

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

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

Park Commissioners present: Sarah Lobdell, Dan Green, Jill Wegner, Nancy Krei, , Sharon O'Brien, Sharon Conklin

Park Commissioners absent: Melissa Colby, Trustee Diane Lewis

Also present: Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, CDA Commissioner Gail Hibbard, Lynn Ketterhagen, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Joseph McHugh, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

Krei/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes submitted for the meeting held April 15, 2009, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Martin stated that Big Foot Recreation Director Chuck Thiesenhusen submitted an email that states he could not attend the meeting that night. Thiesenhusen stated that the fitness center is currently closed because the new equipment is being installed and it will reopen next Tuesday. Thiesenhusen stated that the Summer Recreation Guide has been mailed out, and if anyone needs a copy, they can be picked up at the library or Village Hall.

Announcements

Lobdell stated that the Park Commission received a thank you card from the Fontana Elementary School fourth-grade class for the Arbor Day Program donation and "the awesome trees." Lobdell also welcomed newly appointed Park Commissioner Sharon Conklin to her first meeting.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used 13 times in April 2009.

Treasurer's Report

Krei presented the treasurer's report as of April 30, 2009.

Plan Commission Report

The Plan Commission will be scheduling a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments to the Tree Ordinance. Lobdell and Sharon O'Brien are also both members of the Plan Commission.

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Craig Workman stated that the DPW crew has been busy assisting the contractors with the landscaping and construction projects on Third Avenue. Workman stated that a lot of work is being accomplished and all but the road striping should be done by the weekend. The new pirate ship and surface are installed in Little Foot Playground, as well as new mulch. Workman stated that the memorial bricks will be reinstalled in the next few weeks.

Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee Report

A meeting will be scheduled after PDI/Gaef completes the structural engineering report.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

Martin stated that the list will be updated to reflect the work recently completed by the public works crew and the contracted landscaping firms. Items from the Spring Park Walks also will be added to the list.

Old Business

Duck Pond Tree Replanting Update

Workman stated that the white pine trees at the Duck Pond are now too large to dig up and transplant in other locations. Workman stated that there is nursery stock available in some spruce and pine varieties. Workman stated there is also some hardwoods that are now about two-inches in diameter and they could be transplanted. Workman stated that the subcommittee members should reconvene at the Duck Pond and make an inventory of which trees could be moved and which trees will have to be cut down. Sharon O'Brien stated that she will contact the Pheasant Ridge Association to determine which trees can be moved to the corner lot at Indian Hills Road and County Highway B for the landscaping project.

Tree Ordinance Amendments

The suggested amendments from Village Planner Mike Slavney were distributed. The notes from Slavney will be incorporated into the previously drafted amendments that were distributed by Assistant Zoning Administrator Bridget McCarthy on March 23, 2009. Hayden stated that one other amendment that is being presented will make appeals for fines levied under the Tree Ordinance a recommendation from the Park Commission to the Village Board, and the Village Board elected officials will make the final decisions. Hayden stated that the amendment is being proposed to make the final fine authority the Village Board members on recommendation of the Park Commission. Lobdell stated that she also would like to see another amendment that would give property owners more tree replacement credit for planting hardwood trees versus evergreens. The Plan Commission will be considering at its Tuesday, May 26, 2009 meeting if a public hearing should be scheduled for the proposed amendments. Martin stated that he will make sure the May 13, 2009 memo from Slavney is emailed to all the Park Commission members and he will resend the March 23, 2009 email from McCarthy.

Brick Program Update

Wegner stated that she was unable to contact the company that the Park Commission previously obtained the bricks from and she speculated that the company may be out of business. Wegner stated that she contacted another company located in Sturtevant and she will obtain samples and cost information. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission members should think about other locations for the bricks and if the project is ready, bricks can be sold at the Pig in the Park event.

Spring Park Walks May 7, 14 and 21, 2009

Lobdell stated that she took notes and will type them up for the May 7, 2009 walk through the lakefront parks. Workman stated that he will have the public works crew plant some flowers along the shorepath sometime during the next few weeks. Lobdell stated that the gazebo will require attention in the near future to shore up some structural concerns. Krei typed up and distributed the notes from the May 14, 2009 walk through the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and Fontana Fen. O'Brien stated that the demonstration beds at the Fontana Fen may have to be dug up because they are not in good shape. Following a discussion on the difficulty of maintaining fen plantings in the beds, the Park Commission was in consensus that some type of ground-covering plants that require little maintenance should be planted in the beds. Lobdell stated that she is planning to take notes at the May 21, 2009 walk through the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Martin stated that he will add the maintenance items noted during the park walks to the TID Maintenance List.

New Business

High Impact Plantings for Reid Park Gazebo, Flag Pole Site & Pioneer Park Wall Gardens – Tabled 4/15/09

O'Brien stated that with all the current landscaping areas and new plantings going in with the Third Avenue Project, the high impact plantings should be put off until next year. O'Brien stated that the Village has to make sure it is maintaining the landscaping that already has been planted and make sure to keep it looking nice. Workman stated that the plan was to have the new flower bed areas prepared, have Roy Diblik order the flowers, and then have volunteers from the Garden Club plant the flowers; however, there were conflicts and a schedule was never worked out. Following discussion, the Park Commission directed Martin to remove the item from the agenda and make a note to place it on the agenda for consideration next fall. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission has to work out a unified plan for what will be planted in the new areas.

