of the year and directed the subcommittee chairs to meet and agree on a format for collating the comments, then to meet with their respective subcommittees. He then asked that each subcommittee give a report at the next meeting.

There was discussion about preparing an analysis of the data in more dimensions.

Chairperson Cargie stated that to discuss it meaningfully, material would need to be returned to Staff for publishing in the packet.

c. Discussion of Committee Report

This item was not discussed separately.

d. Discussion of Deer Management Information for Village Website

This item was not discussed.

7. NEXT MEETING

The Committee members came to a consensus to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gillard, to adjourn the Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 9:45pm

Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee Meeting November 17, 2020

Roll call:

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

Absent: Cathleen Hughes, Ron Lemar, John Flynn

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary