

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Chairperson Cindy Wilson 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: Trustee Wilson, Laura Coates, Sarah Lobdell, Gail Hibbard, Mary Green

Park Commissioners absent: Sharon O'Brien, Sandra Hibbard

Also present: Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, Library Director Nancy Krei, Helen Ladouceur, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Micki O'Connell, Trustee Rick Pappas, Louise Sheyker, Big Foot Recreation District Director Chuck Thiesenhusen, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

Lobdell/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held April 18, 2012, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Big Foot Recreation District Director Chuck Thiesenhusen stated that the Monday evening 16-inch coed softball league at the Duck Pond Recreation Area will commence in June. Thiesenhusen stated that the league organizers would like to have a one-time social night to kick off the season on Monday, June 4, 2012 or June 11, 2012, and he asked the Park Commission members if they would have any concerns if a beer consumption permit was sought for the Duck Pond Pavilion area. Thiesenhusen stated that the beer would not be sold to the league members. The Park Commission members stated that they support the proposal and would have no concerns with a beer permit being presented directly to the Village Board for approval. Wilson stated that she also wanted to make an official announcement that Park Commissioner Gail Hibbard was the 2012 recipient of the Geneva Lake West Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award. Wilson stated that Gail Hibbard, the current president of the Fontana Garden Club and a member of the CDA Board, is a very well deserving recipient of the award. Wilson also stated that she wanted to announce the annual Fontana Garden Club Plant Sale is being held in the Porter Court Plaza again this Memorial Day weekend on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, 2012.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was not used in April 2012. The Indian Hills First Addition Association will be holding its annual meeting in the Park House on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Workman stated that temporary chairs and tables will be set up in the Park House, since the renovation project is not yet complete.

Treasurer's Report

The updated treasurer's report as of April 30, 2012 was presented by Lobdell.

Plan Commission Report

Lobdell stated that the Plan Commission conducted three public hearings for CUP applications at its last monthly meeting. Lobdell stated that the amendments directed at the last workshop meeting for the Chapters 17 and 18 rewriting project and the updated drafts will be presented and possibly set for a public hearing at the next joint meeting, which has not yet been scheduled.

Public Works Report

Workman stated that DPW crew has been busy working on the Porter Court Plaza. All the old perennial beds have been removed and smaller shrubs and new perennials will be planted in the next week. Workman stated that Roy Diblik agreed to swap out the perennials at no cost to the Park Commission. Workman stated that the park looks a little rough at the moment, but it will be back in shape in about one week.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

Wilson stated that she toured the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and shot photographs that were distributed to show how nice the area looks with all the garlic mustard abated. Wilson stated that the repairs on the walking paths and bridges also are completed and look good. Hayden stated that she recently visited Headwaters Park and noticed that the creek beds are overgrown with garlic mustard and other weeds and plants. Hayden stated that a few taller trees also have fallen into the creek. The Park Commission directed Martin to add Headwaters Park to the maintenance list. Workman stated that he will look at the area and have it appropriately cleaned up after consulting with the trout stream project advisors.

