

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION  
Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Chairperson Cindy Wilson called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

**Park Commissioners present:** Trustee Wilson, Sarah Lobdell, Sharon Conklin, Jill Wegner, Sharon O'Brien, Dan Green

**Park Commissioners absent:** Laura Coates, Advisor Diane Lewis

**Also present:** Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, CDA Commissioner Gail Hibbard, Library Director Nancy Krei, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Trustee Micki O'Connell, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

**Approval of Minutes**

O'Brien/Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held June 16, 2010, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

Big Foot Recreation Director Chuck Thiesenhusen was not able to attend the meeting, but submitted the following report: "I would like give a special thanks to the beach staff for being extremely helpful for the movie nights. They are pleasant to work with and they have been generous with assistance when it has been needed. I believe the movie nights have gone extremely well. On June 12, Pirates of the Caribbean had 120 attendees; on June 26, Finding Nemo had 170 attendees; on July 10, Night at the Museum had 216 attendees. The remaining movies are: July 24, Back to the Future; August 7, Jaws; August 21, Toy Story. The summer day camp program has had humble beginnings, but it has also been successful. Part of the success has been attributed to using Fontana Elementary School and the Park House. Thank you. The 16-inch softball league is currently in the midst of the tournament season. There are a few remaining Mondays and it will conclude on August 16. I have a request – I apologize if this should go directly to Craig. Is it possible to install an outside outlet on the west side of the beach house (facing the volleyball courts). This would reduce a trip hazard during the movie house." The request was directed to Workman.

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

The Park House was used 16 times in June 2010.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report for June 2010 was presented by Lobdell.

**Plan Commission Report**

Lobdell stated that at a joint session meeting of the Plan Commission and Village Board on July 6, 2010 it was determined that the proposed project to rewrite Chapters 17 and 18 of the Municipal Code will be pursued in 2011, if the funds can be allocated in the budget. Lakefront zoning code ordinance amendments that were previously considered in 2007 will be reviewed and possibly reconsidered.

**Public Works Report**

Workman stated that the Public Works Department has been busy in recent weeks with watering duties since there has been very minimal rain this month. Workman stated the CDA Chairman Bill Turner has requested that no mow grass be considered for some areas. Workman stated that an expert in the field could be consulted, but the service will have to be funded. Following discussion on the pros and cons of no mow grass, Wilson stated that the item will be put on the next agenda so the Park Commission can determine if there are any areas where no mow grass should be considered and if those areas are actually under the Park Commission's oversight; if the Park Commission even wants to plant no mow grass in any areas; and if no

mow grass is pursued, does the Park Commission want to allocate funds from its current budget to have an expert provide assistance.

### **TID Maintenance – Items/Update**

Lobdell stated that there are two trees in the entrance area of the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy that appear to be dead or dying. Workman stated that he thinks the warranty for the trees probably has expired and he will check out the trees and review the warranty.

### **Old Business**

#### **Duck Pond Disc Golf Course – Update**

Lobdell stated that Wally Bullard has a group of volunteers who have offered to help install the new permanent hole baskets for the nine-hole disc golf course at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Workman stated that he has scheduled the installation work to be completed during the next week and the new course should be open by the end of the month.

#### **Fontana Fourth Fest Report**

Hayden stated that the event was held July 3 and 4, 2010 in Reid Park with an arts, crafts and vendors fair hosted by the Village and food and concessions offered by the Big Foot Lions Club. Hayden stated that a staff meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the event has been scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 5:00 pm. Hayden stated that the Lions Club reportedly made about \$8,000 to \$10,000 during the two days, and the Village made about \$1,400 net after expenses for the music sound man and rental fees for the children's bounce attractions were deducted. Hayden stated that some of the vendors at the arts and crafts fair have provided feedback and everybody is invited to attend the wrap-up meeting. Wilson stated that if an arts and crafts fair is considered again, it may be better to hold it on a weekend, but not on the Fourth of July. Wilson stated that some of the vendors told her they would like the event to be staged when it is the only event in the park, and she received some other suggestions to improve the event in the future. Wilson stated that the Village may also consider establishing a juried art show.

