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## Memo

**To: Mayor Mahoney and Clerk Bryson**

**From: Cathy G.**

**cc:**

**Date: September 14, 2010**

**Re: Approval of Groundskeeper Landscape Agreement**

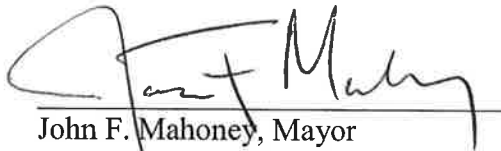
The Village Council took the following action on Monday, September 13, 2010:  
Commissioner Milovich-Walters moved, seconded by Commissioner Polk, to approve the  
Groundskeeper Landscaping Pruning Agreement for a three (3) year period.


On the call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: -5- Commissioners Milovich-Walters, Polk, O'Connor, Pavlatos, and Mayor Mahoney

NAYS: -0-

ABSENT: -0-

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Mahoney, Mayor  
9/20/2010  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Groundskeeper Landscape Care  
9/20/10  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**GroundsKeeper**  
Landscape Design • Irrigation • Maintenance • Tree Care

VILLAGE OF PALOS PARK

*Residential Parkway Tree Services*

June 15, 2010

GroundsKeeper Landscape Care, LLC

P.O. Box 52

Orland Park, IL 60462

t: 708-301-7441

f: 708-364-0476

[www.groundskpr.com](http://www.groundskpr.com)

The materials contained in this document are intended to supplement a discussion between the Village of Palos Park and GroundsKeeper Landscape Care on June 15 2010. These perspectives are confidential and will only be meaningful to those in attendance.

***GroundsKeeper Landscape Care is a full service landscape and tree service operating in the Southwest Suburbs of Chicago***

- **Owners**
  - **Jeff Jarr, Certified Arborist (IL 1425)**
  - **Keith Pekau, MBA, Duke University, Certified Arborist (IL 4441A)**
- **Tree services**
  - **Trimming, removals, stump grinding and spraying**
  - **Planning and selection advice**
  - **Equipment includes aerial lift, two 18" rated chippers, stump grinder and 3 additional dump trucks**
- **Landscape services**
  - **Design & installation**
  - **Trimming, mowing and plant health care services**



**Agenda**

● **Current Situation**

● **Proposal**

● **Benefits**



***Local governments face several issues that impact its ability to provide tree services to its residents***

- Increased pressure for environmentally friendly solutions
- Rising demand for services
- Lack of resources, financial and human, to accomplish community forest objectives

*Village residents clearly considered tree care a priority*

- Residents generally are more interested in the environment and trees than in years past
  - Trees properly placed around buildings can save up to 25% on winter heating costs\*
  - 100 trees remove 5 tons of carbon dioxide and 1000 pounds of air pollutants from the atmosphere per year\*\*
- Environmental groups continue to apply political pressure
  - American Forests Organization recommends 60% tree cover in suburban areas
  - Nationwide there is an estimated urban tree deficit of over 630 million trees
- Organizations continue to pressure village and townships to prioritize spending on green programs



The trademark of Palos Park is its tree population

Sources : \* Heisler, "Energy Savings with Trees"; \*\*McPerson, Simpson, Peper, Xiao, VanDerZanden



***Demand for services, including tree services, continues to increase***

- The south and west suburbs have grown significantly in the last two decades
- Residents expect services to increase over time, but generally don't appreciate tax increases
- Villages have parkway tree programs to improve community aesthetics, positively impact business and improve street safety
  - A large tree intercepts between 760 and 4,000 gallons of rainfall per year, reducing storm runoff\*\*
  - Trees attract new business and foster safer more sociable neighborhood environments
- Trees often have a positive impact on property values
  - Each large front yard tree adds about 1% to the sales price of a home\*\*



The need for parkway tree trimming services is steadily increasing

Source : \*McPerson, Simpson, Peper, Xiao, VanDerZanden; \*\*Anderson and Cordell, "Residential Property Values Improve by Landscaping with Trees



***The Village Trimming Program was very successful over the last six years, particularly in '05-'06***

- From November 2003 to March 2010, GroundsKeeper has been contacted from by over 150 residents regarding the Village Trimming Program
- GroundsKeeper trimmed trees for 70% of those customers
- Over 300 parkway trees were trimmed during the past 6 years as part of Village Program





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● <b>Proposal</b>
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***GroundsKeeper Landscape Care proposes to continue providing to tree services to residents in partnership with the Village of Palos Park***

- GroundsKeeper Landscape Care agrees to provide tree trimming services at the following price\*
  - \$50 per tree for trees under 12 inches
  - \$75 per tree for trees between 12 and 24 inches
  - \$100 for trees greater than 24 inches
- Trimming services at the above price will be valid for trees that are within 50 feet of centerline from the road with bucket truck accessibility (e.g. not behind power lines or another stand of trees)\*\*
- Trees will be trimmed to ANSI 300 Pruning Standards Class A trim specifications
- The Village of Palos Park and GroundsKeeper shall enter this agreement for a 3 year period
- The Village of Palos Park agrees to inform their residents of this program through their existing village newsletters
- We will also provide other tree services to residents during the trimming program

**Note :** \*Prices valid from November 15<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. In addition, GroundsKeeper will not commence trimming until at least 50 trees are marked for trimming within a 1 square mile area  
\*\*Does not include trees on county or state roads



**Agenda**

- **Current Situation**
- **Proposal**
- **Benefits**

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***The Village of Palos Park and residents will benefit in several ways***

<b>Village of Palos Park</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Outsource infrastructure and training costs to GroundsKeeper</b></li><li>● <b>Properly maintain parkway trees -- reduce hazards and obstructions and increase clearances while promoting properly pruned trees</b></li><li>● <b>Pruning trees early in their life cycle should result in safer trees that require less care in the long term</b></li><li>● <b>Provide a service to residents at no cost to Palos Park</b></li><li>● <b>Refer residents with complaints to an available service</b></li></ul>



<b>Residents</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Receive professional tree trimming services at extremely low prices</b></li><li>● <b>No need for the painstaking estimate gathering process</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Simply sign up</b></li><li>- <b>Wait for GroundsKeeper to complete the work</b></li></ul></li><li>● <b>Reduce future hazards due to obstructions or dead branches</b></li><li>● <b>Increase property values from attractive, properly pruned trees</b></li><li>● <b>Approximately 70% of the customers that contacted GroundsKeeper from '03-'06 under the Village Trimming Program chose to have their trees trimmed</b></li></ul>



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- **Current Situation**
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- **Appendix**

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## ***Additional Services Available***

- **Tree Planning and Selection Advice**
  - **Match the tree with the site**
  - **Increased use of native species**
  
- **Tree planting with improved *long-term* benefits**
  - **Improved growth**
  - **Longer life span (current average for residential site is 37 years)\***
  - **Healthier trees**
  
- **Training for public works personnel**
  - **Pruning**
  - **Planting**
  - **Selection**
  - **Tool selection, maintenance and use**

Source : \*Center for Urban Forest Research

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***Equipment List***

- 2001 International 4700 Altec 63 Foot Aerial Lift Truck
- 2001 Ford F-650 Dump Truck
- 2005 Chevy 350 Dump Truck
- Rayco Stump Grinder
- 2001 Brush Bandit 18" Chipper
- (3) F250 Pickup Trucks
- New Holland LS180 Skid Steer Loader

