

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Chairperson Cindy Wilson called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 4:10 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Trustee Wilson, Sarah Lobdell, Laura Coates, Sharon O'Brien,
Park Commissioners absent: Sharon Conklin, Dan Green, Advisor Diane Lewis

Also present: Library Director Nancy Krei, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Joseph McHugh, Trustee Micki O'Connell, Big Foot Recreation Director Chuck Thiesenhusen

Approval of Minutes

Lobdell/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held August 18, 2010, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

Workshop Items

Future Needs Discussion

Wilson distributed planning and budgeting documents to use as a guide during the discussion. Wilson used the Existing Facilities Map in the Park and Open Space plan to line up the maintenance items and the responsible contractor or DPW crew. Lobdell stated that because of the landscaping and park maintenance contracts and budget expenses for the DPW crew, the Park Commission budget is almost entirely used up on necessary maintenance items and there are no discretionary funds available for "wish list" items. O'Brien stated that prior to the addition of the newly created landscaped areas, all the park maintenance was completed by Blackstone; however, over the last several years, more landscaping and park maintenance duties have been allocated to the DPW crew. O'Brien stated that the problem with using the DPW crew is that they get busy with other responsibilities and some park maintenance items slip through the cracks or can't be regularly scheduled. O'Brien stated that buckthorn and garlic mustard abatement as well as controlled burns should be regularly scheduled, and those items often slip through the cracks. Following discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that the financial planning for the landscaping and maintenance contracts is out of their hands, and their efforts should be more concentrated on oversight and making sure all the necessary tasks are being taken care of either by the DPW crew or by the contracted service providers. The Park Commission members will contact Martin or Workman directly with their concerns, and Workman will determine if the work is covered by one of the contractors or by the DPW crew. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission could establish a wish list of capital items for future budgets and prioritize them in case funding becomes available. Some of the long-range improvement projects and items for the parks are a new boardwalk, path improvements, bridge and culvert repairs and the creation of additional paths in the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. During the discussion it was pointed out that the 2010 budget includes funding for the boardwalk project in the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Other long-range improvement projects and items for the parks are buckthorn and garlic mustard abatement and a controlled burn for the Fontana Fen; a park shelter in the parking area and an observation tower for the Fontana Fen; development of permanent display cases, repairing the stairs and addressing a run-off problem along the roofline at the Mill House Pavilion; removal of the old garage and leveling off and seeding the lot at Headwaters Park; installation of a new picnic table in the dog track area, a new sand volleyball court, a hard-surfaced court for tennis and basketball, a sledding hill, lights and scoreboards for the Duck Pond Recreation Area; replacement of some dead trees and maintenance at the base of the other trees planted by the pavilion/bathroom building in Reid Park; a new gazebo to replace the razed structure in Reid Park; path maintenance, reinstallation of the water fountain, maintenance on the plantings adjacent to the launch and new plantings for the stone wall area in Pioneer Park; and removal of the trellis plant hangers, pruning some trees, replacing some dead trees and maintenance of the sand volleyball court at the beach. Wilson stated that the initial plan for Porter Court

Plaza also is not working and something needs to be done to improve the park. Wilson stated that the granite stone paths should be replaced with grass and the water fountain looks like a hot tub. O'Brien stated that the trees in Porter Court also need attention, and the warranty should be checked for replacing the trees that have died. The Park Commission will revisit the design of Porter Court Plaza and makes some recommendations on improving the current park.

Now Mow Grass Discussion

The Park Commission members reached a consensus that they are not in favor of no mow grass for the Village park areas.

2011 Budget Planning

As well as the wish list items discussed in the future needs discussion, the 2011 proposed budget was amended to include \$750 for the annual Easter egg hunt. Lobdell will finalize the budget documents for Wilson to present to the Finance Committee on September 16, 2010.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used 16 times in August 2010.

Treasurer's Report

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

Plan Commission Report

Nothing new has been filed with the Plan Commission. A proposed amendment to the Master Plan Future Land Use Map and a draft of an ordinance amendment to prohibit the assignment of riparian rights to lots not located on the lake will be presented at the next monthly meeting.

Public Works Report

Craig Workman was not able to attend the meeting so no report was given.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

The updated list was distributed.

Old Business

Duck Pond Disc Golf Course – Update

Lobdell stated that Wally Bullard has to stake the course and a date has to be coordinated with Workman for the installation of the new permanent hole baskets for the nine-hole disc golf course at the Duck Pond Recreation Area.

Chili Cook-Off & Bonfire Event – Planning Update

Green was not able to attend the meeting.

Pig in the Park Report

Wilson stated that the gross proceeds from the third annual event totaled \$12,271 and with expenses deducted the preliminary estimate for net profit is \$8,371, which is an increase of about \$600 from last year.

Recommendation on New Park Commission Member

Wilson stated that Village Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden provided a list of six or seven names of Village residents who might be interested in volunteering. Wilson stated that she would like to have as many suggestions as possible of residents who might have an interest in the Park Commission and she will send letters to the suggested people to determine their interest.

CDA Request to Review Plants in Village Hall Landscaped Areas

O'Brien stated that she reviewed the plants in the Village Hall landscaped areas, and the Snow in Summer plants in particular, and any type of ground covering plant starts to go to seed in the heat of the late summer months. O'Brien stated that nine months of the year, the Snow in Summer plants look beautiful. O'Brien stated that in order to help keep the plants looking nicer they can be watered regularly and kept from drying

out. O'Brien stated that any similar plant that the Park Commission might choose to plant instead of the Snow in Summer would have similar problems in the late summer months. O'Brien stated that as well as keeping the plants watered next summer, the Park Commission also should plant about 25 new Snow in Summer plants in the spring to help the landscaped areas look a little nicer.

New Business

Village Board Request to Ban Camping Tents & Grills in Village Parks

The Village Board approved a motion at its last monthly meeting to request that the Park Commission consider banning camping tents and grills in village parks. Lobdell stated that she talked to Director of Public Works Craig Workman and he indicated that the cement collection bin that is placed in Reid Park for charcoal is not a problem to empty during the summer months. Reid Park is the only village park where visitors are allowed to use grills. Lobdell stated that camping tents also are not a problem and the only day there has ever been one erected in Reid Park was on the Fourth of July. O'Brien stated that the Park Commission already reviewed the park use policies and it still is not necessary to amend the policies to address a situation that only occurs once a year. Lobdell asked if tents were banned from Reid Park, who would walk around on the Fourth of July to enforce the restriction. The Park Commission reviewed the park use policies at its July 21, 2010 meeting at the request of the CDA and approved a motion stating that there is no need to change the current park policy.

Picnic Table for Dog Track Area at Duck Pond

Wilson stated that she did some research on purchasing a brand new picnic table for the area, and it will cost about \$2,000. The Department of Public Works has placed a bench in the area, but the Park Commission members reached a consensus that a picnic table (perhaps a round table) would be better than a bench. The Park Commission members will continue to look for possible donations or other less expensive sources for a picnic table.

Park Applications: Big Foot Recreation District Fall Programs at Park House; Slayton Family Reunion, Duck Pond Pavilion, September 25, 2010, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Martin stated that there are no conflicts with the dates requested by the Big Foot Recreation District; however, some of the starting and ending times will abut with the starting or ending times of already approved card club dates at the Park House. Lobdell stated that there will be soccer games at the Duck Pond on September 25, 2010; however, there is enough room for both events to be held.

Lobdell/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the park permit applications as filed, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments or Concerns

None

Adjournment

O'Brien/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 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: 10/20/10