

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN
(Official Minutes)
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Park Commission Treasurer Sarah Lobdell called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Sarah Lobdell, Sandra Hibbard, Mary Green, Laura Coates, Trustee Cindy Wilson (arrived at 6:07 pm)

Park Commissioners absent: Gail Hibbard, Lynne Frost

Also present: Director of Streets Ron Adams, Jeff Epping, Library Director Nancy Krei, Clerk/Administrator Dennis Martin, Trustee Rick Pappas

Approval of Minutes

Green/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the meeting minutes for January 15, 2014, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

Announcements

Martin stated that since Trustee Wilson was not seeking reelection in the April 1, 2014 election, that this would be her last meeting after serving for four years as the Park Commission chairman. The Park Commission members all expressed thanks to Wilson for her service and her hard work representing the interests of the Village parkland. The Park Commission members also decided to plan a party at the Park House to recognize Wilson for her many years of public service.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was not used in January or February 2014.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's reports for November 2013 through February 2014 were presented.

Plan Commission Report

The Plan Commission has not met since November 25, 2013.

Public Works Report

Street Director Ron Adams stated that the crew has been busy working on the North Lakeshore Drive bridge railing painting project, as well as repairing the beach fence where it was struck by a Village snow plow this past winter. Wilson stated that the bridge railing looks great so far.

Park Commission Maintenance List: Add Lakefront Evergreen Trees Protective Wrapping for Winter Months

The village has received concerns regarding the evergreen trees in Reid Park and in the lakefront area that were damaged by deer this past winter. Jeff Epping, the Park Commission's contracted arborist, stated that netting used for fruit trees would be a better alternative than wrapping the trees, since the netting would be less visible, easier to mount on the trees and more likely to stay attached. Adams stated that the DPW crew took down all the bird houses along the Hildebrand Conservancy lot line, cleaned, repaired, painted and remounted them. Adams stated that the DPW crew will take out the dead trees and junk bushes from the lot adjacent to the Geneva Lake Conservancy building after the frost lifts, and no-mow grass will be planted. Wilson stated that she would still like to see the Park Commission allocate funding in the future for the erection of a window awning on the front side of the Park House. Wilson stated that it would cost about \$1,000 to purchase and install an awning to

match the awning on the west side of the Park House.

Old Business

Pioneer Park Plans to Replace Crab Trees – Allocate Tree Reforestation Funds

Epping presented a plan for the replacement of the crab trees in Pioneer Park, and for some landscaping improvements at the back of the lot by the stone wall. Epping stated that he did some tree pruning in Pioneer Park last week and he suggests that the large burning bush plants also be removed. Epping said the proposed landscaping plan he drafted does not include any plants or trees that will grow too tall and obscure neighboring views, and the crab trees he selected to replace the old ones are a dwarf variety that does not grow real tall. Epping stated that if the new plants and trees are well watered for the first two seasons, they are all very hardy and long lasting; and all the plants bloom at different times of the year. Following discussion on each of the proposed new plants, Epping stated that he received an estimate of \$2,300 for the total purchase price. Adams stated that the DPW crew will be able to plant the new plants and trees, with some assistance from Epping. Adams stated that the back lot line also has to be delineated because the owners of the adjacent lot have not yet provided authorization to have some of the existing bushes and plants taken out to make way for the new plants. If permission is received, the Village will take out the all the old plants. If permission is not received, the new plantings will have to be kept all on the Pioneer Park lot. Adams stated that Lee Eakright has been assisting with seeking authorization from the lot owners. Martin stated that he has inquired with the Village auditor on the use of the Tree Reforestation Fund, which has a balance of \$12,275. Martin stated that as well as purchasing trees for planting on Village property, he is checking if the funds can be allocated for other tree canopy related items, such as tree trimming and pruning expenses and the purchase of other plants that promote a healthy tree canopy. Lobdell/Wilson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the \$2,300 Pioneer Park tree replacement and landscaping plan as presented, with the funding to be allocated from the Tree Reforestation Fund if appropriate. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Spring Tree Pruning Plans

There is \$3,000 in the budget for Epping to allocate on tree pruning. Epping has completed some pruning already this season. Following discussion, the Park Commission directed Epping to address the oak trees that were planted several years ago by the Village on Mill Street by the condominium buildings, but have not yet been pruned; and two serviceberry trees by the Reid Park gazebo that have been “topped.” Epping stated that when properly pruned, the serviceberry trees will grow as high as the gazebo roof, and the thicker tops of the trees will be higher and less of a vision obstruction. Epping stated that the body of a serviceberry tree is very thin when it grows out. Epping will allocate the rest of the \$3,000 to continue with the Park Commission tree pruning priority plan.

