

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Commissioner Susan Geye called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:00 pm in the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Susan Geye, Brent Horvath, Sarah Lobdell, Dawn Sammons, Laurie Larson, Joe Bidwill

Park Commissioners absent: Rick Treptow, Sharon O'Brien

Also present: Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh, Jill Wegner, Rallee Whowell-Chupich, Public Works Director Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

Lobdell/Sammons 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2006 meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Jill and Wes Wegner of the Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited, discussed the Van Slyke Creek project and a recent meeting. DNR Fisheries will do a stream survey of Van Slyke Creek in May or June. Wegner stated that there currently are five areas in the United States that have been identified for federal funds for cold water stream restoration. The driftless area in Wisconsin is one of the five areas. The Village of Fontana needs to set up a stream restoration project, and Trout Unlimited has already begun that project. Other ideas that were discussed include a joint study with the DNR to determine the quality of the water in Van Slyke Creek; proposals to involve the schools and to work with the Abbey to allow public access to the portion that is on their property; contact the DNR, the Geneva Lake Conservancy, the Fontana Elementary School District and other property owners to get joint ownership of the project; the two Chicago area chapters of Trout Unlimited have indicated that they are very excited about the project and are willing to help; the Onion River up by Sheboygan is a recently completed stream restoration project and the people involved with that project are also willing to help; the CDA and the Village are looking into silt infiltration issues with the Pottawatomie, and there may be some overlap with Van Slyke Creek; Agrecol is only working on the stream corridor, and they have already gotten permits from the DNR and that will greatly speed up the process; there should be a coordination meeting between Agrecol, Fontana Elementary School, Trout Unlimited, the Park Commission and the DNR; and there is a nationally known trout specialist in LaCrosse who is also willing to help. All agreed that the stream study is the first step. Dawn Sammons and Jill Wegner will head up the committee for the Park Commission.

General Business

Plan Commission and Trustee Report

The Plan Commission and Village Board approved an amendment to the nonconforming ordinance. The Abbey Resort has submitted an amended plat for their Dockominiums. The Abbey is proposing to change the definition of the units from lock-boxes to parking lot spaces. The Precise Implementation Plan for the Par Development Cliffs of Fontana Planned Development was pulled by the applicants when final engineering plans revealed the proposal would require too much fill to make it economically or environmentally feasible. A public hearing for the Tracy Group Highlands of Fontana development will be held on April 20. The Plan Commission and Village Board also approved a tree removal and replacement fee of \$400 and greater, depending on the size of the tree that was removed. The Hildebrand property was put into conservancy with the Geneva Lake Conservancy for perpetuity.

CDA Report

A survey of the Hildebrand area is finally being completed. The Phase I environmental assessment of Duck

Pond also is in the works.

Park House Use

The Park House was used 13 times in March.

Treasurer's Report

No change was reported from last month's figures.

Public Works Report

Workman provided an update on the new lift station construction, and it is hoped that the site will be ready for the construction of the new restroom and pavilion building by May 11. All the pipe has been buried, and the ground is ready to grade and seed around the gazebo. Plans are to set up access to the gazebo from Fontana Boulevard so crews can begin restoring the baseball field and at the west end of park. The new beach house is close to completion on foundation and plumbing. The State DOT and Mann Brothers will be setting the schedule for the Highway 67 construction next week.

Old Business

Fontana Wayfinding Signs: Final approval for Timberline Sign design

No action was taken.

Wayfinding sign for Fontana Elementary School- South Main location

The way finding sign for the Fontana Elementary School was approved. The exact name for the sign was discussed, and Susan Geye agreed to call Jim Sherin to discuss the project and also to call the school and inform them that the sign is going to be installed at the corner of South Main Street and Highway 67.

Sammons/Larson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the way finding sign for the Fontana Elementary School, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Parks Organizational Status

No action was taken.

Parks Projects/Completion Dates

Workman stated the construction was scheduled to begin on May 11 on the Reid Park Bathrooms and Pavilion.

