

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
(Official Minutes)  
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION  
Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Park Commission Chairman Cindy Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

**Park Commissioners present:** Trustee Wilson, Gail Hibbard, Sandra Hibbard, Mary Green, Laura Coates, Lynne Frost

**Park Commissioner absent:** Sarah Lobdell

**Also present:** Joe Abell, Director of Streets Ron Adams, Library Director Nancy Krei, Clerk/Acting Village Manager Dennis Martin, Trustee Rick Pappas, Andy Pearce

**Approval of Minutes**

Green/Coates 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the meeting minutes for November 20, 2013, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

Nancy Krei stated that the Library staff has planned a Winter Talk Series for the next several Monday afternoons beginning at 1:30 pm. The first program will be held January 20, 2014 with Tom Whowell and Frank Breneisen discussing local history. The January 27, 2014 program will be on winter birds.

**Announcements**

Gail Hibbard stated that she and Tom Vanderpoel determined that an area on the hill by the Park Commission's Oak Savanna where her volunteer group has performed some work is actually owned by Mark Robinson not the Village. Gail Hibbard stated that she talked to Robinson and he authorized the volunteer group to clear out the buckthorn bushes that have invaded the area in an effort to open the area for more sunlight to reach the young oak trees. Gail Hibbard stated that Vanderpoel will paint the stems of the buckthorn that is cut out and it will prevent the invasive plants from growing back. Gail Hibbard stated that the volunteers will be meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 1:00 pm and they will be walking over to the site. Ron Adams stated that the DPW will assist in transporting the cut down buckthorn bushes to the Village compost site. The Park Commission members reached the consensus following discussion that the expenses for Vanderpoel's assistance and materials should be billed to the Park Commission and allocated to the green space management budget for the Oak Savanna and Prairie Restoration projects.

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

The Park House was used three times in November and once in December. The Park Commission discussed possible marketing sources to encourage more people to use the Park House. Wilson stated that maybe people would want to plan a Fourth of July gathering at the Park House, and Frost suggested that the Park House availability should be promoted on the message board that was purchased last year for placement off Highway 67 in front of Village Hall. Martin stated that staff will also make sure to post items on the Park Commission Facebook page to promote all the facilities.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was not presented because of the administrative staff transition, but Martin stated it will be ready for the next monthly meeting. Wilson requested that a new account be established on the monthly report to track donations that have been made to benefit Mohr Road Park. There is currently the \$5,000 donation from the Adreani Family Foundation that will be allocated to the Mohr Road creek stabilization project being completed this spring by Creative Edge Landscaping. Wilson stated that the Park Commission may receive more donations in the future for Mohr Road Park projects and those funds can be tracked in the new account.

### **Plan Commission Report**

The Plan Commission has not met since the special joint session was held with the Village Board on November 25, 2013. The joint meeting was held for the presentation of initial development concepts for the Shodeen Group's Fontana TIF District properties. Prior to moving forward with the approval process, the Shodeen Group has requested that that Plan Commission members indicate their initial support or opposition to the various development options that were presented at the joint meeting. Martin stated that nothing new has been filed since the last meeting.

### **Public Works Report**

Street Director Ron Adams stated that the crew has been busy plowing and clearing streets with all the winter snow and ice storms so far this season.

### **Park Commission Maintenance List: Replacement of Bird Houses for Hildebrand Nature Conservancy Boundary Line Delineation**

The updated list was distributed. The DPW crew completed the cleaning and repairs to the display boxes at the Mill Street Pavilion, and reinstalled the memorial plaques on the light house by Little Foot Playground. There are six replacement bird houses that Village purchased with the initially installed bird houses that were erected on the boundary line of the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Adams stated that all the initially installed bird houses have rotted and need to be replaced. Adams will spread the six replacement bird houses out along the line and staff will continue to seek new bird houses to replace the rest of the initially installed houses that will be removed.

### **Old Business**

#### **Farmer's Market 2014 Season Approval for Porter Court Plaza**

Martin stated that Maryanne Bruss would like to attend a future meeting to discuss possible changes and marketing ideas for the third season of Farmer's Market events on Saturdays in Porter Court Plaza. Martin stated that the events are again proposed to be held in Porter Court Plaza on Saturdays from 8:00 am to noon from the beginning of June through the end of September. The proceeds from vendor fees have been donated the first two seasons to the Park Commission by Maryanne and Bryan Bruss.

