

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Chairperson Sarah Lobdell called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:02 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Sarah Lobdell, Nancy Krei, Jill Wegner, Dan Green, Trustee Diane Lewis, Sharon O'Brien (arrived at 6:06 pm)

Park Commissioners absent: Robert Stewart, Melissa Colby

Also present: Bill Henry, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh, Big Foot Recreation Director Chuck Thiesenhusen, Director of Public Works Craig Workman (arrived at 6:15 pm)

Approval of Minutes

Krei/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes submitted for the meeting held September 17, 2008, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Chuck Thiesenhusen stated that the Big Foot Recreation Department budget will be considered at the Big Foot High School budget meeting on October 27, 2008. The budget includes funds for the expansion of the fitness center located in Big Foot High School and the renovation of the Big Foot Recreation Department office. Thiesenhusen stated that the expansion plan calls for doubling the current fitness center space and purchasing new equipment. Thiesenhusen stated that the proposed budget for the recreation department does not call for any additional tax dollars. In response to a question, Thiesenhusen stated that the fitness center is open to the public from 5:30 am until school is in session and from 3:00 to 8:00 pm on weekdays.

Announcements

None

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used 14 times in September 2008.

Treasurer's Report

Krei presented the treasurer's report as of September 30, 2008.

Plan Commission Report

Lobdell stated that the Plan Commission is considering the adopting of an ordinance to regulate the development of windmills in the Village and the ETZ District.

Public Works Report

Lobdell stated that Workman reported the Third Avenue and Kinzie Avenue projects are underway and major progress will be evident within three to four weeks.

Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee Report

Krei stated that the Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee finalized and sent out the public survey and there have been hundreds of surveys completed and returned. The survey results are being compiled and the findings will be reported at the next meeting of the Blue Ribbon committee.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

McHugh stated that he gave the list of maintenance items compiled at the last meeting to Workman and the DPW crew completed the work. McHugh stated that other areas noted include the wood chips area at the Duck Pond Recreation Area playground, which needs to be raked and weeded; the grass in Reid Park that

needs attention; and touch-up painting that is required on some spots of the gazebo and restroom and pavilion building. Lobdell stated that the concrete caps on the Reid Park wall are missing in a few locations and some of the other caps are loose. McHugh stated that the Park Commission members should contact him if they note any other areas of concern.

Old Business

2009 Budget Preparation

Lobdell stated that the 2009 budget was presented to the Finance Committee and two capital outlay items were requested. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission requested that funds be put in the budget to complete the rest of the Little Foot Playground renovation plan. Lobdell stated that the proposal is to replace those funds with money raised at fund-raising events and from private donations. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission also requested \$3,000 for the Frisbee golf course. The funds for the Frisbee golf course also are planned to be replaced with sponsorship funds. Lobdell stated that the unknown portion of the budget is whether the landscape maintenance contact currently with Agrecol will be replaced with a green space manager or with a contact with another landscaping firm.

RFP for Park and Green Space Manager

There were no proposals submitted by the deadline on October 15, 2008.

O'Brien/Green 2nd made a MOTION to authorize the extension of the deadline for submitting a proposal for the green space manager position to October 31, 2008, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Parks and Open Space Plan 2009

Lobdell stated that the budget includes \$2,000 if needed for updating the Parks and Open Space Plan. Lobdell stated that she has reviewed the current plan and the subcommittee will meet to determine what needs to be updated by the end of the year.

Fall Bulb Planting, October 25, 2008, 8:30 AM

Lobdell stated that the event is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2008 beginning at 8:30 am in Reid Park. McHugh stated that he ordered the bulbs recommended on a list prepared by Roy Diblik and the bulbs will be shipped to the Village of Fontana in time for the event. The Park Commission also is planning a volunteer planting event for seeding the native prairie restoration area at the Duck Pond Recreation Area.