Easter Egg Hunt at Duck Pond report

Rallee Whowell-Chupich reported on the Easter Egg Hunt held at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. More than 1,000 people attended the event. It was a smashing success. Public Works set up the site, the Abbey Resort donated coffee, and Dean Foods donated milk. There was a soccer event taking place at the same time, so parking was a little crowded.

Spring Park Walks

There will be a community walk at the Fen in late May or early June. A walk is scheduled at the Duck Pond for Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00 pm. Sarah Lobdell brought up a safety issue on the north edge of the field. Lobdell stated that the new irrigation pond is holding enough water to be dangerous and there are open stretches behind the field where kids can climb down the steep bank to the water. This will be investigated during the walk.

Crab tree desecration in Pioneer Park Update - Craig Workman

John O'Neill trimmed crab apple trees in Pioneer Park without authorization. Watchel Tree Service will come and visit the site to assess damage and remediation. Laurie Larson stated that she call Watchel to remind them to get there as soon as possible.

Clearing of entrance to Hildebrand Park

The clearing of the Hildebrand Park entrance has been completed and looks good.

New Business

Van Slyke Creek Restoration Project

This item was discussed during Visitors Heard.

Chucks Landscaping Issue - Reid Park

Chucks owners Jamie and Carol Whowell want to make a single entrance to their establishment from Reid Park rather than the two that are there now. They will take out the railing along their sidewalk and block off the front and back entries that are there now. The Park Commission requested that Chucks submit an informal landscape plan or sketch before any action was considered.

Frisbee Golf at Duck Pond

A request was received to create a Frisbee golf course at the Duck Pond. Park Commissioners will look for locations during the upcoming park walk.

Park Commission Membership: Susan Geye resignation, recommendation of Jill Wegner for replacement. Other new member suggestions?

The Village Board is scheduled to act on the resignation of Geye and the appointment of Wegner to the Park Commission at its next meeting. When approved, the Park Commission members will be Chairman Rick Treptow and Commissioners Laurie Larson, Brent Horvath, Dawn Sammons, Jill Wegner, Sarah Lobdell and Sharon O'Brien. Joe Bidwill is the Village Board's liaison on the Park Commission.

STH 67 Street Signage – Update

No report was given because the Park Commission is still waiting for information.

Pioneer Park Turnaround – Update/Revised Concept

Ruekert Mielke presented a concept plan for a boat trailer turnaround in Pioneer Park. The plan would involve relocation of Third Avenue by moving Gordy's Pro Shop south into the current street, and then straightening out the road, giving the launch personnel a clear vision from the parking lot to the launch site. An estimated project cost is not known at this time. If the proposal advances from the conceptual stage, there will have to be a referendum for the project. The Park Commission approved the concept plan with a straw vote, pending input from Rick Treptow and Sharon O'Brien.

Bird and bat houses in Hildebrand, Headwaters & Fen: Fontana Grade School project

Fontana Elementary School students are going to make bird houses to mark the boundary along the Hildebrand property. Twenty bird houses will be needed to mark the property line. The DPW will install the poles at this time and the bird houses will be put up in the fall.

Fontana Grade School Parks Project May 21, 2006

No action was taken.

Arbor Day

Rick Treptow and Laurie Larson were scheduled to be at the Fontana Elementary School on April 28 to help the fourth-grade class celebrate Arbor Day. The Park Commission will present to the school the trees that were donated by Brickman Landscaping. The Park Commission donates \$250 to the school each year for Arbor Day. The Village of Fontana is observing its 18th consecutive year of being named a Tree City USA. Geye/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to approve the Arbor Day Celebration and the \$250 donation, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Bills to Pay

None submitted.

Park Requests

None submitted.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Laurie Larson informed the group that Bill Henry was working with the DNR on an agricultural land restoration project on the corner of Indian Hills Road and County Highway B and wondered if the village land to the west that runs parallel to Pheasant Ridge would qualify. The commission felt it was not suitable.

Adjournment

Geye/Larson 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Susan Geye & Dennis Martin, Village Clerk

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: 6/21/06