

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE

Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on July 23, 2014 by Chairman David Prudden.

Committee Members Present: Trustee Dave Prudden, Lee Eakright, Ed Snyder, Steve Beers, Joel Bikowski (arrived at 4:38 pm), Bob Chanson (arrived at 4:40 pm)

Committee Member Absent: Don Holst

Also Present: Darrell Frederick, Clerk Theresa Linneman, Administrator Dennis Martin, Tom Whowell

Visitors Heard

Village Launch Ramp employee Greg Blizzard emailed an activity report for July that states activities are finally picking up with the arrival of more seasonal weather. The previous weekend, the trailer parking lot was filled by 9:00 AM on Saturday and by 9:30 AM on Sunday. Blizzard reported that he attended a Protection Committee meeting to request that the Police Department consider better ways to control vehicular traffic and drivers who are going the wrong direction on the one-way portion of Lake Street that runs in front of the launch from Third Avenue north to Kinzie Avenue, and drivers who are making U-turns and going the wrong way on Bayview Drive and lower Third Avenue. Lee Eakright stated that both issues have been a problem this summer. Police Sgt. Jeff Cates stated that more signage could help, but GPS direction programs in automobiles and on smart phones direct drivers all the way down Kinzie Avenue, and past the barricade that current states “No Outlet” and “No Parking At Any Time.”

General Business

Approval of Minutes for Meeting Held June 18, 2014

Snyder/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to approve the June 18, 2014 minutes as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Discussion on Exchanging Village Buoys for New Pier Slips

Martin stated that as directed last month by the committee, staff completed some preliminary research on the proposal to exchange some or all of the Village’s 27 buoys for new pier slips in the DNR approved Designated Mooring Area. Martin distributed copies of the current buoys mooring lease chart, which shows five of the 27 buoys are still available this season, and that 17 of the current buoy lease holders are on the waiting list for a slip. Darrell Frederick of Austin Pier distributed preliminary estimates he calculated for the permitting and construction of pier additions and the installation of new slips on Pier Nos. 1, 2 and 3, and for the construction of a new pier. Frederick stated that the best location for a new pier would be between Piers 2 and 3 and the new pier could accommodate up to 24 slips. Frederick reported that if Pier No. 3 is extended out to 200 feet, it could accommodate up to four more slips; and if Pier No. 2 is extended out to 200 feet, it could accommodate two to four more slips. Frederick reported that with some modifications to the 200-foot Pier No. 1, it could accommodate up to 11 or 12 new slips on the north side. Frederick estimated that an addition to Pier No. 3 and installation of four new slips would cost about \$29,500; an addition to Pier No. 2 and installation of two to four new news slips would cost about \$21,500 to \$29,500; and modification to Pier No. 1 and the installation of 11 or 12 slips on the north side would cost about \$33,700. Frederick estimated that the construction of a new pier between Pier Nos. 2 and 3, with 22 slips, would cost about \$115,000. Frederick stated that a new pier between Pier Nos. 2 and 3 is in an area that has enough space for longer slips that could be leased for more expensive rates. The permitting fees would

total about \$900 for each pier. The committee members discussed the various options and came to the consensus that the installation of a new pier is the most cost effective proposal and would address the Village's current inability to lease all of the 27 buoys; and the removal of the buoys from the bay and the installation of a new pier on the shoreline would create a more open view of the lake for motorists on Fontana Boulevard than the current situation. Following further discussion, the committee members came to the consensus that a preliminary business plan should be drafted for the various scenarios. Tom Howell stated that a business plan could be developed that will pay for the construction and permitting expenses after one to two seasons, and then the Village will be in a position to generate more revenue. Bob Chanson and Ed Snyder stated that they will assist staff and Trustee Prudden in drafting a preliminary business plan based on Frederick's estimates. Frederick also presented images of kayak racks and stated it would cost about \$940 for the purchase of an eight-space rack at the lakefront. At last month's meeting, the Village ramp spaces were discussed with regard to increasing space limitation problems created by lifts for wave runners and jet skis. The lifts and some wave runners take up the entire ramp space and sometimes infringe on the adjacent spaces, some of which contain kayaks. During last month's discussion, Snyder suggested that maybe the village could install a kayak rack on the lakefront or across the street from the launch in Pioneer Park to make more room on the ramps. Frederick presented the images; however, upon review, the committee reached the consensus that the kayak rack proposal should not be pursued.

