

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
(Official Minutes)

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION  
**Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

Chairperson Sarah Lobdell called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

**Park Commissioners present:** Sarah Lobdell, Nancy Krei, Jill Wegner, Dan Green, Trustee Diane Lewis  
**Park Commissioners absent:** Sharon Conklin, Sharon O'Brien, Melissa Colby

**Also present:** Roy Diblik, Mary King, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Joseph McHugh, Trustee Micki O'Connell, President Arvid Petersen

**Approval of Minutes**

Wegner/Krei 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held February 17, 2010, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

Big Foot Recreation Department Director Chuck Thiesenhusen was not able to attend the meeting, but he submitted the following report via email. Regarding the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Duck Pond Recreation Area, the cost of the supplies should be similar to last year and an invoice will be submitted to the Village for its half of the expenses. The staff at Gordy's has again offered to help stuff the eggs. The Big Foot Recreation Department has received delivery of an inflatable movie screen and audio equipment and planning is under way for "Movie in the Park" events at the area parks this summer. The movie screen is 13-by-9-feet, and the inflated area is 20-feet wide by 13-feet tall. Initial planning and the event schedule are still being worked out. Thiesenhusen stated that he is also looking for other sources to run concessions. Thiesenhusen stated that the program will feature movies that are children's "just released to DVD, but if there are classics that we think would draw a crowd, please let me know." Thiesenhusen stated that the department staff is in the midst of assembling the summer program guide and he should be notified of any events the commission wants highlighted in the guide.

**Announcements**

**Easter Egg Hunt at Duck Pond, Saturday, April 3, 2010, 10:00 AM**

Lobdell stated annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 3, 2010 at the Duck Pond and volunteers are needed to help with the event, which will begin at 10:00 am. Lobdell stated that the eggs have to be disbursed the morning of the event beginning at about 8:00 am. Martin stated that he will contact George Spadoni regarding the annual donation of milk for the event by Dean's Foods, and the Abbey for the coffee.

**Tree City USA Annual Recertification Approval**

Lobdell stated that the Wisconsin DNR has informed the Village of Fontana that its annual recertification application for Tree City USA designation has been approved. The Village has been designated a Tree City USA every year since 1988. Petersen stated that the Village has been a Tree City since prior to 1988; however, the Village used to only receive a flag prior to 1988 and not the plaques that are displayed at Village Hall.

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

The Park House was used 14 times in February 2010.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report for February 2010 was presented by Krei.

**Plan Commission Report**

Lobdell stated that the updated Park and Open Space Plan will be presented at a public hearing before the Plan Commission Monday, March 29, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

## **Public Works Report**

Martin stated that the Public Works Department crew abated a large amount of buckthorn and honeysuckle at the Fontana Fen during the first week of March.

## **TID Maintenance – Items/Update**

Items added to the list are the need to schedule a controlled burn in the oak savannah area at the Duck Pond, and required repair work on the drinking fountain and the retaining wall at Pioneer Park.

## **Old Business**

### **Duck Pond Disc Golf Course – Update**

Lobdell stated that the CDA approved allocating \$3,500 to purchase and install the equipment for nine permanent disc golf holes at the Duck Pond. Lobdell stated that Wally Bullard was hoping to acquire the permanent hole baskets from an old disc course at the former Motorola plant in Harvard, IL; however, his attempts to contact someone from Motorola have been unsuccessful. Lobdell stated that the \$3,500 budget was developed based on purchasing nine new baskets; however, it was hoped that the Village could acquire all 18 of the baskets not being used at the former Motorola plant. Lobdell distributed images of two possible hole baskets. President Petersen stated it would be better to purchase the style that will require the least amount of maintenance in future years. Green stated that the Village has to be sure that the concrete bases for the hole basket poles are buried deep enough in the ground so that they don't come up when the ground freezes. Lobdell stated that although the bases will stay in the ground, the hole baskets can be taken down at any time. Lobdell will work with Director of Public Works Craig Workman on a plan to get the baskets installed after they have been purchased.