#### **Farmer's Market, Chili Cook-Off & Bonfire Events – Planning Update**

Wegner stated that she talked to Mary Ann Pearce and she would not be interested in participating in a farmer's market event in the Village. Wegner stated that it may be too late to consider scheduling farmer's markets this year. Lobdell stated that the Village could consider hosting farmer's markets in the fall. O'Brien stated that she talked to Bill Henry and he indicated that he also would not be interested in participating in a farmer's market events this season; however, he would be very interested in participating next year. Wilson stated that an idea to have a chili cook-off and fall festival events in Reid Park and then offer hayrides up to the Duck Pond for a bonfire may be worth pursuing. Green stated that maybe a chili cook-off could be staged on Lake Street. Following discussion, the Park Commission members reached a consensus that if a fall event can be planned for this year it should be held Saturday, October 30, 2010. Green stated that he can handle the administrative tasks to organize the bonfire and a beer tent for the event, but other Park Commission members will have to assist in organizing events for children and families. Lobdell stated that the event could be held in the early afternoon and conclude with a bonfire at the Duck Pond at about 7:00 pm. Green stated that he could draft an outline for the proposed event and the Park Commission could finalize a proposal for Village Board consideration at the next monthly meeting. Lobdell and Conklin stated that they will work with Green on a subcommittee to finalize the proposed event.

#### **Pig in the Park Event Planning Committee**

Hayden stated that the annual event requires advanced planning and there are a lot of related tasks that need to be completed prior to Saturday, September 4, 2010. Hayden stated that she and Green have handled almost all of the planning work in the past years with the assistance of Sharon O'Brien and Workman and the DPW crew, but more Park Commission members are needed to help divide up the required footwork. Hayden stated that lining up volunteers to work at the event has not been a problem, but a committee is needed to help with the organizational chores. Hayden stated that if each member could be assigned to spearhead a task, the event planning should not be too much of a burden. Someone is needed to coordinate the volunteer worker schedule, to coordinate the children's activities, to coordinate the food and supply donations, to coordinate the ticket printing, sales and publicity, and to coordinate setup and takedown duties. Hayden stated that one other potential problem is that the takedown duties have been completed on Sunday by the DPW crew, which required overtime pay. Hayden stated that the Village Board has cut back on

overtime this year and the funds may not be available. Following discussion, the Park Commission members reached a consensus that it would be appropriate to deduct from the total proceeds the approximate \$600 that it would cost to fund the overtime salaries of the DPW crew members who would assist with the takedown duties. Gail Hibbard stated that she contacted the Fontana Garden Club members and some of them have indicated that they would be willing to work at the event. The Park Commission directed Martin to schedule a special meeting for Monday, July 26, 2010 at 5:00 pm to determine who will handle the various planning/coordination duties.

### **Park Walks Maintenance List**

Lobdell presented the list of items she noted during a tour of the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and the Fontana Fen. Martin will add the items to the maintenance list. The items that already have been taken care of by the DPW crew are delineated on the list with red marks. Workman stated that he will take a look at the boardwalk area in the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and make a recommendation on installing a new boardwalk or rerouting the path.

### **Tree Ordinance Amendments – Tabled 5/19/10 & 6/16/10**

The information on all the previous amendments to the Tree Ordinance was compiled and distributed to the members. Wilson asked the members to review the information and note possible areas that need attention, and the Park Commission will discuss possible amendments at its September 15, 2010 meeting.

### **Friends of the Parks 501c3 Committee Meeting Report**

O'Brien stated that the Friends of the Parks charitable organization held its first official meeting, a bank account has been opened at Walworth State Bank, and tax-deductible donations can now be accepted. Rick Treptow is the president of the organization, Diane French is the vice president, O'Brien is the secretary, and the three other Board of Directors members are Diane Lewis, Laurie Larson and John Hamilton. O'Brien asked if the Park Commission would consider transferring some of the donated funds that have been held in the Pioneer Park Fund to the new Friends of the Parks account to get it established.