Old Business

Park House Permit Fee Schedule Village Board Direction

Wilson stated that she took some photographs of the interior of the Park House, which were distributed. Workman stated that the exterior of the building has been power-washed; however, the eaves need to be sanded prior to the painting of the exterior of the building. Wilson also distributed photographs of two wooden brackets that were mounted between the walls and the roof overhang on the corner of exterior of the building. Wilson stated that the cedar brackets are of two different styles – one that is arched and one that is straight. Wilson stated that the Park Commission members should look at the building and decide which style, if either, should be mounted on the building. If the brackets are mounted on all four corners of the building, they will be painted to match the exterior paint. Wilson stated that she presented at the last monthly Village Board meeting the Park Commission's recommendation for a new fee schedule for the card clubs and Big Foot Recreation District events that take place at the Park House, and an expense/use report for the last four years at the Park House. Some of the card club members were at the Village Board meeting and objected to any fee being charged for the use of the Park House, and the recommendation was tabled and referred back to the Park Commission for reconsideration. Wilson stated that based on the total use of the Park House and the expenses the Village incurs for maintenance and utility bills, the fee schedule proposed last month is very appropriate at about \$1 per member, per week. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission also offered to have the Park Club members determine prior to each month if they want to meet at the Park House or not, depending on the total number of players anticipated. As well as reconsidering the fee schedule recommendation, some of the Village Board members requested that an annual fee for the card be considered. Wilson stated that the Park Commission did not ask for any support on the funds allocated this year to repair and renovate the Park House, the members just want the maintenance and utility expenses to be shared by all the users. Wilson stated that if the card club members are not charged to use the Park House, she does not know how the Park Commission could collect a fee from any other potential users. Wilson stated that if some groups are allowed to use the facility free of charge, then all groups would have to be given the same deal. Louise Sheyker stated that she attended the Village Board meeting and submitted a letter requesting that the Tuesday card club be allowed to continue to meet at the Park House for no charge. Sheyker's letter states in part, "There are eight or nine Fontana residents who play in this group. We are all over 55 years old, most are retired and none of us send children to any of the schools; but, as homeowners we all pay our share of taxes for the upkeep of this lovely village/school system and love living here. We also buy vehicle stickers so we can park near the building." Sheyker stated that the card club did not ask for the Park House to be renovated and the total proposed fee at \$50 per month for the weekly card club meetings would amount to \$600 per year. Wilson stated that the village received a petition to have the Park House renovated instead of razed, and the petition was signed by the card club members. Wilson stated that the Public Library has hosted the card club in recent weeks and she asked why the members did not want to continue playing in the library at no cost. Lobdell stated that the Village also has other facilities that can be used at no charge; however, the Reid Park Gazebo, the Duck Pond Pavilion and the Park House all have application fees to cover maintenance and utility expenses. Coates stated that if she were to plan for a birthday party to be held at the Park House, she would expect to have to pay the \$75 fee. Hayden stated that the card club that meets on Mondays consists of mainly nonresidents, and she asked what the Park Commission could do to make the situation equitable if the Tuesday card club was not charged a fee. Wilson stated that the card clubs used the Park House for free for many years, and the nominal fee being recommended by the Park Commission only amounts to about \$1 per member. Hayden stated that a perfect solution would be for the card club to continue to meet at the library, where they are welcome to meet for no charge. Hayden stated that the group meets in the back of the library, where it is almost always vacant on Tuesday afternoons. Hayden stated that there is plenty of free parking at the library, and that would address the card club members' complaint that the parking stalls in front of the Park House are part of the pay-per-stall program. O'Connell stated that her issue is having the card club meetings treated as a special event and

maybe an annual fee could be established. O'Connell stated that the Park House has been in the Village of Fontana for 40 years, and nobody uses it other than the card clubs. O'Connell stated that she would not mind a nominal annual fee. Thiesenhusen stated that the Big Foot Recreation District also has benefited from using the Park House for no charge in recent years for its summer programs; however, with the improvements, he does not mind paying a small fee of \$1 per participant, per program. Following more than 30 minutes of discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that the initial recommendation presented last month should not be changed.

Gail Hibbard/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to not alter the initial recommendation for the Park House application fee schedule to be set at \$75 for regular events, at \$50 per month for the card club groups that meet weekly, and at \$1 per child per session for the Big Foot Recreation District summer camps programs. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Pig in the Park Permits & Licenses for Saturday, September 1, 2012 & Dan Green Foundation

Mary Green stated that planning committee members are pursuing the establishment of a 501-C3 charitable organization to be called the Dan Green Foundation in honor of her husband and former Park Commission member Daniel Green, who died in a tragic accident on September 12, 2011. Mary Green stated that the proposal is for the organization to take over the planning and event operations in cooperation with the Village of Fontana, with the proceeds to be used to pay back the Little Foot Playground loan. Mary Green stated that once the Little Foot project is paid for, the proceeds from the Pig in the Park event and other events hosted by the foundation will be used to support other Park Commission projects and other charitable causes. Mary Green stated that the Pig in the Park event will be open for more donations if it is run by a 501-C3 organization. Village Attorney Dale Thorpe is assisting Mary Green with establishing the Dan Green Foundation. Hayden stated that the Pig in the Park event has been getting its licenses through the Friends of the Park, but that group is not really active. Mary Green stated that the Dan Green Foundation has a goal of assisting the entire community, not just Park Commission projects. Wilson stated that the Dan Green Foundation proposal is a wonderful idea. As well as a motion to recommend Village Board approval of having the Dan Green Foundation take over the Pig in the Park event, the Park Commission also included a recommendation to rename the event, "Dan Green's Pig in the Park." The Temporary Liquor License and special event permit applications also were presented for approval. The applications were approved as presented in previous years; however, if the Dan Green Foundation is established prior to this year's event, the applications will be changed to the new foundation as the applicant.