New Business

Duck Pond Tree Removal

Workman stated the he was contacted by Wisconsin Energies with regard to easements located along the west side of the playing fields and the east side of the dog walking area at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. The Village has planted evergreens and other trees in the areas. The utility company has requested that the trees planted in the easement areas be removed. Lobdell stated that the trees can be moved to other locations in the Village parks or they can be given to interested residents for transplanting. There are 50 to 60 trees up to 20-feet-tall in the two areas. Wisconsin Energies requested that the trees be moved by June 2009. O'Brien stated that the Park Commission could dig the trees up and sell them as a fund-raiser. Green stated that there are attachments available that could be mounted on the Village trucks to dig up the trees. The Park Commission members were in consensus that the trees should be inventoried and a determination be made on how many can be moved. Workman stated that he will obtain copies of the easements to make sure what trees have to be moved. In response to a question, Workman stated that Wisconsin Energies will cut the trees down if they are not moved. The Park Commission members were in consensus that a subcommittee should be formed to investigate the fund-raising possibilities of digging up the trees and selling them.

Wegner/Green 2nd made a MOTION to form a subcommittee consisting of Sharon O'Brien, Jill Wegner and Diane Lewis to investigate the fund-raising possibilities of digging up the trees in the easement areas at the Duck Pond Recreation Area and selling them, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Pheasant Ridge Reforestation Proposal

O'Brien stated that she checked with the Geneva Lake Conservancy and the village owned parcel of land located adjacent to the Pheasant Ridge subdivision is not in a conservation easement. Henry stated that he would be interested in placing his property in a conservation easement. Henry presented a forest restoration proposal he received from Ronald Martin of Midwest Prairies, LLC. The proposal is to clear the area of the honeysuckle, buckthorn and other invasive plants that are threatening the future health of the woodland area.

Henry stated that he has used Martin's services before and he invited the Park Commission members to visit his farm and the conservancy area in the Pheasant Ridge subdivision to look at the finished product. Henry stated that the Park Commission should disregard the proposed price because he will pay for the initial project if approved. Henry stated that he will fund the proposal to control the buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive species in the first 50 feet of the Village of Fontana parcel. Henry stated that the desirable trees will be left to grow in more healthy conditions. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission favors the proposal, but it has to be approved by the Village Board.

Green/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of Bill Henry's proposal to fund the eradication of the buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive species in the first 50 feet of the Village owned parcel of land located off Indian Hills Road adjacent to the Pheasant Ridge subdivision. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Fundraising Opportunities

Lobdell stated that besides the selling of the trees from the Duck Pond easement areas, the Park Commission is exploring the selling of bricks at the Little Foot Playground and Duck Pond Recreation Area playground improvement areas. Wegner stated that she talked to former Park Commission member Dawn Sammons about the brick program and she will investigate the sources for the bricks to be engraved and mounted at the Little Foot Playground and Duck Pond improvement areas. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission also should explore the possibility of selling "hand prints" to be mounted on the new wall at the Little Foot Playground. Since the Park Commission is running out of time to plan a New Year's Eve event, O'Brien suggested planning a masked ball to be held around Valentine's Day.

Bills to Pay

None submitted.

Park Requests

Public Works Oktoberfest, October 17, 2008, Duck Pond Pavilion

The Department of Public Works requested approval to host an Oktoberfest celebration and retirement party for Village of Fontana Public Works Department employee Paul Blain on Friday, October 17, 2008. A pig roast and bonfire are being planned for the event, which is open to the public.

O'Brien/Green 2nd made a MOTION to approve the Department of Public Works request to host a Oktoberfest celebration and retirement party for Village of Fontana Public Works Department employee Paul Blain on Friday, October 17, 2008 at the Duck Pond Recreation Area pavilion, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments or Concerns

Trustee Turner requested at the last monthly meeting of the Village Board for the Park Commission to consider designating the Duck Pond Recreation Area as the Village park where a permit could be applied for to allow for the consumption of beer or wine at special events. Lobdell stated that she will add the item to the next agenda.

Pending Items for Future Agendas

1. Park Maintenance Plan
2. Volunteer Opportunities (Master Gardeners Group)
3. Park Open House Events
4. Landscape Plans for VOF/Pheasant Ridge Corner Lot at County Highway B & Indian Hills Road
5. Brick Program
6. Pet Waste
7. Initial Discussions on Parks & Forestry Operations Manager

Adjournment

O'Brien/Green 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 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: 11/19/08