Schedule Planning Meeting with Northwind Perennial Farm for 2014 Work List

Martin, Wilson and Adams met with Blackstone Landscaping to work out the parkland and restroom maintenance plan and grass cutting schedule. A meeting still has to be scheduled with Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farm to finalize the plans for Porter Court Plaza. Diblik will be planting and maintaining perennials in Porter Court Plaza, and Blackstone will be cutting the grass portions.

Big Foot Recreation District Easter Egg Hunt Planning and Donation Approval for April 19, 2014 Duck Pond Event

Martin stated that staff will contact the Big Foot Recreation District, as well as the regular event sponsors to finalize the annual plans. Adams stated that the DPW will set up the areas for each age group depending on the weather and ground conditions. Lobdell stated that volunteers are always needed to help scatter the eggs. The Park Commission makes an annual donation to the Big Foot Recreation District to help pay for the candy, and Gordy’s employees help stuff the eggs. Lobdell/Green 2nd made a MOTION to approve the annual allocation to the Big Foot Recreation District for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Duck Pond on Saturday, April 19, 2014, beginning at 10:00 am. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Arbor Day/Bird City Wisconsin Program Planning and \$250 Donation Approval: IMBD Posters Purchase Approval, \$33.95

Martin stated that Fontana Elementary School has indicated the annual program will be held Friday,

April 25, 2014 beginning at 10:00 am, and former Park Commission Chairman Rick Treptow has again offered to purchase tree saplings for the students. An Arbor Day Foundation representative is scheduled to attend to present the annual Tree City award. Martin stated that the school has again agreed to incorporate the Bird City Wisconsin IMBD Observance into the Arbor Day program, and the Park Commission has to authorize the purchase of International Migratory Bird Day 2014 posters for the students. The Park Commission also has to authorize the annual \$250 donation to the school for the program, and recommend approval of the annual Arbor Day Proclamation. Wilson/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to approve the allocation of \$33.95 for the purchase of International Migratory Bird Day 2014 posters, and the \$250 donation to Fontana Elementary School for the annual Arbor Day Program; and to recommend Village Board approval of the annual Arbor Day Proclamation. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

New Business

Park Permit Applications Filed for Big Foot High School Class Reunion Picnic, Duck Pond Pavilion with Beer/Wine Permit, August 2, 2014; Geneva lake United Soccer Club Picnic, Duck Pond Pavilion, May 31, 2014; Geneva Lake United Youth Soccer Club, Park House, April 6, 2014

There are no conflicts with the proposed event dates, and the soccer club has requested the waiver of the fees for its events since they are a nonprofit group.

Wilson/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the Park Permit applications filed for a Big Foot High School Class Reunion at the Duck Pond Pavilion with a Beer/Wine Permit on August 2, 2014; by the Geneva lake United Soccer Club for a picnic at the Duck Pond Pavilion on May 31, 2014; and by the Geneva Lake United Youth Soccer Club for a meeting at the Park House on April 6, 2014, with the fees waived for the soccer club applications. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Review Approved Permit Applications Filed by Community Church of Fontana, Easter Sunrise Service, Reid Park Gazebo, April 20, 2014; Fontana Garden Club Plant Sale, Porter Court Plaza, May 23, to 25, 2014; Crystal Conwell for Wedding Ceremony, Reid Park Gazebo, September 6, 2014

Since the monthly meeting was cancelled last month, the Village Board approved the applications with the condition that they were reviewed by the commission. There are no conflicts with the events. The fees are waived for the Garden Club's annual sale, and for the church service.

Wilson/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to affirm the Village Board approval of the Park Permit applications filed by the Community Church of Fontana for its Easter Sunrise Service at the Reid Park Gazebo on Sunday, April 20, 2014; by the Fontana Garden Club for its annual Plant Sale at Porter Court Plaza, May 23, to 25, 2014; and by Crystal Conwell for a wedding ceremony at the Reid Park Gazebo on September 6, 2014. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Arbor Day Foundation Annual \$50 Membership Fee Approval

Martin stated that the fee actually may only be \$15.

Wilson/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to authorize the payment of the annual Arbor Day Foundation membership fee, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Wilson stated that she wanted to thank all of the Park Commission members for their service and dedication, as well as Martin, Library Director Nancy Krei, Trustee Rick Pappas and Street Director Ron Adams for their support of the Park Commission projects and activities. Wilson stated that it was a great experience working with the Park Commission, and its members have always done a terrific job for the benefit of the entire village.

Adjournment

Coates/Wilson 2nd 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: 5/21/14