

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Chairman Rick Treptow called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

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

Park Commissioner absent: Brent Horvath

Also present: Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs, CDA Commissioner Gail Hibbard, Library Director Nancy Krei, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh, Trustee Micki O'Connell, Trustees Pete Petersen and Ron Pollitt, Carol and Jamie Whowell, Public Works Director Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

O'Brien/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held June 21, 2006 as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Park House Use

Treptow reported that the Park House was used 11 times in June 2006.

Treasurer's Report

The Financial Report as of June 30, 2006 was distributed.

Old Business

Wayfinding Signs

Treptow stated that Timber Line dropped off at Village Hall a sample sign that was ready to be displayed about one month ago. Treptow stated that the sign looks nice and it will be erected on the east side of the intersection of South Main Street and Highway 67 for review by the Village officials. Treptow asked Workman to have the sign erected as soon as possible and to have it located as close to the corner as possible.

Parks Projects/Completion Dates

Workman stated that construction on the Main Lift Station is still behind schedule; however, the contractors have commenced work on the new restroom and pavilion building in Reid Park. Because of a delay in receiving and installing the lift station equipment, it is not certain when the new lift station will be online. The Reid Park pavilion and restroom building should be constructed by August 26, 2006. Workman stated that the new beach house is constructed and it was scheduled to be open by Friday, July 21, 2006.

Fen, Hildebrand and Headwaters Park Walks – Wrap-up

Treptow stated that the turnout was a little disappointing at the event held July 11, 2006. Treptow stated that the CEO from Agrecol attended the event and he stated that the Village should be proud of its native restoration projects because of their fine quality. Treptow stated that CDA Commissioner Skip Bliss made many inappropriate and unnecessary comments at the event, which caused an embarrassing situation. Trustee Petersen responded to Treptow's concerns by stating that Bliss does not speak for the entire CDA, and the CDA Board does not have a problem with the landscape planning being provided by the Park Commission.

Pioneer Park Crab Trees

Treptow stated that the Park Commission's recommendation to have John O'Neill pay the bill for three new crab trees in Pioneer Park met with resistance and was tabled at the Village Board meeting. At the Village Board meeting, the trustees stated that the three Crab Trees are growing back following the bad trimming job performed by O'Neill's landscaping employees. Following discussion, the Park Commissioners were in consensus that if the trees die this winter, O'Neill should have to have them replaced next spring; however, O'Neill should have to pay for the \$200 in expenses generated from the investigation following the tree-trimming episode. After the damaged trees were brought to the Park Commission's attention, a report was completed by Wachtel Tree Science and Service and submitted to the Village on May 17, 2006 with regard to the best remedy for the situation. Larson stated that the Park Commission made its initial recommendation based on facts and a report prepared by experts and the initial recommendation should be carried out. Lobdell/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that John O'Neill be fined \$200 to cover the expense for the report completed by Wachtel Tree Science and Service, that the Crab trees be left to grow for the rest of the season, and if any of the trees die this winter, O'Neill has to pay for their replacement and the fertilization costs. The MOTION carried with one negative vote cast by Larson.

Village/Highway 67 Street Signs

Treptow stated that design work has been approved for the shape, size and colors of the street signs and the CDA will solicit bids for the project. Tapco will not be making a mock-up sign since the project is being put out for bids by the CDA.

Village Hall Parking Lot – Library Sign

Nancy Krei reported that the Library Board has endorsed a new monument sign for its entrance area. The Library Board would like the sign to match the style of signs the Park Commission has placed in the Village parks, with the Park Commission's logo being replaced with a book. O'Brien stated that the Library Board members want to see what the reconstructed retaining wall will look like and determine the best location for the new sign in relation to the finished landscaping. The Library logo should be submitted to Treptow in order to have the sign designed by Timberline.

Chuck's Landscaping

Carol Whowell presented photos and a conceptual plan to reconfigure the landscaping and Reid Park side entrance to Chuck's. The initial landscaping plan was formulated to prevent customers from entering Chuck's directly from the park. During the years, pedestrians have trampled paths through the landscaping to reach the sidewalk that runs along Chuck's. Carol Whowell stated rather than replanting the trampled plants, they are proposing to reconfigure the landscaping and to add a sidewalk path from the Reid Park path to the sidewalk that runs along the north side of the Chuck's building. The plan is to get rid of the spiky trees and replant evergreens or bushes. Carol Whowell stated that she would be willing to plant whatever the Park Commissioners think will look and work the best in the area. Carol Whowell stated that they also would like to work with the Village on a plan to construct a continuous sidewalk along the east side of Lake Street to serve as the Geneva Lake shorepath. Carol Whowell stated that a new sidewalk could be tied into the future Reid Park paths that are currently in the planning and approval stage. The Park Commissioners were in consensus that both proposals are good ideas.

