

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

SPECIAL JOINT SESSION of the PARK COMMISSION  
with the LAKEFRONT & HARBOR COMMITTEE  
and  
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION

**Wednesday, May 17, 2006**

In the absence of Chairperson Micki O'Connell, the Lakefront & Harbor committee meeting was called to order by Treasurer Peg Pollitt at 5:00p.m. in the Village Hall conference room.

Present: Ed Snyder, Bob Chanson, Lee Eakright, Joel Bikowski and Steve Beers

Also Present: Treasurer Peg Pollitt, Harbormaster Al Kaminski, Don Roberts, Lou Loenneke and Bruce Jensen

Absent: Trustee Micki O'Connell and Rick Rosenow

**Selection of Chairperson:**

Ed Snyder made a motion to nominate Steve Beers as chairperson, 2nd by Bob Chanson, and the motion carried.

**Visitors Heard:** None

**Approval of May 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes:** Ed Snyder made a motion to table approval of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes, seconded by Joel Bikowski, and the motion carried.

**Third Avenue Proposals:** Bob Chanson made a motion for LF&H to continue to support PDI's original Third Avenue plan that includes the boat trailer turnaround through Pioneer Park that was approved at the last Lakefront & Harbor meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The motion was seconded by Ed Snyder, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ed Snyder then made a motion for an inquiry to be made as to who authorized this second Third Avenue design when the original plan had already been approved by the Lakefront & Harbor committee & the CDA; and also who is paying the expenses related to it. The motion was seconded by Bob Chanson, and the motion passed unanimously.

**At this point (5:30p.m.), the Lakefront and Harbor committee recessed to join the Park Commission at the Park House:** (A separate agenda has been posted for this meeting)

**Reconvene at the Park House @ 5:45p.m.** Micki O'Connell & Rick Rosenow are now in attendance.

Chairman Treptow called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 5:45 pm at the Park House, 329 Third Avenue, Fontana, Wisconsin.

**Park Commissioners present:** Treptow, Sharon O'Brien, Sarah Lobdell, Dawn Sammons, Laurie Larson, Joe Bidwill

**Park Commissioner absent:** Brent Horvath

The Lakefront & Harbor Committee met with the Park Commission and participated in the Third Avenue boat turnaround discussion. No more LF&H motions were made.

**Future meeting dates:** The next Lakefront & Harbor meeting (4:00p.m.) and workshop with the Park Commission (5:00p.m.) will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2006. Discussion of late lease payers, cleaning the lakefront and reduction of the boat trailer parking lot for this summer will be put on June's agenda.

## **Joint Session Business**

### **Pioneer Park Turn Around Proposals**

The Park Commission and Lakefront and Harbor Committee discussed the initial proposal to construct boat launch turnaround lanes in Pioneer Park (Plan I) and a recently introduced proposal to realign Third Avenue and expand the staging area lanes at the launch (Plan II). Following the discussion, Treptow stated the Park Commission was in consensus that it should stick with the motion it approved last winter that stated the Park Commission recommends making no changes in the boat launch area for at least one season in order to study the impact of amended traffic patterns and the reduction in total boat trailer parking spaces available in the lot. The Lakefront and Harbor Committee also was in consensus after discussion that it should stick with its May 3, 2006 recommendation to approve the initially presented proposal to construct boat launch turnaround lanes in Pioneer Park (Plan I).

Commissioner O'Brien/Commissioner Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION that the Park Commission recommends not moving forward with Plan I or Plan II for at least one year, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Shorepath**

Treptow stated that the Park Commission also wanted to meet with the Lakefront and Harbor Committee in order to discuss the Geneva Lake shorepath. Treptow stated that the path currently runs in the street on the Fontana lakefront and improvement planning should be initiated.

### **Other Lakefront/Park Issues and Concerns**

Treptow stated that the Park Commission also wanted to meet with the Lakefront and Harbor Committee in order to discuss other lakefront issues, including the Lobster Boil and Steak Fry and the public's use of the beach area. Following discussion, the Park Commission decided to schedule a joint meeting with the Lakefront and Harbor Committee on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, beginning at 5:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** Ed Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Steve Beers, and the motion passed.