Belvidere Park Tree Ordinance Violation Fines Appeal – Tabled 4/15/09

O'Brien stepped down during the agenda item because she is a member of the Belvidere Park Association,

which is appealing the \$5,000 in fines that it received for violating the Tree Ordinance. Martin distributed the background information, that also was presented by Assistant Zoning Administrator Bridget McCarthy at last month's meeting, and an email from Scott Anderson, the association president. Anderson requested that the \$5,000 fine be reduced to \$2,000 and that the association pay \$2,400 into the Tree Fund in lieu of planting five of the 10 replacement trees that are required by the Tree Ordinance. The association cut down a total of 10 dead or dying trees, and to date, only planted five replacement trees. Wegner stated that the association is now trying to abide by the Tree Ordinance and maybe some relief on the fine would be justified. Lobdell stated that there was some miscommunication; however, the association and the tree company that cut down the trees were both aware of the terms of the Tree Ordinance. Sharon Conklin asked if the Park Commission could consider waiving the fine since the association has planted five new trees and they are willing to pay into the Tree Fund for the other five trees. Lobdell responded that other residents have received fines for violating the Tree Ordinance, in situations where the tree companies had prior knowledge of the requirements of the Tree Ordinance. Hayden stated that some residents have received \$5,000 fines and one of the trees involved was classified a nuisance species. Hayden stated that a lack of knowledge of the Tree Ordinance was not a factor for the fines that were levied for the Belvidere Park Association. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission could consider a reduced fine considering the association's offer to pay into the Tree Fund, and the fact that all 10 of the trees that were cut down were dead. Wegner stated that the Park Commission should be careful not to be too punitive. Green stated that his only problem with approving a reduced fine is that the tree company and the association knew in advance that they were violating the Tree Ordinance. Hayden stated that the Park Commission has to be careful to treat all of the residents equally and she reminded them of the \$5,000 fine that was levied when a live nuisance tree was cut down. Krei stated that many of the Park Commission members are new and this is the first fine appeal that they have had to consider. Lobdell asked if the Park Commission wanted to consider a reduction in the fines from \$5,000 to \$3,000.

Wegner/Krei 2nd made a MOTION to approve a \$2,000 reduction of the total fines levied to the Belvidere Park Association from \$5,000 down to \$3,000, with the condition that \$2,400 is also paid by the association into the Tree Fund for violating the tree replacement requirement for five of the 10 trees that were cut down. The MOTION carried without negative vote. Sharon O'Brien abstained.

Update on Fontana Fen and Hildebrand Nature Conservancy Property

Lynn Ketterhagen, land protection specialist for the Geneva Lake Conservancy, presented her report of the annual compliance walk through the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Ketterhagen, McHugh and O'Brien walked through the conservancy area on May 11, 2009 and noted areas where there is debris and brush. Ketterhagen stated that the property used to be a dump site so there still are items that are discovered in the woods. Ketterhagen thanked the Village for all the work completed during the last three years. O'Brien stated that she will be working with the Fontana Elementary School students on a clean-up event Friday, May 22, 2009 from noon to 3:00 pm and asked if the DPW crew could have a truck available to haul the brush and debris away.

Bills to Pay

Two Invoices Submitted by Heyer True Value (\$39 and \$49)

Two Invoices Submitted by Beaver Creek Nursery, Inc. (\$283 and \$22)

Lobdell stated that the two invoices from True Value are for stain and painting supplies for the Mill House Pavilion, and the two invoices from Beaver Creek Nursery are for plants used by Roy Diblik for the Village landscaping areas. Lobdell stated that she would also like the Park Commission to consider approval of \$30 or \$35 for Sharon O'Brien to purchase treats for the Fontana Elementary School students who will be participating in the clean-up event at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy on Friday, May 22, 2009.

Wegner/Green 2nd made a MOTION to approve payment of the two invoices submitted by Heyer True Value, the two invoices submitted by Beaver Creek Nursery, Inc., and an amount not to exceed \$50 for Sharon O'Brien to purchase treats for the Fontana Elementary School students who will participate in the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy clean-up event on Friday, May 22, 2009. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Park Request

Big Foot Recreation Department Request to Host 16-Inch Softball League Monday Evenings at Duck Pond Recreation Area – June 1 through August 17, 2009

There are no other events currently scheduled at the Duck Pond Recreation Area on the requested nights.

O'Brien/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the Big Foot Recreation Department request to host a 16-inch softball league on Monday evenings at the Duck Pond Recreation Area from June 1 through August 17, 2009, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments or Concerns

Sharon Conklin stated that she and her husband would like to donate one or two receptacles and garbage holders to serve as dog waste collection cans at the dog walking area at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Conklin stated that she and her husband will donate the holders, and the Village would only have to supply the biodegradable bags and empty the cans. Conklin stated that maybe a sign also could be erected at the site. Workman stated that an extra can was installed at the dog track area. Following discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that the exact locations of the cans and signage can be determined during the park walk at the Duck Pond on Thursday, May 21, 2009. Lobdell directed Martin to add an agenda item for next month's meeting to address all the signage needs in the Village parks. Sharon O'Brien stated that she wanted to thank Matt Moore from Blackstone Landscaping for donating his crew's service to weed and mulch the garden adjacent to the library entrance. O'Brien stated that she contacted Blackstone for the Library Board members, who were planning to donate the funds required to get the garden ready for the season. O'Brien stated that instead of supplying a cost estimate, Moore had his Blackstone Landscaping crew members complete the work at no charge to the Village.

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

Wegner/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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: 6/17/09