



VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Village of Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission was held in person on January 13th, 2026, in the Village of Riverside Township Hall, Room 22, Riverside, IL 60546. Chairperson David Rubin called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Rubin, Commissioners Barker, Kramer, McBride, Tarverdi

Absent: Commissioner Lambros

Also present: Director Tabb, Forester Collins

III. Consider Approval of November 11th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve November 11, 2025, regular meeting minutes by Chairperson Rubin; seconded by Commissioner Tarverdi.

AYES: Rubin, Barker, Kramer, McBride, Tarverdi

ABSTAIN: None.

NAYES: None.

Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment per Director Tabb.

NEW BUSINESS

V. Turtle Park - Parks and Rec

Parks and Recreation Director Ron Malchiodi presented the proposed renovation of Turtle Park. The project consists of two phases. Phase One includes replacement of existing playground equipment, with a possible minor expansion of the three depressed areas housing the equipment

to improve safety and accommodate updated equipment. Funding has been allocated for Phase One. Phase Two includes a proposed sensory trail, originally suggested by Trustee Marsh-Ozga on October 8, 2024, as part of a sesquicentennial legacy project. The sensory trail would utilize natural materials, maintain a grass path, and provide recreational opportunities for all ages; however, funding is not currently available for this phase. The renovation aligns with community interest and priorities identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Commissioner Barker expressed concerns regarding the creation of additional areas along the sensory trail, visibility of signage from the roadway, and ongoing park maintenance, including invasive species. He suggested exploring alternative locations for the trail.

Commissioner Kramer supported the concept of a sensory trail connected to the park, noting its potential to engage users of all ages, and requested that signage be sized to avoid visibility from the roadway.

Commissioner McBride raised safety concerns due to the narrow proposed trail area and adjacent roadways.

Director Malchiodi stated the playground space cannot accommodate equipment for all ages and that the sensory trail is intended to address this limitation. He noted that the design would focus activity toward the interior of the park rather than the perimeter. In response to questions from Forester Collins, Malchiodi clarified that the project does not involve significant playground expansion, but equipment may be reconfigured for safety, with minimal enlargement of the depressed areas if necessary. Collins expressed concern regarding maintenance of additional plantings. Malchiodi also noted a potential third phase involving installation of a sidewalk should conditions require a more stable surface.

Director Tabb stated that additional maintenance efforts, including invasive species removal, would require increased staffing or funding for contracted services.

Director Malchiodi stated he would forward any future updates to the commission and offered to answer any questions via direct email.

VI. Scout Project - Nathan Hill

Forester Collins and Chairperson Rubin have been in contact with scout Nathan Hill on the coordination of an upcoming project. Forester Collins proposed removing invasives with possible native plantings in the vicinity of Indian Gardens. Collins noted concerns with ongoing maintenance of any new plantings. Scout Hill to do a formal presentation at the February LAC meeting.

VII. Garden Contest - Convert Lawn to Native Plants. Homeowners Only? Nursery Gift Card Prize?

Commissioner Kramer will take the lead on the contest, including the development of guidelines and promotion through various Village media platforms.

VIII. Resident Request for Trees in Parkway (See Attached)

The Commission was provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the Parkway Tree Request language that the Village will be sending out to all residents. Forester Collins provided

an explanation of why and how he goes about selecting tree species to be planted throughout the Village.

IX. Adopt a Bed Program?

Moved to the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

X. Forester's Report

Forester Collins noted the Village did clearing of invasive species and removal of woody debris adjacent to the tennis courts at Indian Gardens. Collins also stated he is finishing up the 2025 trim cycle. The Village's annual Tree City USA designation is pending final approval from the Arbor Day Foundation, and an application for a Growth Award has also been submitted.

XI. C4 Update - David Rubin and Aberdeen

A. Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Chairperson Rubin noted that the area wide C4 added a new town recently. The local Riverside C4 has not had a meeting in the past few months.