### **Adjourn Joint Session**

Commissioner Treptow/Commissioner O'Brien 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the joint session meeting of the Park Commission and Lakefront and Harbor Committee at 6:21 pm, and to reconvene immediately at the Village Hall for the monthly meeting of the Park Commission, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Village Clerk Dennis Martin posted a notice at the Park House stating that Park Commission had adjourned the joint session meeting and reconvened for its monthly meeting at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, WI.

Chairman Treptow called the monthly meeting of the Park Commission back to order at 6:40 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

**Park Commissioners absent:** Horvath and Bidwill (Trustee Bidwill attended the joint session prior to leaving to attend a meeting of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Some of the Park Commissioners did not receive copies of the preliminary minutes for the April 19, 2006 meeting so no action was taken.

## **General Business**

### **Park House Use**

Treptow reported that the Park House was used 12 times in April.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Financial Report as of April 28, 2006 was distributed. Treptow reported that the Park Commission donated \$250 to the elementary school for its Arbor Day program. The elementary school sent a thank-you note to the Park Commission for the donation and for facilitating the Arbor Day program.

## **Old Business**

### **Wayfinding Signs**

Treptow stated that Timber Line is working on a mock-up sign for Park Commission consideration.

### **Landmark Trees – List/Responses to March Newsletter/New Designations**

Treptow stated that the Park Commission has not received any responses to its solicitation in the last Village of Fontana Newsletter for Landmark Tree nominations. Treptow stated that the Park Commission also has not yet completed its list of Landmark Trees. Treptow stated that a tree in Reid Park will be nominated for Champion Tree status. It was determined that Treptow, O'Brien and Sammons will complete the list of Landmark Trees. The solicitation for Landmark Tree nominations will be posted on the Village website.

### **Parks Projects/Completion Dates**

Director of Public Works Craig Workman stated that the beach house construction project was delayed while blocks were on back-order, but the project still should be completed prior to the annual Lobster Boil and Steak Fry. Workman stated that the Main Lift Station project is about one month behind schedule.

Construction on the new pavilion and restroom building in Reid Park was scheduled to begin the week of May 22, 2006. The old restroom building was scheduled to be razed Thursday, May 18, 2006. Workman stated that the restroom and pavilion building should be completed on about the same date that the Lobster Boil is scheduled. Workman stated that the eastern portion of Reid Park surrounding the gazebo is restored and the new grass is growing. Workman stated that fertilizer is scheduled to be applied in the next few weeks, which will expedite the grass growing process. Workman stated that since the blocks had to be back-ordered, the anticipated completion date for the new beach house will be after July 15, 2006. Workman stated that the Village will have to use portable toilet facilities for one more season because of the delay in the construction of the new beach house and Reid Park restroom and pavilion building. Workman stated that the Highway 67 construction project has gotten off to a good start and motorists can travel through the construction zone in order to reach the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Treptow stated that the display board for the Fontana Fen looks good, but posts are still needed to erect the board. Treptow stated that the new garbage cans also have arrived for the Fontana Fen.

