

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN
(Official Minutes)
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
September 17, 2014

Park Commission Chairman Rick Pappas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Trustee Rick Pappas, Mary Green, Laura Coates, Sarah Lobdell (arrived at 6:11 pm), Sandra Hibbard, Gail Hibbard

Park Commissioner absent: Lynne Frost

Also present: Director of Streets Ron Adams, Clerk Theresa Linneman, Administrator Dennis Martin

Approval of Minutes

Sandra Hibbard/Laura Coates 2nd made a MOTION to approve the meeting minutes for August 20, 2014, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

Announcements

Martin stated the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy annual GLC monitoring event did not take place on September 4, 2014 as planned and will be rescheduled by Lynn Ketterhagen. Mary Green stated the Pig in the Park fundraiser took place on August 30, 2014, and was very successful. There were around 750 dinners served which makes this year's turnout better than last year. She stated it may have seemed like less because the layout was more spread out, the food and beverage tent was in one area and the rest was further apart. Martin stated the Village Trustees have requested information on the expenses the village incurred for the Pig in the Park event and would like staff to meet with the Green to discuss next year's event.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was not used in August, 2014. Martin stated the Big Foot Rec Department has fall programs scheduled in the upcoming months.

Treasurer's Report

Due to Lobdell's late arrival, the Treasurer's Report was not presented but was distributed as of August 31, 2014.

Plan Commission Report

Martin said there has not been a Plan Commission meeting since June 2014, but there will be agenda items for the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Shodeen Group met with staff earlier in the day to discuss constructing townhomes on their Third Avenue parcel, and the proposal will require a zoning ordinance amendment. Developer John Tracy also is proposing condominium unit building for the 200 block of Third Avenue.

Public Works Report & Park Commission Maintenance List

Director of Streets Ron Adams presented the updated Parks Maintenance List. He stated the trail at Hildebrand Conservancy has been mowed and widened. The storm water runoff problem at Headwaters Park has been addressed. There is future planning to direct the runoff water up the road to a grassy area in the park. Pappas stated the gravel path at the Mill Street entrance to the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy is developing deep ruts and erodes with rainfall. Adams said he cannot find the aggregate used for the path and questioned if it could be redone with blacktop and Martin replied that is something that would have to be approved through Geneva Lake Conservancy. Pappas stated the arborvitae that run along the alley next to Little Foot Playground in Reid Park are

half dead or have been eaten by deer and suggested using a deer mesh curtain to protect them. Adams also will have some of the bushes replaced this fall.

Old Business

MPC Park Permit Application – Tabled August 20, 2014

Martin stated he emailed MPC after last month's meeting and informed them of the Park Commission's direction to get input on whether MPC would like to arrange for their own dumpster and clean the area themselves, or have the Village supply a dumpster and reimburse the Village for use of the dumpster and to pay for DPW staff time. MPC opted to have a dumpster provided by the Village and to pay the additional expenses. Martin stated the cost of providing the dumpster should not cost more than \$100.

Sarah Lobdell/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Park Permit application for the Duck Pond Pavilion with a Beer/Wine consumption permit as filed by MPC, Inc., subject to cost recovery for the Village expenses, for Saturday, June 13, 2015, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Native Areas Maintenance Plan

Martin stated he has been in contact with Friends in the Park Officers Rick Treptow and Sharon O'Brien since last meeting. The group is no longer active, but is still in existence, and they would be happy to have someone take over and reactivate the group. Gail Hibbard stated she would join but does not want the responsibility of taking over the leadership. Martin stated he could put information on the group in the newsletter in order to attract volunteers and then the group could maybe elect new officers. Martin stated that staff recommends allocating \$5,000 in next year's budget for the Native Areas Maintenance Plan presented last month by Gail Hibbard and Bill Turner. The proposal includes more services from Tom Vanderpoel and the printing of maps and brochures to publicize the native areas and the volunteer efforts. Gail Hibbard made a request for \$300 for the November seed sowing at the Oak Savannah and Native Prairie Restoration areas. Gail Hibbard stated that she can request \$300 from the Fontana Garden Club and the combined total of \$600 will be enough to purchase the new seeds.

Sarah Lobdell/Mary Green 2nd made a MOTION to allocate \$300 under the Native Areas Maintenance Plan for the November seed sowing at the Oak Savannah and Native Prairie Restoration areas, and the MOTION passed without a negative vote.

2014 Budget Planning

Martin said he would like to work with Sarah Lobdell and Trustee Pappas regarding the 2015 budget for the Park Commission; and the previously established "wish list" can be consulted and prioritized. Some of the items discussed were increased tree pruning and consultation services, an observation tower located at the lakefront, a sand volleyball court at the Duck Pond, improvements at Headwaters Park including picnic tables, a fire pit at the Porter Court Plaza, a new sign and staircase at the Fontana Fen, and funding a Fontana Fen Improvement Plan. Adams suggested looking into an irrigation system for Reid Park that would not use the village's water system; however, it would come with a hefty price tag of about \$200,000. He also elaborated on the maintenance needed for the Porter Court water fountain and suggested it be replaced. Adams stated it either needs a lot of work or should be shut down. The pump and fill apparatus is failing and the plumbing in the hole is awry because it was set up to be used with chlorine pucks which in turn caused build up. Pappas stated that he and Sarah Lobdell would meet in time to present their budget suggestions at the Finance Committee's October 2, 2014 budget planning meeting.

New Business

Replacement Plantings for Dead Trees

Adams listed dead trees and shrubs that need to be cut down and removed: Seven Oak trees next to Wild Duck Road which he believes died due to Oak Wilt, two maple trees in front of Village Hall, five trees by the boat trailer lot on Reid and High Streets, one Soft Maple by the Reid Park baseball diamond that died from the drought two years ago, one Pine Tree in Pioneer Park, one Crimson Maple on the beach that was killed by ants, and six Crab trees on the south end of the beach. Adams asked the commission which trees should be replaced first; the maple on the beach or the trees outside Village Hall. Gail Hibbard asked if Jeff Epping should be contacted since he is very

knowledgeable on what trees will thrive in which locations. She added that the village should be careful with planting Red Maples as they are a delicate and not always guaranteed by nurseries. Discussion ensued on which fund the tree replacement money would come from and which trees would be replaced first. Martin stated he would need to speak with Treasurer Scott Vilona about the budget and whether the money could come out of the General Fund or if it would have to come out of the segregated Park Commission accounts. The suggestion was made to use \$3,000 for tree replacement this fall. The four areas agreed upon for tree replacement were in front of Village Hall, the Arborvitae in Reid Park, the unidentified weeping white spruce by the Park House, and as many Crab trees on the beach as possible.

Sarah Lobdell/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to authorize replacement of trees and shrubs in four area locations, for an amount not to exceed \$3,000, and to specify with Jay Epping, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

GLEA Ground Water Monitoring Well Proposal For Fontana Fen

Pictures were distributed as well as an email from Geneva Lake Environmental Agency Director Ted Peters regarding the proposed installation of groundwater monitoring wells in the Fontana Fen. Martin gave an overview and stated there would be two or three wells installed by hand auguring into the water table at the expense of the GLEA. The GLEA would do this in conjunction with George Williams College and then monitor changes in the elevation in groundwater and changes in the quality of the water.

Gail Hibbard/Sarah Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION recommend Village Board approval of the proposal for the GLEA to install groundwater monitoring wells in the Fontana Fen at GLEA's expense, subject to Geneva Lake Conservancy approval and coordination with the Village of Fontana DPW. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Adjournment

Lobdell/Green 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m., 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: 11/19/2014