Lobdell/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Temporary Liquor License and special event permit applications as presented with the Friends of the Parks as the applicant for the annual Pig in the Park in Reid Park on Saturday, September 1, 2012. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Lobdell/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of transferring the planning and operational duties for the annual Pig in the Park event in Reid Park to the Dan Green Foundation, which will work in partnership with the Village Park Commission; to approve the new event name, Dan Green's Pig in the Park; and to approve the Temporary Liquor License and special event permit applications with the Dan Green Foundation as the applicant if the organization is established in time for this year's event. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Subcommittee Reports: Mill House, 501 C3

Rick Treptow, the chairman of the Mill House subcommittee, could not attend the meeting, but he emailed the following message: "I finally got a bid from Joe Kowalski for signs for the Mill House Pavilion. They are alumicore signs, 1/4-inch thick with gold vinyl edge imprinted with black foil. They would identify the donor list, railroad track, structural wood beam, wooden dowels and forged nails. The approximate cost is \$400. The final sign would be a bronze plaque, stating 'IN MEMORIAM,' and 'Special Recognition to Ron Pollitt and David Coates for Their Efforts & Dedication in Making This Historical Structure Possible. – 2010.' The approximate cost is \$325, for a total of approximately \$725. If anyone would like to see the mock-ups, contact me, otherwise, give me your approval and I will have them made. Public Works could hang the signs and mount the dowels and nails (I will work with them) and the bronze plaque would be mounted on a rock, or preferably, a Mill Stone in front, outside of the pavilion. Also, there were other recommendations from our last subcommittee meeting (last year) that were not put into effect." Lobdell stated that there is \$1,184 left in the Mill House Pavilion account to fund the signs; however, the Park Commission should review the sign mock-ups before they are purchased.

Coates/Wilson 2nd made a MOTOIN to approve the Mill House subcommittee signage recommendations as

presented, subject to review of the mock-up plans, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.
The 501-c3 committee did not meet so no report was presented.

Park House Renovation Project Donor List & Local Artist/Photographer Program

Gail Hibbard stated that they did not get a chance to discuss the proposal this month, but there is not much wall space available. A suggestion was made that maybe children's art projects, or entries from a coloring contest could be erected for short periods of time, with the temporary displays to change throughout the year.

New Business

Little Foot Playground Lighthouse Repair Proposal

Workman stated that Jerry Shoberg presented a proposal to reconstruct the lighthouse at Little Foot Playground for \$3,740 using rot-resistant material for the entire exterior façade and pressure treated lumber and plywood for the structural part of the project. Shoberg can get the materials for a discount and also offered to provide the labor for a reduced price. Following discussion it was noted that there are no funds in this year's budget for the project; however, the old lighthouse should be replaced as soon as the funds are available. Also, the proposal submitted by Jerry Shoberg should be approved because he will reconstruct the lighthouse in the same style as the old one and the material is basically indestructible.

Wilson/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Little Foot Playground lighthouse replacement proposal submitted by Jerry Shoberg at a time to be determined when the funding becomes available. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Annual Park Walks

Lobdell suggested that instead of scheduling annual park walks on three dates with all the members, maybe the individual members could just take a park and report back at the next meeting. Wilson stated that she will take care of Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and the Mill House Pavilion area; Lobdell stated that she will take care of the Headwaters Park, the Fontana Fen and the Duck Pond Recreation Area, and she will invite Gail Hibbard to assist; and Coates and Mary Green stated that they will take care of Reid Park, Pioneer Park, the Park House, and the beach area park along the lakefront.

Hildebrand Nature Conservancy Annual GLC Monitoring Event Saturday, July 14, 2012

Martin stated that Geneva Lake Conservancy Manager of Land Protection and Operations Lynn Ketterhagen will be conducting the annual monitoring tour of the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy on Saturday, July 14, 2012 beginning at 10:00 am. Park Commissioner members are invited to take the tour with Ketterhagen, who will present her annual report to the Park Commission following the tour. In case of poor weather, Ketterhagen set Saturday, July 21, 2012 as the alternate date.

Park Permit Application Filed by Ryan Vegter for Graduation Party, Duck Pond Pavilion, Saturday, June 23, 2012, Noon to 7:00 PM

There are no conflicts and the application fee has been paid.

Lobdell/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the application as filed, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

None

Adjournment

Lobdell/Wilson 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: 6/20/12