### **Park Walks – Duck Pond Complete/Schedule Lakefront, Fen, Hildebrand and Headwaters**

Lobdell reported that she, Larson, Sammons and Treptow conducted a walking tour of the Duck Pond Recreation Area on May 9, 2006. In the playing fields area it was noted that crab grass is beginning to take hold in some areas; the soccer club should be notified to make sure it continues to rotate playing on the different fields and practice time on the playing fields should be limited to prevent wear and tear; the east end of the playing fields area is currently not suitable for playing as there are low spots that tend to hold too much water; a concern about benches and bleachers being missing was alleviated by Workman; and there is a need to address a safety concern with regard to a steep drop-off leading down to a holding pond. A fence may be needed along a walking path at the top of the drop-off. In the pavilion area it was noted that the new and existing portions of the pavilion need to be painted; asphalt work is needed around the edges of the new wing; concerns with the vending machines include whether the colored panels can be covered up or their visual impact minimized, are they being serviced often enough, and can the prices be reduced; concerns with the new garbage cans include whether the correct green color was used; an idea was discussed to reinstitute the brick memorial program for lining the edges of the new pavilion area and as a means to honor past Park Commission members; and the Tracy Group may start work on the final wing of the pavilion this summer. In the parking lot area it was noted that the piling around the edge of the parking lot should be painted dark green; too much mulch has been placed around the trees in the median; trees by the playground need professional pruning; one linden tree along the road died and the others are in good condition; and ropes need to be removed from evergreen trees at the east end of the parking lot. Another area of concern noted during the Duck Pond walk was that garlic mustard is growing in a previously cleaned area along the road adjacent to the Public Works garage site. O'Brien reported that a group of sixth-grade students from Fontana Elementary School will be pulling the garlic mustard on May 26, 2006. Following discussion, it was determined to skip the scheduled walk of the lakefront this year. A walk through the Fontana Fen will be scheduled later in the summer after the informational path signs are installed. Treptow stated that Headwaters Park is coming along great and the flags that marked the site of native plantings have been pulled. The Park Commission was in consensus that a walking tour of Headwaters Park and Hildebrand Conservancy will be scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2006, beginning at 5:30 pm. The walking tour of the Fontana Fen will be scheduled for August, and the Park Commission will invite special guests to the event.

### **Pioneer Park Crab Trees – Update**

Treptow stated that the Village has not received the report from Wachtel Tree Service assessing the damage to the two trees “trimmed” by John O’Neill. Larson stated that the report indicates that the trees were ruined by O’Neill. Treptow stated the Park Commission will wait until next month to act on the situation after a copy of the official report has been received.

### **Parks/Elementary School Project, May 26, 2006**

O’Brien stated that a group of 20 sixth-grade students from Fontana Elementary School will be pulling the garlic mustard plants around the Duck Pond area on May 26, 2006. O’Brien stated she will purchase treats for the students at Walworth Sentry.

### **New Business**

#### **Village Hall Parking Lot Reconfiguration**

Treptow stated that the Park Commission had received copies of the conceptual plan for the realignment of the exit driveway for the Village Hall parking lot. The driveway will cut across the current landscaped area on the south edge of the lot and lead motorists to Second Avenue. If approved, the Park Commission will be charged with planning the new landscaping under the current contract with Brickman.

#### **Hildebrand Park Design Plan, Tree Permit Review, Landscaping and Path Material**

The Park Commission reviewed the proposed plan for the entrance area at the Hildebrand Conservancy. Following discussion, the Park Commission decided that no-mow grass should be planted in the area, and that a dying willow tree should only be trimmed at this time – not cut down as proposed in the plan. The Park Commission also was in consensus that a large box elder tree and the other small trees delineated on the proposed plan should be cut down, and that the graded area in the front of the entrance way should not be severe – only about 15 to 20 feet from the sidewalk. Treptow stated that he also will make sure that all the proposed trees are native/desired species. Treptow stated that he will meet with Roy Diblik to finalize the list of trees that will be planted in the area. The Park Commission was also in consensus that the park benches proposed for the area should be flat, with no back rests, so pedestrians can sit facing either direction; the park benches should be coffee colored; the crushed stone mixture for the pathways should be the color “rustic granite;” the path should be shortened by five or six feet; a bench proposed to be placed in the top corner of the plan by the big willow tree should be eliminated; and more shrubs and low-growing trees should be planted in the area of the sign and stone monument. The Park Commission directed Treptow to mark the proposed plan to delineate the Park Commission recommendations.

