

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Vice Chairperson Jill Wegner 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: Jill Wegner, Nancy Krei, Melissa Colby, Sharon O'Brien, Trustee Diane Lewis (arrived at 6:22 pm)

Park Commissioners absent: Sarah Lobdell, Dan Green, Robert Stewart

Also present: Chad and Pam Carper, CDA Commissioner Gail Hibbard, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Assistant Zoning Administrator Bridget McCarthy, Joseph McHugh, President Pete Petersen, Big Foot Recreation Director Chuck Thiesenhusen

Approval of Minutes

O'Brien/Krei 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes submitted for the meeting held March 18, 2009, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Chad and Pam Carper, owners of Georgie B's Restaurant, 441 Mill Street, stated that they would like to host a fund-raising anniversary party to benefit the Geneva Lake Conservancy on Saturday, May 23, 2009 from noon to 4:00 pm in the Porter Court Plaza. Chad Carper stated that the proposal is for the restaurant to use an area of the Porter Court Plaza to host live music and to set up a grill for a traditional Wisconsin brat fry, and to cook Louisiana style sausages and peppers and hot dogs. All proceeds will go the Geneva Lake Conservancy to help its efforts in protecting the lake area. Chad Carper stated that the restaurant will set up tables in the plaza on the cobblestone path for the event. There would be no alcohol served outside the restaurant and trash cans will be placed in appropriate locations. The Park Commission members stated that they do not have any concerns with the proposal, but the item was not on the agenda for the meeting. Wegner took a straw vote of the Plan Commission and they unanimously supported Village Board approval of the Georgie B's event as proposed.

Big Foot Recreation Director Chuck Thiesenhusen stated that he would like to thank the Park Commission and the volunteers who made the annual Easter Egg Hunt a success. Thiesenhusen stated that there was a very large turnout. Workman stated that there were so many people who attended the event that it could not have taken place in Reid Park, and since the event was moved to the Duck Pond Recreation area several years ago, it has become very popular. Thiesenhusen is also working with Village staff to schedule four children's programs at the Park House or at the Mill House Pavilion. Thiesenhusen stated he would like to use the Mill House Pavilion if the Fontana Elementary School allows him to use its bathrooms during the programs.

Announcements

There will be volunteer divers cleaning up the lakefront on the morning of Saturday, April 18, 2009, and the Village of Fontana Arbor Day Program is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009 beginning at 10:00 am at the Fontana Elementary School. Trees for the program were secured from the Wisconsin DNR by Assistant Zoning Administrator Bridget McCarthy, and Rick Treptow has again donated trees for the program.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used 14 times in March 2009.

Treasurer's Report

Krei presented the treasurer's report as of March 31, 2009.

Plan Commission Report

The Plan Commission will be holding a joint public hearing with the Joint ETZ Committee on Monday, April 27, 2009 beginning at 6:00 pm to consider a proposal to amend the ETZ Zoning Ordinance to allow for boat

servicing in the A-4 ETZ District. The Plan Commission also will be scheduling a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments to the Tree Ordinance.

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Craig Workman stated that the crew has been busy abating buckthorn in the area to the north of the old Village garage off Duck Pond Road. Workman stated that the crew also will be removing the nonnative vegetation from the Fontana Fen following the recent controlled burn. The DPW crew also is staining the exterior of the Mill House Pavilion. O'Brien stated that Roy Diblik has donated some plants that the fifth-graders from Fontana Elementary School will be planting around the Mill House Pavilion. Workman stated that the bench donated by the Fontana Garden Club will be installed at the Mill House Pavilion after the landscaping has been completed. Workman stated that work on the Third Avenue and Kinzie Avenue projects will commence in the next few weeks. Workman stated that the new pirate ship for the Little Foot Playground will be installed later in the month. Workman stated that John O'Neill has offered to pay for having Blackstone Landscaping employees trim the crab apple trees in Pioneer Park. O'Brien stated that she will supervise the tree trimming to prevent the trees from being over-trimmed. The trees have grown back nicely after they were severely damaged by excessive branch trimming efforts a few years ago; however, the limbs need to be trimmed again.

Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee Report

The Village Board approved the committee's recommendation on the RFP for the lakefront building. A meeting will be scheduled after PDI/Gaef completes the structural engineering report.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

Martin stated that he will add the trimming of the crab apple trees in Pioneer Park to the list. John O'Neill has offered to pay for a contractor to trim the trees. Sharon O'Brien will be contacted to supervise the trimming. The controlled burn at the Fontana Fen was conducted by volunteers from the Fontana Fire Department.

Old Business

Duck Pond Tree Replanting Update

Workman stated that the trees have to be cut down or moved from the easement area at the Duck Pond Recreation Area by this fall. O'Brien stated that some of the trees can be used for the landscaping project at the VOF/Pheasant Ridge corner lot at County Highway B and Indian Hills Road.