XII. Village Media Posting and Marketing - David B, David R

A. OAKtober description and photos added to website

Added after November meeting

B. To Salt or Not to Salt - December eFlash

Trending on Riverside webpage

C. LAC website - Pesticides (Winter/Natural Landscape Care; Spring/Help Save the Bees) and Herbicides. January eFlash

Additional information: U of I Extension will provide online and in person personal coaching classes hosted by master gardeners. The training will be provided at no cost. Rain garden classes may be provided in July or August.

D. Changes to Website ? Volunteer Info?

Add a link to the website with volunteer information.

XIII. Grants Update - Dan and Lisa

No update.

XIV. Invasive Trade- In - Spring and Fall. Volunteer ?

Discussed under 2026 Events

XV. 2026 Events

A. Wyatt Coyote with Olmsted Society (March 21st at 1000) - Vote to Spend up to \$150

Scheduled for a 90 minute presentation at the library.

B. Ted Haffner - Electric Powered Landscape Equipment (April)?

Chairperson Rubin will continue to try and make contact.

C. U of I Extension - Topics? Dates?

The Commission will seek out a presentation by the U of I Extension titled “Gardening for Pollinators” on May 9th. The presentation may be partnered with a plant giveaway for those in attendance.

D. Native Plant Sale 2026 - Spring?

David T. to contact nurseries.

E. Spring Native Plant Giveaway

Possible partnership with U of I Extension

F. Spring Invasive Trade In

The commission saw more requests in the spring versus the fall. Chairperson Rubin will contact Possibility Place.

G. Triangle Tours?

Changing to Workday. Commissioner McBride offered to adopt the triangle at Selborne/Uvedale/Southcote.

H. June 6 - Ecology Club Planting - Use “Help Keep our Parks Healthy. ”

Commissioner Tarverdi met with the ecology club and their new sponsor. They shared their interest in doing plantings along with mosquito buckets of doom.

I. Farmers Market - Date?

It begins in June. Will have posters made in time for the market.

J. Fourth of July

Chairperson Rubin looking for volunteers to assist with the 4th of July.

K. Fall Native Plant Giveaway

L. Fall Invasive Trade In

M. OAKtober

Forester Collins suggested a possible Chicago Trees Initiative partnership with the library.

XVI. Chairperson ’s Report

Chairperson Rubin reported that Commissioner Wilkens has resigned from the Commission and that Commissioner Lambros will not seek another term when her current term concludes at the end of May.

XVII. Collaboration with North Riverside - Mary Burns; She Volunteered to Help at LAC Events.

Will assist with LAC events.

XVIII. Standing Discussion Topics

A. Master Landscape Plan

- **Triangles - Update - David B.**

Commissioner Barker to finish entering data on triangles and has begun to review the 2023 Mater Landscape Plan.

- **Park Awards**

The Commission decided to give awards to all volunteers that are still working regardless of whether they received one previously.

B. Outreach and Education

- **Triangle/Workday Information - Generic Door Hangers for Neighbors**

The door hanger was finalized based on previous commentary and is ready for distribution at future workdays.

- **Library - Andy (Keeping Brochures Upright in Magazine Rack)**

Commissioner McBride was successful in keeping the brochures upright through the installation of Plexiglass. McBride will speak with the library about relocating the rack to a more obvious location.

- **Electric Landscape Equipment - "Best Landscaping Practices" Educational Pieces - David T.**

Ted Haffner will be doing a presentation on electric landscaping equipment.

- **Ecology Club**

The ecology club will be doing a June 6th planting. Commissioner Tarverdi will contact the ecology club to see if they are interested in partnering with the Illinois Institute of Technology to conduct water sampling.

OTHER BUSINESS

XIX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Barker and seconded by Commissioner Tarverdi.

AYES: Rubin, Barker, Kramer, McBride, Tarverdi

NAYES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Motion carried.

Minutes Taken By: Dan Tabb