

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Immediately following the Village Board Meeting, but not before 6:15 p.m.

Caledonia Village Hall - 5043 Chester Lane

Caledonia, WI 53402

1. **Meeting called to order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Committee of the Whole – February 25, 2025
4. **Public Comment** - Provides a two-minute opportunity for citizens to voice opinions to the Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole cannot respond as this may conflict with open meeting requirements.
5. **Committee Updates**
 - A. Plan Commission – Nancy Pierce
 - B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee – Holly McManus
 - C. Caledonia Utility District Commission – Lee Wishau
 - D. Visit Racine County – Fran Martin
6. **New Business**
 - A. Review and Discuss Prairie Conversion for Chapla Park
 - B. Suggested items to be placed on the next meeting agenda (*with no action*)
7. **Continuing Business**

None
8. **Adjournment**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 25, 2025**

1 - Order

President Weatherston called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Caledonia Village Hall.

2 – Roll Call

PRESENT: 7 – President Weatherston, Trustee McManus, Trustee Wishau, Trustee Pierce, Trustee Stillman, Trustee Martin, and Trustee Lambrecht

EXCUSED: 0

STAFF: Administrator Todd Willis, Finance Director Wayne Krueger, Assistant Village Attorney Rebecca Shepro, Public Services Director Tony Bunkelman, Village Engineer Ryan Schmidt, Development Director Peter Wagner, Police Chief Christopher Botsch, Fire Chief Walter Leininger, Deputy Clerk Norgie Metzinger, and Clerk Jennifer Bass

3 – Approval of Minutes

A **motion** was made by Trustee Lambrecht to approve the February 11, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting, seconded by Trustee McManus. **Motion carried 7-0.**

4 – Public Comment

The following people appeared to speak before the Committee:

None

5 – Committee Updates

- A. Racine County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council - President Weatherston
- B. Plan Commission – Nancy Pierce
- C. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee – Holly McManus
- D. Caledonia Utility District Commission – Lee Wishau

6 – New Business

A. Resolution to Create a Public Record Request Fee Schedule

Motion by Trustee McManus to recommend approval to the Village Board subject to legal review, seconded by Trustee Pierce. **Motion carried 7-0.**

B. Suggested items to be placed on the next meeting agenda (with no action)

- 1. 1st Quarter Budget to Actual Report

7 – Continuing Business

A. Stop Sign Concerns – 7 Mile and STH 32

Motion by Trustee Pierce to receive and file, seconded by Trustee Martin.
Motion carried 7-0.

8 – Adjournment

President Weatherston adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Bass

Village Clerk

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 5, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole
Village Board

From: Ryan Schmidt, P.E.
Village Engineer



Re: **Chapla Park Prairie Conversion**

Recommended Motions:

- 1. Move to recommend to the Village Board to approve the Turf to Prairie Conversion at Chapla Park with Root-Pike-WIN.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Root-Pike-WIN came to Village Staff with a proposal to modify the existing Chapla Park area along Lakeshore Drive and abutting Cliffside Park. This modification included converting approximately 1.5 acres of turf along the northern section into deep-rooted native prairie vegetation with mowed trails. This will promote more infiltration of stormwater runoff and reduce any sediment or erosion issues into the abutting Cliffside Park.

Exhibit A includes the Project Profile from Root-Pike-WIN and the estimated costs associated with the Project. As proposed, the Village has no cost or responsibility until after 2029. This project was proposed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on February 11th, 2025 and was recommended to the Committee of the Whole for approval. The proposal falls in line with the pending 2050 Park and Open Space Plan objectives and goals for Chapla Park; more specifically improvements meant for the next 5 years.

Ultimately, staff will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of this prairie area. Staff believe that this will fit within the annual scope of work of our Parks and DPW Employees and current service contracts for mowing. **Staff recommend approval of the Prairie Conversion at Chapla Park.**

CHAPLA PARK TURF TO PRAIRIE CONVERSION



WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?

- Chapla Park consists of 8 acres of primary environmental corridor according to the Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Caledonia: 2035 and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The conversion of turf grass to deep-rooted native prairie plants will infiltrate more stormwater runoff, support stabilization of Lake Michigan’s shoreline bluffs, reduce turf mowing costs, provide habitat for declining pollinator and bird populations, and improve passive recreational opportunities within the park.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED OUTCOMES?

- The conversion of turf grass to a deep-rooted native prairie will infiltrate more than 26,000 gallons of stormwater, reduce erosion and sediment loading in Cliffside Park, and boost pollinators and bird habitat. The estimated cost to mow the acre and a half area is about \$105 per mowing or about \$3,150 per year based on 20 mowings. Reducing the mowing to just the 2,000-foot trail could save the Village ~\$26,000 over ten years.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF WORK?

2025

- Herbicide 1.5 acres of turf except trail areas
- Seed area with native vegetation
- Spot treat invasive vegetation

2026 -2028

- Two maintenance mowings per year
- Spot treat invasive species

2029 and beyond

- Mow trails, treat invasives, optional burn

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROJECT COST?

Planning & Restoration (year one)

- Village of Caledonia \$0
- Root-Pike WIN \$10,000

Short-term Maintenance (next three years)

- Village of Caledonia \$0
- Root-Pike WIN \$5,000

TOTAL \$15,000

Long-term Maintenance (every year after)

- Village of Caledonia \$500
- trail mowing (~.23 acres)

WHERE IS THIS WORK TAKING PLACE?



Stormwater flowing off Chapla Park and into the Cliffside Park ravine is exacerbating erosion, which adds excessive sediment to Lake Michigan.



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