

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee
Wednesday, June 27, 2012
(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on June 27, 2012 by Chairman Rick Pappas.

Committee Members Present: Trustee Rick Pappas, Don Holst, Ed Snyder, Joel Bikowski, Bob Chanson, Lee Eakright, Steve Beers

Also Present: F.J. Frazier, Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Trustee George Spadoni, Tom Whowell

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Approval of Minutes for Meeting Held May 30, 2012

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the May 30, 2012 minutes as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Badger High School Leadership Dynamics Map Case – Tabled 5/30/12

There was no new information submitted and there were no students present at the meeting. Chanson/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to table the item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Ordinance Amendment Proposal for Outdoor Dining Service with Alcohol

Pappas stated that the proposed ordinance amendment has been recommended for approval by the Local Business Committee and Protection Committee. The Protection Committee voted to recommend approval of the amendment as presented by the Business Committee, with the words “or prohibit” added to the last sentence. Spadoni stated that the Protection Committee members reviewed the ordinance amendment and the only concerns were that no alcohol be allowed on the public sidewalks or on the piers on the east side of Lake Street. Tom Whowell stated that if approved, Gordy’s Boathouse would use its current Brat Shop area on the east side of Lake Street to serve food and alcohol, and they would use a small waiting area with chairs along the front of the building on the west side of Lake Street to serve alcohol. Whowell stated that the outdoor alcohol service will be a new operation that will require time to fine tune. Beers stated that he thinks it’s a great idea to allow the local business owners to serve alcohol outdoors similar to other tourist communities. Chanson stated that he also thinks it’s a god idea for a trial period to determine if outdoor alcohol service will work in the Village of Fontana. Pappas stated that he favors outdoor alcohol service if it is connected with dining, and he would prefer the proposed ordinance amendment to include a provision that the alcohol service must be “with dinner.” Pappas stated that the proposal is more for “beer gardens” than for people to have a drink while dining outdoor. Chanson stated that he didn’t think it makes any difference if the outdoor alcohol service is with a dinner, or with appetizers, or just cocktails. Don Holst stated that if the ordinance amendment included a provision that the alcohol can only be served to diners, it would be very difficult to monitor and enforce. Hayden stated that she wanted to point out that the proposal is for private property and not on any public sidewalks or land.

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the proposed ordinance amendment to allow for a trial period for outdoor alcohol service as presented, and the MOTION carried on a 6-1 vote, with Trustee Pappas opposed.

Fuel Barge on Geneva Lake Concerns

Pappas stated that two years ago the lakefront committee attempted to have the unsafe fuel barge situation on Geneva Lake addressed by recommending a lake-wide ordinance to be adopted by all of the municipalities located on Geneva Lake. Pappas stated that the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency Board of Directors was supposed to draft an ordinance and seek approval from the lake municipalities, but that initiative was never carried out and there is now a pontoon boat on the lake that transports large portable tanks of gasoline for sale to other boaters. Pappas stated that the committee could recommend that the Village Board determine what exactly its jurisdiction is on the lake and what can be done regarding the potentially disastrous situation. Snyder stated that it is not right that fuel operations located on the shores of Geneva Lake have to be inspected regularly by the state and their employees have to be trained to dispense gas, and a pontoon boat carrying hundreds of gallons of gasoline in portable tanks is being launched on the lake with no regard for environmental and safety concerns. Whowell stated that the potential for a serious accident and large scale environmental disaster makes the issues something that the Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency and the Village of Fontana Protection Committee should look into. Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the Village Board look into every possible option to have the unsafe and potentially disastrous situation of gasoline being transported by barges and sold to boaters on Geneva Lake prohibited and halted as soon as possible. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Country Club Estates Association Beach Concerns

County Club Estates Association Board of Directors member F.J. Frazier stated that after struggling for the last four years with nonresident issues with kids at the small beach area used by the association members, the association is seeking assistance from the Village to address the problems. Frazier stated that during the weekdays, out-of-town residents hang out at the beach and use profane language, vandalize stuff on the association pier and steal private boats off slips without permission. Frazier stated that the association also has had concerns about erosion controls on the shoreline and they are looking for a long-term solution and the situation is an embarrassment to the association and the Village. Frazier stated that the Village could lease the beach area to the association, and the association would take control of the situation. Frazier stated that the village has no policy to address the association's beach management problems. Frazier stated that residents are no longer going down to the beach because of the problems with the children hanging out. Frazier stated that the association officers do not feel that arm bands to identify association residents are needed. Frazier stated that the association has requested on two occasions this year for the Police Department to issue tickets to nonresidents who park in the association's lakefront lot, and that has helped address a problem the association had with nonresidents parking in the lot. Joel Bikowski stated that the village used to have to beach admission fee collection places on both ends of the beach. Bikowski stated that the south end of the beach has now been fenced off and the only entrance is at the beach house on the north end of the beach. Bikowski stated that the gate by the Glenwood Springs Association lakefront has to remain open for public access to the shorepath. Hayden stated that the Village beach staff members walk the municipal beach throughout the day and look for wristbands and beach tags, and they would also walk through the area used by the Country Club Estates Association; however, there is no way to determine if someone is an association resident or not unless they are using the association beach chairs. Hayden stated that it would make the situation a lot easier to monitor if the association would issue some type of wristbands or passes that people would be required to display. Chanson stated that the association should come up with a proposed plan to

solve the problem and present it to the committee for approval. Pappas stated that the association should be given some preliminary direction. Bikowski stated that the Glenwood Springs Association Board of Directors also should be involved with the proposal to solve all the lakefront concerns. Hayden stated that in the meantime the village beach staff members can walk through the small beach area. Frazier stated that the association would pay for the Village to have one of its beach employees work at the entrance of the small beach area and check for beach tags or passes. Frazier stated that Country Club Estates Association residents could show the employee the association's beach passes that are issued annually in order to enter the small beach area. Frazier stated that the Country Club Estates Association will work with the Glenwood Springs Association to address the other lakefront concerns.

Chanson/Pappas 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the Village Board authorize a municipal beach employee to work at the entrance of the small beach area used by the Country Club Estates Association, with the conditions that the association pays the wages for the employee and that the exact hours and related details are finalized with village staff prior to the Village Board considering the recommendation. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Village Boat Launch

Pappas stated that he wanted to address a potential concern with boat launchers who want to leave their boats tied up on the boat launch pier for a long time. Pappas stated that it may assist the launch employees if they have an ordinance or regulation to cite if and when a boater wants to tie up at the launch pier. Hayden stated that the launch staff does not allow people to tie up a boat to the pier before or after launching if the launch is busy; however, there are times when the launch is not busy at all and they allow boaters to tie up anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour depending on the reason. Chanson stated that the employees should be allowed to continue to use their discretion, but the committee should recommend a time limit just to give them something to fall back on if a boater is being unreasonable. Pappas stated that he agreed with Chanson and maybe a time limit should be established in Chapter 54 of the Municipal Code.

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approved of an amendment to Chapter 54 of the Municipal Code to establish a 15-minute time limit for boaters to tie up at the boat launch pier before or after launching. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Abbey Harbor Association Engineering Report Update

Snyder stated that the report has been completed and the Abbey officials are reviewing it.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, July 25, 2012 beginning at 4:30 pm.

Adjournment

Chanson/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis L. Martin, village clerk

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Lakefront and Harbor Committee, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: 8/29/12