Wilson/Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the third annual Farmer's Market season, from the beginning of June through the end of September at Porter Court Plaza, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Pioneer Park Landscaping Plans to Replace Crab Trees**

Adams stated that he met with Jeff Epping to discuss the cutting down of the old crab trees in Pioneer Park, as well as addressing the bushes that have overgrown to 7-feet-tall behind the crab trees and landscaping wall. Martin stated that Lee Eakright has offered to help facilitate approval of a landscaping improvement plan for the area behind the wall as it is privately owned by the Sullivan family. Martin stated that the funds for the new trees to be planted in the park can be allocated from the Park Commission's reforestation fund, which has a current balance of \$12,275.

#### **Recommendation to Not Replace Dead Trees on High and Reid Streets**

Adams stated that he talked to Epping about the dead trees planted along High and Reid Streets. Adams stated that as well as not being an appropriate species of tree to plant in the areas, the poor soil conditions along the paved areas will prohibit any trees from surviving. Adams stated that the DPW crew will cut down the dead trees, pull out the root balls, and plant grass seed in the areas.

#### **Schedule Planning Meeting with Northwind Perennial Farm and Blackstone Landscaping for 2014 Work Lists**

Wilson stated that she still needs to schedule a meeting with staff and the two contracted service providers before spring so the annual work lists can be finalized. Roy Diblik is going to be taking over maintenance of the planting beds in Porter Court Plaza.

### **New Business**

#### **Big Foot Lions Club 2014 Reid Park Events**

Big Foot Lions Club members Andy Pearce and Joe Abell presented the club's annual Park Permit

and Special Event Permit applications for the Fourth of July concession stand on Friday, July 4, 2014, the Lobster Boil and Steak Fry on Saturday, July 26, 2014, and for a new event to be held in conjunction with the annual Fat Tire Tour on Saturday, September 20, 2014. Pearce stated that the proposal for the Fourth of July concession stand calls for no beer or wine to be sold this year and for the tent location to be moved from the middle of Reid Park to Lakeview Park, which is the triangle area off Lake Street across the road from the beach house entrance. The only menu items that the Lions Club will offer on the Fourth of July that are also available from the Village concession stand at the beach house are soda and water. Pearce stated that there is nothing new or changed in the plans for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Lobster Boil and Steak Fry event scheduled for Saturday, July 26, 2014 in Reid Park. Pearce stated that the new proposal this year is to setup a concession stand in an enclosed area around the Reid Park gazebo where there will be live entertainment and beer and wine sales in conjunction with the annual Fat Tire Tour of Lake Geneva event on Saturday, September 20, 2014. The concessions, beer and wine, and live music would be from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Following discussion, there were no concerns with the proposals as presented.

Gail Hibbard/Sandra Hibbard 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Park Permit and Special Event permit applications as presented for the 2014 Big Foot Lions Club events in Reid Park and Lakeview Park, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Abell stated that he wanted to again thank the Village and the Park Commission for allowing the club to use the lakefront park facilities. Abell stated that the Lobster Boil and Steak Fry could not have grown into the extremely popular event that it has become without such an excellent location. Abell then presented a \$1,500 check from the club to the Park Commission to support the 2014 budget.

#### **Chief Big Foot Tree Trunk Preservation Ideas**

The Park Commission discussed possible ideas for preserving or erecting an historical marker by the location of the large tree trunk that still remains from Chief Big Foot's tree on Big Foot Street off Kinzie Avenue behind the Fontana Shores condominiums building. The electric company recently trimmed the tree down to just the trunk as it was dead and in danger of falling on one of the buildings in the area. Ideas such as having a plaque installed into a portion of the trunk or placing a plaque on a rock in the area of the tree after it is completely removed were discussed with pros and cons for both ideas. Wilson stated that the Park Commission members should continue to think about appropriate ways to commemorate the site and tree, which reportedly grew at the location of Chief Big Foot's summer lodge, and she asked the members to visit the site to see what the tree stump looks like.

#### **Village Conservancy Lot Weed & Junk Tree Abatement Plan Approval – No-Mow Grass**

Adams stated that the initial plan was to have the junk trees and bushes cut down and removed from the area during the winter; however, there currently is too much snow and ice cover for the DPW crew to get the job done at this time. Adams stated that if the plan is approved, the crew will get at it as soon as possible. Martin stated that the Geneva Lake Conservancy staff indicated it is in favor of the proposal to remove the nonnative junk trees and bushes which have overgrown the lot, and the proposal to plant the no-mow grass on the lot.

Wilson/Coates 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the proposal and to direct the DPW crew to cut down and remove the nonnative trees and bushes from the lot and to plant no-mow grass seed on the lot as soon as weather conditions permit. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Any Other Comments/Concerns**

None

#### **Adjournment**

Gail Hibbard/Coates 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Park Commission the official minutes will be on file at the Fontana Village Hall.

Approved: 3/19/14