Wegner/Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to transfer \$100 from the Pioneer Park Fund to the Friends of the Parks bank account, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **New Business**

#### **Geneva Lake Conservancy Annual Monitoring Report**

Geneva Lake Conservancy Executive Director Joseph McHugh stated that Lynn Ketterhagen conducted her annual tour of the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy on June 18, 2010 and distributed the report of the monitoring results. McHugh stated that the conservation easement is working and there has been no development or encroachments into the conservancy. The areas noted in the report that still need some attention will be added to the Park Maintenance List.

#### **Jill Wegner Resignation/Recommendation on Replacement**

Wilson stated that unfortunately for the Park Commission, Jill Wegner submitted a letter of resignation. Wegner stated that due to her job and other family commitments, she feels she can no longer commit to the necessary hours required to adequately serve the citizens of Fontana. Wilson stated that the Park Commission thanked Wegner for her service and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation. Wegner stated that she will still help with weekend projects and events. Wilson stated that Village President Arvid Petersen has requested recommendations for a possible replacement.

#### **CDA Request to Amend Park Use Policy to Ban Tents in Reid Park & Ban Barbecuing, Tents, Awnings and Canopies in Lake Street Right-of-Way, East of Lake Street and in Triangle Area Adjacent to Marina Building**

Wilson stated that the request for the Park Commission to review its policies for Reid Park was generated by a few CDA members at the last monthly meeting. Wilson stated that the concerns were directly related to the Fourth of July, when some local residents visited Reid Park for the first time in many years. Wilson stated that they didn't like seeing the tents and awnings and family gatherings that occur in Reid Park only on the Fourth of July. Lobdell stated that the Lake Street right-of-way and the east side of Lake Street technically are not the park and are not under the Park Commission's jurisdiction; and there is not a problem any other day than on the Fourth of July. Wilson stated that she went down to the park on Sunday, July 17, 2010 and there was nobody in the park on a very nice day. Sharon Conklin stated that the tents do take up a lot of space. Green

stated that there are people under the tents, awnings and canopies that would be taking up space anyway on the Fourth of July. Wilson stated that there are only sporadic occasions when you see even one tent or awning erected in the park for a family event. Lobdell stated that she thinks it would be a bad idea to make policy for a one-day problem. O'Brien stated that Village President Arvid Petersen recently stated that the Village of Fontana historically does not favor over-regulation or minutia ordinance amendments. O'Brien stated that if the Park Commission were to consider proposing an ordinance amendment as requested by the CDA, it would be a minutia ordinance for a one-day concern. O'Brien stated that she does not favor an ordinance amendment and the policy should not be changed.

Wilson/O'Brien 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to note that the Park Commission reviewed the Reid Park policy and made the determination that there is no need to change the current policy. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Bills to Pay**

##### ***Sentry Foods \$52 Invoice for Clean-Up Day Supplies***

The invoice was submitted for refreshments for the May 28, 2010 clean-up day activities completed by Fontana Elementary School students at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and Mill House Pavilion.

Lobdell/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the \$52 invoice from Sentry Foods, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Park Applications**

##### ***Catherine Cella, Family Reunion at Duck Pond Pavilion with Beer/Wine Consumption Permit, Saturday, August 7, 2010, 9:00 AM to Dusk; Kremp Family Reunion, Duck Pond Softball Field, Thursday, July 29, 2010, 1:00 to 4:00 PM***

There are no conflicts with the requested dates, and the applicable application fees have been paid.

O'Brien/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the Park Permit applications as filed by Catherine Cella for the August 7, 2010 family reunion at the Duck Pond Pavilion with a beer and wine consumption permit, and by Stanley Kremp for use of one softball field at the Duck Pond Recreation Area on July 29, 2010. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

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

Sharon Conklin stated that she would like to donate a picnic table to be placed at the Duck Pond Recreation Area by the dog walking area. The proposal will be put on next month's agenda for consideration.

#### **Adjournment**

Wilson/Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 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: 8/18/10