

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN
(Official Minutes)
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Park Commission Chairman Rick Pappas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Trustee Rick Pappas, Gail Hibbard, Sandra Hibbard, Mary Green, Laura Coates, Sarah Lobdell, Mary Green

Also present: Director of Streets Ron Adams, FJ Frazier, Merilee Holst, Library Director Nancy Krei, Clerk/Administrator Dennis Martin, Micki O'Connell, Chuck Thiesenhusen

Approval of Minutes

Gail Hibbard/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the meeting minutes for March 19, 2014, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Merilee Host stated that the Geneva Lake Conservancy would like the Park Commission and Village to reconsider the Fontana Fen Management Plan that was endorsed by the Conservancy back in 2012, but has never finalized. Pappas stated that staff will research the issue and an item will be placed on the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

Announcements

Martin stated that the White River County Park Grand Opening Event will be held Thursday, July 10, 2014. Martin stated that plans still need to be made for a party to recognize former Park Commission Chairman Cindy Wilson, who did not seek reelection in the spring 2014 election.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used once March and twice in April 2014.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's reports for March and April 2014 were presented. Martin asked the Park Commission to consider a motion to direct staff to transfer the \$206 that is owed to the Park Commission by the General Fund to the Duck Pond account.

Lobdell/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to direct staff to transfer the \$206 that is owed to the Park Commission by the General Fund into the Duck Pond account, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Plan Commission Report

The Plan Commission has not met since November 25, 2013.

Public Works Report

Street Director Ron Adams stated that crew has been busy preparing the parks for the summer season. Martin stated that the Village received from Walworth County Public Health Department two Lyme's disease and tick awareness warning signs that will be erected at the Duck Pond Recreation Area.

Park Commission Maintenance List

The updated list was distributed. Thanks to the work of volunteer students from Big Foot High School, much of the garlic mustard was abated at the Duck Pond and the Oak Savanna and Native Prairie Restoration Area; however, it was too wet to address the garlic mustard at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. The annual controlled burns also were conducted in April. Adams asked about the item on the list regarding a safety fence by the Park House alley, and following discussion he was

directed to erect a temporary snow fence if and when there are events planned at the Park House where children will be playing in the backyard.

Old Business

Country Club Estates Association Proposal for Board Walk Repairs

Country Club Estates Association Board member FJ Frazier stated that the association is willing to fund a board walk replacement project and pier landing repair project at the Village's small beach area used by the association. Frazier stated that the proposal was to replace the board walk with a concrete sidewalk; however, there have been concerns voiced by some of the Park Commission members about the use of cement for the new walk. Frazier stated that that current board walk surface is uneven and sections of the walk are bucking up and creating safety issues. Frazier stated that as part of the board walk replacement, the association also is offering to fund a rip rap repair project at the pier to prevent sand from eroding into the lake. Sarah Lobdell stated that she has received concerns that the board walk will not be as "forgiving" if children slip and fall on concrete instead of the current wooden surface. Lobdell stated that she would prefer that the new sidewalk remains wooden or a decking composite material. Adams stated that the composite decking material warps and ages very fast and he would not recommend investing in the costly material. Frazer stated that the wooden board walk surface also has associated slip and fall concerns. Lobdell stated that she has received concerns from other association members who stated that they do not want the walk to be changed from wood to concrete. Laura Coates stated that she agrees with Lobdell, and a wooden board walk would be more forgiving and look nicer. Frazer stated that that the association board just wants to get the current walk replaced and the safety concerns at the pier landing fixed as soon as possible and they are willing to fund the project. Pappas stated that the entire Park Commission favors the project, and there are pros and cons to both a wooden and a concrete surface for the new board walk. Gail Hibbard stated that the association should decide what surface to go with as their members are the ones who will be using it. Adams stated that wooden surfaces can result in pedestrians getting slivers in their feet and it also wears out more rapidly; and for longevity and maintenance benefits he would recommend going with a brushed and slightly sloped concrete surface for the new walk.

Gail Hibbard/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Country Club Estates Association proposal to fund a replacement project of the board walk at the small beach portion leased from the Village by the association, with the material for the new sidewalk to be brushed concrete, and subject to the village obtaining the necessary Building and Zoning permits. The MOTION carried on a 5-2 vote, with Lobdell and Coates opposed.

Pioneer Park Landscaping Project Update

Adams stated that the DPW crew, under the direction of Arborist Jeff Epping, planted the four new crab trees and other plants in the new landscaping plan for Pioneer Park. Micki O'Connell stated that staff should check into billing neighboring property owner John O'Neill for the purchase of the new crab trees as he was responsible for severely damaging the trees several years ago when he had them improperly pruned.

Pig in the Park Event Approval Saturday, August 30, 2014, Reid Park

The annual event is being planned by Dan Green's Touch A Life, Heal A Heart, Inc., for Saturday, August 30, 2014 from 3:00 to 10:00 pm in Reid Park. Mary Green stated that the food tent, beer area, entertainment and children's attractions are being planned for the same areas.

Lobdell/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the Park Permit application filed by Dan Green's Touch A Life, Heal A Heart, Inc., for the annual Pig in the Park event on Saturday, August 30, 2014 from 3:00 to 10:00 pm in Reid Park. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Acknowledgement of \$25,000 Donations from O'Halleran and Adreani Families for Creative Edge Landscapes Mohr Road Creek Project

The Mohr Road Creek stabilization plan that has been funded with \$25,000 donations from the O'Halleran and Adreani families was approved by the Village Board at its March 3, 2014 meeting. Pappas stated that the agenda item was intended to recognize the two families for their generous donations. Martin stated that the Village has received the required DNR permit for the project.