O'Brien/Larson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the landscaping and sidewalk addition proposal for the Reid Park side of Chuck's Lakeshore Inn as presented, and to work with the applicants to select the appropriate trees and shrubs for the project, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Van Slyke Creek Restoration – Fish Shocking Update

Wegner distributed the results from the recent electro-scan of a portion of Van Slyke Creek. Wegner stated that there may be Wisconsin DNR funding available for the restoration project and she also is soliciting support from the local and state chapters of Trout Unlimited.

New Business

Third Avenue Landscape and Lighting Plans

Representatives from the CDA planning and engineering firms, PDI and Ruckert-Mielke, presented the landscaping and lighting plans for Third Avenue and Reid Park areas. Treptow stated that he was concerned

about the amount of light the proposed fixtures will produce in areas where there are multiple poles planned. Treptow stated that as long as the engineers “do their homework” to make sure the lighted areas aren’t too bright, he is fine with the lighting plan as presented. The Park Commissioners were in consensus following discussion that the lighting plan looked good as presented; however, they wanted more of the lights with the lower ballasts added to the path through Reid Park. With regard to the landscaping plan, the Park Commissioners were in consensus that more spring-flowering trees should be added. Also, with regard to a concern stated by Trustee Pollitt that the proposed trees along Third Avenue could potentially block the view from the Park Place, LLC building at 268 Reid Street, the Park Commissioners directed the PDI representatives to plant lower growing species of trees along Third Avenue. The Park Commission also directed the PDI representatives to plant Happy Returns daylilies instead of Stella, and to use the same Sedum varieties that Park Commission has planted in the medium plantings. Also during the discussion it was pointed out that the Catsura trees the Park Commission requested be planted along Highway 67 will not grow in non-draining soil that is predominately wet. The PDI representative stated that Swamp White Oak trees were initially selected for the wet areas. Treptow stated that the Highway 67 and Fontana Boulevard intersection is a major intersection in the Village and the Park Commission desires to have an alternative to Swamp White Oaks planted in the area.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - Expired

Treptow stated that the Village’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has expired and it needs to be reviewed every five years. Treptow stated that he does not know what committee facilitated the initial approval of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and what committee should handle the current review. The Village can apply for stewardship grants if the plan is in place. Lobdell stated that she will check with Big Foot Recreation Department Director Keith Graunke and report back at next month’s meeting.

Gypsy Moth Caterpillars and Trees

Treptow stated that an alert has been issued for this part of the state for residents to be aware of Gypsy Moth Caterpillars; however, he is not aware of any local reports of areas of forest defoliation. Although there has been none reported in the Village, Treptow stated that residents should still be aware of the threat.

Little Foot Playground “Diggers”

Treptow stated that the “diggers” have been dug up and removed from the playground because they were causing children to pinch their fingers. Treptow stated that all the playground equipment will be updated in the spring.

Bills to Pay

None

Park Requests

Treptow stated the Park Permit applications were filed by US Cellular to use Reid Park on August 8, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., for 30 people to participate in a team building function, and by the Lake Geneva Marathon organizers to use the Gazebo on May 12, 2007, from early morning to noon.

O’Brien/Sammons 2nd made a MOTION to approve the park permit applications as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments or Concerns

Trustee Pollitt stated that he obtained information on the Kikkoman Foods Foundation and he wanted to solicit assistance from the Park Commission in completing a grant application for the recently approved park structure at the site of the historic mill house. Although the CDA has approved the expenditure of \$35,000 for the project, Trustee Pollitt stated that the Village may be able to secure a matching-funds grant and the proposed structure could be upgraded to include a roof and other amenities. O’Brien stated that she will work with Pollitt to complete the application process. Gail Hibbard stated that she can provide assistance in determining exactly who to contact at the Kikkoman Foods Foundation. Nancy Krei asked the Park Commission if the members were aware that a campfire had been lit in the woods behind the residence that she leases from the Village at 208 Dewey Avenue. In response to questions from Krei, Treptow stated that it is up to the neighborhood residents and the Fontana Police Department to patrol the area. McHugh updated the Park Commission on CDA items, including the installation of a sample fence along the beach. Larson and O’Brien volunteered to assist McHugh with the sample fence project.

Pending Park Commission Items for Future Agendas

1. Landscape Plans for Mill House Pavilion and Wild Duck Road
2. Bird and Bat Houses
3. Landmark Trees List
4. Frisbee Golf at Duck Pond

Adjournment

O'Brien/Larson 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by Dennis Martin, Village Clerk

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: 08/16/06