Tree Ordinance Amendments

The updated amendment proposal was distributed by McCarthy a few weeks ago to the Park Commission members; however, the Department of Building and Zoning has not received any feedback. Krei asked if there is a time limit for the amendment process. McCarthy stated that there is an ordinance in place; however, the Village Board directed the ordinance to be amended last fall. O'Brien stated that the proposed amendments have been forwarded to Village Planner Mike Slavney for input. O'Brien stated that some of the areas of the current ordinance are not working, such as the regulations for dead, dying and diseased trees. O'Brien stated that the tree ordinance needs to be made more citizen-friendly. Petersen stated that the Park Commission needs to provide instructions to the Village staff to get a workable ordinance drafted, presented and adopted as soon as possible. Petersen stated that more amendments can be pursued in the future, but the current ordinance needs to be tweaked. Petersen stated that Slavney has been instructed to review the ordinance and compare it to others. Krei stated that she appreciates all the time and effort McCarthy and O'Brien have put into the tree ordinance amendments.

Brick Program Update

Wegner stated that she will contact former Park Commission members Dawn Sammons and Rallee Whowell Chupich to determine sources for obtaining the memorial bricks and the related expenses for having them engraved. The Park Commission would like to reinstate the memorial brick program at the Little Foot Park area, and possibly at the Mill House Pavilion and Duck Pond Recreation Area.

Schedule Spring Park Walks

Following discussion, the Park Commission members decided to schedule the annual walks for Thursday evenings in May beginning at 5:30 pm. Krei stated that she currently has conflicts on two of the dates, so she

will be unable to participate.

O'Brien/Colby 2nd made a MOTION to schedule the spring park walks for 5:30 pm on Thursdays, May 7, 2009, the lakefront parks; May 14, 2009, the Fontana Fen and Hildebrand Nature Conservancy; and May 21, 2009, the Duck Pond Recreation Area. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Spring/Summer Community Events

Following discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that the dedication ceremony for the new pirate ship in Little Foot Park should be held prior to the Pig in the Park fund-raising pig roast on Saturday, September 5, 2009.

New Business

High Impact Plantings for Reid Park Gazebo, Flag Pole Site & Pioneer Park Wall Gardens

Workman had to leave the meeting and Roy Diblik was not present to discuss the proposal. The proposal is for Diblik to provide some plants at a low cost to be planted under his supervision by the DPW crew. The Reid Park gazebo is scheduled for maintenance, so more plantings by the gazebo will be delayed until after the maintenance project is completed.

O'Brien/Colby 2nd made a MOTION to table the item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Belvidere Park Tree Ordinance Violation Fines – Request to Appeal

McCarthy was present at the meeting to answer any questions the Park Commission members had with regard to the fines the Belvidere Park Association received for violating the Tree Ordinance. The information on the fines issued to the association was distributed to the Park Commission members prior to the meeting. O'Brien asked about the other fines the Park Commission has acted on for violations of the Tree Ordinance. Krei asked if a decision had to be made that night. There were no other questions. Since O'Brien was one of the four voting members of the Park Commission who was present at the meeting and she is also a member of the Belvidere Park Association and could not vote on the issue, there was not a quorum of members available to consider a motion on the appeal. Scott Anderson, who requested the agenda item on behalf of the association, sent an email to the Village clerk stating that he would not be at the meeting since it was anticipated that a quorum was going to be an issue. The email states: "Hi Dennis, I received an email late last night from a Belvidere Park association member asking me to modify my prepared statement. I'm leaving for an all day meeting and won't have time to make those modifications today before I leave. My wife and I are coming to Fontana on Friday and I will bring the statement to the village office so that it can be distributed to the zoning commissioners. Thank you again for notifying me about the lack of a quorum for tonight's meeting."

Wegner/Colby 2nd made a MOTION to table the item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Bills to Pay

Porter Harrett completed six more hours of work on the Park Commission PowerPoint program on the Fontana Boulevard flower beds.

Krei/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the \$20 payment to Porter Harrett for six hours of work on the Fontana Flower Beds PowerPoint program, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Park Requests

None submitted.

Any Other Comments or Concerns

Sharon Conklin stated that she wanted to hand in a volunteer information form to the Village and she is interested in serving on the Park Commission. Conklin stated that she is a former member of the Fontana Garden Club and she hopes the Park Commission can use her volunteer services in the future. Conklin also stated that she walks her dogs at the Duck Pond Recreation Area two times a day because the dog walking track is such a nice facility. Conklin stated that many people are not picking up their pet's waste and it may help if the Village were to install two more collection receptacles in the area. Conklin stated that she and her husband will donate two posts to hold waste collection bags if the Village installs two more receptacles.

Wegner took a straw vote of the Park Commission members and they unanimously supported approval of the proposal. Conklin stated that someone moved the large boulders that blocked people from driving automobiles by the dog walking track area. Conklin stated that people are currently driving their automobiles right up to the track area and it could be dangerous for pedestrians and dogs. The Park Commission

members asked Martin to have the DPW crew move the boulders back into place.

Pending Items for Future Agendas

1. Park Maintenance Plan
2. Volunteer Opportunities (Master Gardeners Group)
3. Landscape Plans for VOF/Pheasant Ridge Corner Lot at County Highway B & Indian Hills Road
4. Pet Waste
5. Parks and Open Space Plan Update

Adjournment

O'Brien/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 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: 5/20/09