### **Fontana Fourth Fest – Update**

Martin stated that Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden has solicited potential crafters and artisans for the Fontana Fourth Fest on July 3 and 4, 2010 in Reid Park. Hayden reported that several potential participants have already contacted the Village. Martin stated that the event press release has been published in the local newspapers; however, if necessary to attract enough bands for the Battle of the Bands competition, he will market the event on the internet and other regional publications.

### **Chili Cook-Off & Bonfire Event – Update**

Trustee Lewis stated that the subcommittee met and selected a tentative date of Saturday, November 6, 2010 for the inaugural event. Lewis stated that the subcommittee members felt that the event should be held in the fall, but not too close to Thanksgiving or Halloween. Lewis stated that as well as a chili cook-off and bonfire, the event could feature hayrides, live entertainment and a beer tent, additional food items, events to involve the Big Foot High School students, sports competitions, children's bounce rides, face-painting and other fall related competitions such as scarecrow building or apple bobbing. Green stated that the thought is that the event could raise funds to help pay off the new playground equipment at Little Foot Playground. Green stated that he has talked to some local residents who are interested in participating in a chili cook-off competition, and additional activities can be planned to make it a family event. The chili cook-off also could feature several categories and include the local businesses. O'Connell suggested that the Park Commission publicize the event on the Village website in order to solicit other ideas.

### **Reid Park Events – Farmer's Market Update**

Wegner stated that the subcommittee met and she has contacted several possible participants in the area who have indicated that the best day to plan for a new farmer's market would be on Sundays. Wegner stated that the events would not begin until later in the summer or early fall. President Petersen stated that the Park Commission should plan for the events not to be like flea markets. Petersen stated that produce, farm goods and food items would be most appropriate for a farmer's market. Following discussion on what part of Reid Park would best accommodate the farmer's market events, Green suggested using Porter Court Plaza and the Mill Street area because of its central location and high visibility.

## **New Business**

### **Proposal for Arbors on West Side of Beach House**

Roy Diblik stated that he met with Workman at the beach house and they came up with the proposal to install arbors on the west side of the building and plant bittersweet vines and eventually morning glories on the arbors to soften the appearance of the building and provide green accents. Diblik stated that Workman

indicated the DPW crew can construct the arbors and materials will cost \$250. Diblik stated that after the fourth year of growth, the bittersweet vines will be able to accommodate morning glories. Diblik stated that the new landscaping would be installed behind the grasses and help work the building into the landscaping. Wegner/Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend approval of the \$250 proposal to install arbors on the west side of the beach house as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Proposal to Amend Section 42-7 (a) of the Village of Fontana Municipal Code to Allow Alcohol in Porter Court Plaza**

An ordinance amendment is necessary to authorize the catering of beer at the Georgie B's Restaurant/Geneva Lake Conservancy fund-raising event in Porter Court Plaza on Saturday, May 29, 2010. Krei/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the ordinance amendment as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Proposal for Amendment to Section 2-336 of the Village of Fontana Municipal Code, Park Commission Membership**