Commissioner O’Brien/Commissioner Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the design plan for the Hildebrand Conservancy as presented with the conditions that the list of trees to be planted will be finalized by Treptow and Roy Diblik, that the park benches have no back rests and they be the color “coffee,” that the pathway mixture color be “rustic granite” and the path be shortened by five or six feet, that no-mow grass seed be planted, that the large box elder tree be cut down but a large willow tree be trimmed, that the grading from the sidewalk be scaled back to 15 to 20 feet, that a park bench in the top corner of the plan by the big willow tree be eliminated, and that more shrubs and low-growing trees be planted in the area by the sign and stone monument. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Unapproved Tree Removal Issues**

The Park Commission discussed a letter from Louis Moravecek that addresses a tree that was cut down at 473 Hillcrest Drive without the required Tree Permit. The letter requests that the \$2,200 fine be waived. The Park Commission was in consensus that a copy of a letter stating that the tree was dead and proof that a new tree has been planted would be required prior to any consideration on waiving the penalty fee. Treptow stated that if the Park Commission receives verification that the tree that was cut down was dead and that a new tree has been planted, the request could be considered next month. Hayden-Staggs stated that the Park Commission should consider the proposal very carefully because the fine is the first levied under the recently adopted tree ordinance – which took three years of planning and amending before it was finally adopted. Hayden-Staggs stated that if the first fine levied is just waived by the Park Commission, the new ordinance will not have very much standing. The Park Commissioners also serve as the Tree Board members.

Commissioner Treptow/Commissioner Sammons 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to table the item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Bills to Pay**

Treptow stated that a bill for \$4,000 has been received form Northwind Perennial Farm for the median plantings. The funds are in the current budget.

Commissioner Larson/Commissioner O'Brien 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the payment of the \$4,000 bill form Northwind Perennial Farm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Park Requests**

Following discussion, the Park Commission was in consensus that an application to use the gazebo on August 19, 2006, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm for the King/Higgins wedding should be approved as presented; that an application filed by Kurt Hubertz to use the Park House on May 21, 2006 from noon to 4:00 pm should be approved, but a request to waive the \$50 fee should be denied; that an application filed by U.S. Anglers Wisconsin Division to use an area of Reid Park adjacent to the gazebo for a fishing contest weigh-in on September 10, 2006 at 2:00 pm be denied because of a conflict with the annual Triathlon that is scheduled for September 9, 2006; and that a request for a \$50 deposit to be refunded for a withdrawn gazebo application be approved for the Gorgol wedding.

Commissioner O'Brien/Commissioner Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve an application to use the gazebo on August 19, 2006, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm for the King/Higgins wedding, to approve an application filed by Kurt Hubertz to use the Park House on May 21, 2006 from noon to 4:00 pm and to deny his request to have the \$50 fee waived, to deny an application filed by U.S. Anglers Wisconsin Division to use an area of Reid Park adjacent to the gazebo for a fishing contest weigh-in on September 10, 2006 at 2:00 pm, and to approve a refund of the \$50 deposit for a withdrawn application to use the gazebo for the Gorgol wedding. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

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

Treptow announced that garlic mustard is starting to bloom in the Village, and he urged residents to pull it from their yards and gardens. Once pulled, the garlic mustard should be kept separate from other yard waste. Pulled garlic mustard plants should be taken to the Duck Pond area and put on the burn pile, or they should be placed and sealed in plastic bags and put out with the garbage for collection by Keizer and Sons. If the garlic mustard is put out with the garbage, it must be in bags that are clearly marked and sealed. Treptow also announced that former Park Commission member Rallee Whowell-Chupich recently had her second child, a girl, and he will send flowers from the Park Commission. O'Brien stated that more work is needed on the Reid Park playground.

### **Pending Park Commission Items for Future Agendas**

1. Van Slyke Restoration Project
2. Chuck's Landscaping Issues
3. Highway 67 Street Signs
4. Bird and Bat Houses
5. Parks Organizational Status
6. Frisbee Golf at Duck Pond

### **Adjourn Park Commission**

Commissioner Sammons/Commissioner Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by Dennis Martin, Village Clerk, and Peg Pollitt, Village Treasurer

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