Plunkett Pier Permit Application

The Village received a notice from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that a DNR Permit application has been filed and preliminarily approved for a proposal to extend the current pier out 28 feet from its current location to 90-feet of total length; however, the required Village Building Permit application has not yet been filed. The application was filed by Hugh Plunkett for the parcel at 1056 South Lakeshore Drive.

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the pier permit application for Hugh Plunkett, 1056 South Lakeshore Drive, as filed with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with the conditions that the permit is approved by the DNR, that the Village of Fontana Building Permit application is filed and approved, and that an as-built survey is filed upon installation of the pier. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Shotola Buoy Lease Fee Refund Request

Martin stated that Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Olson received a request from Buoy No. 12 lease holder Michelle Shotola for a partial refund of the \$902.03 total fee that she paid for the season lease. Shotola stated that the boat was removed on June 29, 2014 and she will not be using it for the remainder of the season. Following discussion, the committee members reached the consensus that since there will still be five buoys left unfilled this season with one application pending approval, and that Shotola had a boat on the buoy in May and June, that the refund request should be denied.

Snyder/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to recommend denial of the refund request submitted by Michelle Shotola for the lease fee she paid for Buoy No. 12 for the 2014 season, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

2014 Mooring Lease Applications

Martin stated that the Village has received applications for mooring leases for one of the open buoys and for two of the open ramp spaces. Justin Giroux has submitted all the required documents for leasing Buoy No. 13, and Christine Voight has submitted all the required documents for leasing a ramp space for a motorized craft. Williams McCarthy has submitted all the required documents for a ramp space, expect for a photograph of his non- motorized craft. There are still five buoys, and two ramps spaces for non-motorized watercrafts remaining to be leased this season. Martin stated that staff recommends approval of the three applications, but direction is needed on the lease fee and if it should be prorated since the season is half over. The fees for half the season, including the required state sales tax, would be \$451.02 for the buoy;

\$271.67 for the ramp space for a motorized craft; and \$137.15 for a ramp space for a non-motorized craft.

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the 2014 mooring lease applications filed by Justin Giroux, Christine Voight and William McCarthy, with the lease fees reduced by 50 percent since the season is half over. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Lake Street Ordinance Review

Prudden stated that there have been some recent incidents regarding the opening and closing procedures for Lake Street during the summer season, and with loading activities at the lakefront. The current ordinance calls for Lake Street to be closed to traffic from 5:00 PM on Fridays through 7:00 AM on Mondays from the weekend prior to Memorial Day through the weekend following Labor Day, and at other times as designated by the Village Board or Chief of Police. The ordinance also states that if there is minimal pedestrian activity, the Chief of Police may open the street earlier than 7:00 AM on Monday; and during recent years, the street has been opened on most Sunday evenings and rainy days. Prudden stated that a meeting was held in May and the road opening and closing procedures were discussed with the Lake Street business owners. Prudden stated that there have been incidents in recent weeks regarding the opening of the street, and with the street not being closed; and there have been incidents with busses loading and unloading groups at the lakefront businesses on weekends. Tom Whowell stated that he drafted a suggested Lake Street closure guidelines document that would assist the business owners and Village with closing the street for the safety and enjoyment of residents and visitors to walk without traffic; and with establishing defined exceptions for limited business related and handicapped accessibility traffic to be allowed inside the barricades, for taxis, busses, vans and limousine services, and for weather exceptions. Whowell presented the distributed draft which calls for Gordy's employees to open and close the barricades, and he provided details on some of the recent incidents. Police Sgt. Jeff Cates explained the liability issues and the requirement to have the Police Department authorize any opening or closing of a public street. Martin stated that the current ordinance form was drafted by the village attorney with the municipal liability issues in mind; however, procedures are in place that allow for common sense to dictate any openings or closing of the street, and the police officers have been directed to work with the business owners upon telephone notification. Following further discussion on recent incidents, Prudden stated that the Village and Police Department administration will meet again with the lakefront owners to iron out any remaining concerns and try to get through the summer season without further incidents.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 4:30 pm.

Adjournment

Chanson/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis Martin, Village Administrator

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: 8/27/14