President Petersen stated that the Village Board has proposed an amendment to Section 2-336 that would change the Village Board liaison to the Park Commission to the commission chairman. Petersen stated that all the other standing committee and commissions of the Village of Fontana have elected trustees serving as the chairmen. Petersen stated that having a volunteer resident serve as the chairman is a great time demand and more responsibilities are being added to the Park Commission every year. Lobdell stated that she reviewed the Municipal Code and none of the other standing committees are required to have the trustee members serve as chairman. Lobdell stated that she does not have an issue with amending the ordinance to make the trustee liaison on the Park Commission a voting member; however, the Park Commission members should elect the chairman. Lobdell stated that the Municipal Code should not dictate who the Park Commission chairman has to be if the other committees and commissions don't have that requirement. Martin stated that a section of the Municipal Code states that the village president shall appoint the trustee member to each Village Board committee, the village president shall appoint the chairman of each committee, and the village president shall appoint the non-Village Board members of each committee – all subject to confirmation by the Village Board. Martin stated that currently all the other village committees have trustees serving as the chairman. Krei stated that for continuity sake, the chairman of the Park Commission should have experience with the Park Commission and should be dedicated to the Park Commission. Krei stated that Lobdell has been dedicated to the Park Commission and is doing a good job. Petersen stated that the proposal was not about personalities, it just based on business. Krei stated that she also does not oppose having the Village Board liaison to the Park Commission become a voting member, but the chairman of the Park Commission should be elected "like the other committees." Lobdell stated that the Park Commission now oversees more items than in the past. Petersen stated that the Park Commission does have more and more daily responsibilities and annual items that can't fall through the cracks, which is all the more reason to have one of the elected officials serve as chairman.

Wegner/Krei 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of an ordinance amendment that makes the Village Board liaison a voting member of the Park Commission, but the appointment of the Park Commission chairman should be made by the Park Commission members. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Blackstone Landscaping Contract Renewal**

Lobdell stated that Blackstone Landscaping submitted a proposed three-year contract that calls for a lower rate than last year, in exchange for the multi-year contract. O'Connell asked if the proposed contract spells out exactly what areas are covered, and if Pioneer Park is included in those areas. Krei suggested tabling the proposed contract renewal until the work list is presented. Petersen stated that the contracted work is scheduled to begin April 1, and he asked the Park Commission to consider making a recommendation on the proposed contract renewal subject to the work list being finalized by Workman and Blackstone.

Green/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the proposed three-year contract with Blackstone Landscaping as presented, subject to the work list being finalized by Workman and Blackstone and with the addition of Pioneer Park to the work areas. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Daughters of the American Revolution Tree Donation**

Mary King of the Samuel Phoenix Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution stated that the

chapter would like to donate a tree to the Village for planting in one of its parks. King stated that the chapter would like to present the tree at a ceremony on Friday, April 30, 2010, and she invited a Park Commission member to attend the ceremony and a luncheon at Georgie B's Restaurant. King stated that the chapter would like to know what type of tree the Park Commission would like and a location to plant it. Following discussion, the Park Commission directed King to have the chapter purchase a burr oak tree to be planted in an area by Little Foot Playground. Diblik stated that a burr oak tree is a good choice for the area.

Wegner/Krei 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to accept the donation of a burr oak tree from the Samuel Phoenix Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and to direct Director of Public Works Craig Workman to determine the exact location to plant the tree at the Little Foot Playground and to prepare the site for planting the tree on April 30, 2010. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Arbor Day Proclamation**

Lobdell stated that Arbor Day is Friday, April 30, 2010 and there will be the annual program held at Fontana Elementary School.

Krei/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the annual Arbor Day Proclamation, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Bills to Pay**

None submitted.

### **Park Application**

***Fontana Community Church Easter Sunrise Service, Reid Park, Sunday, April 4, 2010***

Wegner/Krei 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the Park Permit Application as filed for the Fontana Community Church Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 4, 2010 at Reid Park, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Any Other Comments or Concerns**

O'Connell asked if the Park Commission was going to conduct its annual park walks this spring. Lobdell stated that the walks are usually held in May, and they will be scheduled at the next monthly meeting. Wegner presented an inventory of the trees at the Duck Pond that the Park Commission would like to sell to interested residents as a fund-raising project. Martin will write a story for the upcoming quarterly newsletter. Once there have been enough trees sold to cover expenses, the DPW will be digging up the sold trees and preparing them for transplanting. Wegner stated that many of the trees are already too mature to transplant.

### **Pending Item for Future Agendas**

1. Park Maintenance Plan

### **Adjournment**

Green/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 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: 4/21/10