Pappas stated that even though the project has been funded by private donations, staff should inquire for future reference if bids should have been solicited for the \$50,000 project since the total cost exceeded \$10,000.

New Business

Proposal to Assist Big Foot Recreation District with Movies on Beach Franchise Fees

Big Foot Recreation District Director Chuck Thiesenhusen stated that the district was able to cover the expenses for the summer program the first few seasons; however, excise fees have escalated in the last year, and the district is seeking assistance in covering the \$375 per movie fee. Thiesenhusen stated he was inquiring if the village would be interested in co-sponsoring the movies, as the last two years the district staff has been chasing \$150 to \$250 sponsorships from small businesses, and it hasn't worked out too well. Thiesenhusen stated that he has contacted the Abbey Resort, and his proposal is for the Abbey, the Village and the district to split the licensing fees into thirds, for a total of \$750 each, to fund the six movies scheduled for June 14 and 28, July 12 and 19, and August 2 and 16, 2014. In response to questions, Thiesenhusen stated that the movies on the Fontana beach usually attract about 150 to 250 people who are charged a \$1 admission fee; and the most successful night was the second time "Jaws" was played when there were 330 admission fees paid. Following discussion, the Park Commission reached the consensus that the movie program should be supported and the Village should contribute the \$750 as proposed; however, the funds should not necessarily be derived from the Park Commission budget.

Coates/Green 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the Village Board allocate \$750 from the General Fund budget to support the Big Foot Recreation District Movies on the Beach program as proposed, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Fontana Garden Club Proposal for Oak Savanna/Native Prairie Restoration Area Signage

Gail Hibbard stated that the Fontana Garden Club would like to fund the \$500 purchase from Brushfire Signs of a new informational sign for the native prairie restoration area. Gail Hibbard stated that the new sign would be 2-by-3-feet and mounted on a waist high post, and it would feature images and descriptions of some of the native plants. The sign would be similar to the signs at the Fontana Fen. Adams suggested that the sign be mounted about six to eight feet off the road. Following discussion, Adams stated that the DPW crew will assist the Garden Club in selecting an appropriate site to erect the new sign post; and the new sign will be mounted on the post so that it can be taken off the post and stored inside during the winter months.

Lobdell/Green 2nd made a MOTION to accept the very generous offer of the Fontana Garden Club to purchase an informational sign from Brushfire Signs for the Oak Savanna/Native Prairie Restoration Area as presented, and to direct staff to have the sign erected as proposed in an appropriate site adjacent to the pedestrian path that leads to the area. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

MPC Proposal for Pony Rides at Duck Pond Recreation Area Picnic

Staff received an inquiry from MPC if a pony ride area could be setup for the company picnic that has been approved for the Duck Pond Recreation Area on Saturday, June 21, 2014 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The request is for two ponies to be staged in the gravel parking lot. Adams stated that it would not be a concern for the gravel area of the lot as long as the area is cleaned up after the event.

Gail Hibbard/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to authorize the pony rides as proposed for the MPC company picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2014 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Tree Reforestation Funding for Replacing Winter Damaged Trees and Bushes

Pappas stated that many of the arborvitae bushes at the lakefront got munched by deer this past winter and they will not grow back. Pappas stated that the bushes probably should be removed, as well as the dead bushes and evergreens along the boat trailer parking lot and Park House; but he asked the Park Commission members if they should be replaced as the deer most likely will eat all the newly planted bushes next winter. The possibility of wrapping newly planted bushes and trees in burlap, and other methods to deter the deer were discussed. The Park Commission members directed Adams to have the dead trees and bushes removed, except for the bushes that may grow back if heavily watered; and to discuss the situation with Epping and report back at the next monthly

meeting on what should be planted and what methods could be used to deter the deer from killing the new bushes and trees next winter. Adams stated that he also wanted to inform the Park Commission members that two crimson maple trees adjacent to the beach have died, and one more is starting to die; and one crab tree in the area has died, and two other crab trees are starting to show signs that they may be dying.

Dog Waste Trash Bags Expense Situation

Adams stated that staff just wanted to make sure the Park Commission members are aware that the Parks Maintenance expenses have included about \$200 per year for the last six years for the purchase of dog waste trash bags that are mounted in a dispenser at the Duck Pond dog walking track. The Park Commission directed staff to check if sources other than Peach Tree are available for the purchase of the dog waste trash bags.

Request to Use Reid Park for National Convention Photograph of August 14, 2015

Martin stated that the Village received an inquiry from a group planning its annual national convention to be held at the Abbey Resort in August 2015. Martin stated the group would like to stage a photograph of the convention participants in their vintage Triumph sports car in Reid Park in the area used for the Big Foot Lions Club lobster boil event parking at 7:00 am on Friday, August 14, 2015. Martin stated that if the ground is too wet or not in condition to handle the traffic, the group would use one of the large parking lots in the village. The Park Commissioners had concerns about too many cars being driven on and off the grass and ball diamond sand infield and the need to protect the curbs along the park streets, and requested more information on the exact number of cars that will be included in the photograph. Pappas directed staff to table the item and request the additional information for the next monthly meeting.

Park Permit Application Filed by Big Foot Recreation District for Park House Programs

Big Foot Recreation District Program Coordinator Dean Connley requested that the Park House be approved for summer preschool classes on June 12 and 26, 2014 and July 17, 2014.

Lobdell/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Big Foot Recreation District Program summer preschool classes on June 12 and 26, 2014 and July 17, 2014 at the Park House. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Several Park Commission members stated that they noticed that cigarette butts are being thrown on the ground in Porter Court Plaza next to the Pie High Pizza Company entrance. Martin stated that he will have staff contact the business during upcoming license inspections.

Adjournment

Sandra Hibbard/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 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: 6/18/2014