

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Chairman Rick Treptow called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:02 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Treptow, Brent Horvath, Laurie Larson, Sarah Lobdell, Sharon O'Brien, Dawn Sammons, Trustee Joe Bidwill

Park Commissioner absent: Jill Wegner

Also present: Joel Bikowski, Richard and Sandra Chlebos, Brad Drefcinski, Carolyn Esswein, Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs, Library Director Nancy Krei, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh, Trustee Micki O'Connell, Carol Whowell, Public Works Director Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

Larson/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meetings September 20, 2006 as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Park House Use

Treptow reported that the Park House was used 11 times in September 2006.

Treasurer's Report

The Financial Report as of September 30, 2006 was presented by Lobdell.

Tree Board – Sandra and Richard Chlebos Appeal

Treptow stated that the Park Commission had to serve as the Tree Board to consider a tree permit fine issue. Sandra and Richard Chlebos stated that they were seeking a refund of a \$5,000 fine they paid in protest after the general contractor who worked on a renovation project at their residence did not obtain a building permit before four trees were cut down on the back of the property. Sandra Chlebos stated that the general contractor, John Engerman, informed them that all the required permits had been obtained. Sandra Chlebos stated that they did not realize they needed the tree permit until the project was "red-tagged" by the Village of Fontana Building and Zoning Department. Sandra Chlebos stated that she wrote a check to the Village of Fontana to pay the fine after the red tag was issued, but they were seeking a refund or reduction in the total fine. O'Brien stated that she feels sorry for Sandra and Richard Chlebos; however, they are victims of their builder and the issue is between them, not the Village. O'Brien stated that the Village spent many hours drafting and approving the tree ordinance, and it has to be enforced or it will be ignored and rendered useless. O'Brien suggested that Sandra and Richard Chlebos subtract the \$5,000 fine they paid for the tree permit violation from the total fee they are paying to their contractor. O'Brien stated that the Tree Board has to enforce the ordinance that the Village enacted. Bidwill stated that he agreed with O'Brien and the issue is between the contractor and Sandra and Richard Chlebos. Bidwill stated that Engerman has worked on projects in the Village in the past and he knows the Village has a tree ordinance. Treptow suggested that the Park Commissioners consider a reduction in the total fine to \$2,600. Treptow stated that he calculated the reduced fine figure by taking into account only the total inches of the diameters of the cut-down trees that exceeded the 8-inch minimum threshold that triggers the permit requirement. Larson stated that she agrees with O'Brien and Bidwill and the issue has to be worked out by the contractor and his clients. Richard Chlebos stated that \$5,000 is an excessive fine to pay for cutting down four undesirable trees, and asked if the Tree Board would consider reducing the fine. Following discussion, the Tree Board was in consensus that a

fine reduction would be a bad precedent to set, and the \$5,000 fine should be worked out between Sandra and Richard Chlebos and their contractor.

O'Brien/Larson 2nd made a MOTION to deny the request of Sandra and Richard Chlebos to reduce the \$5,000 fine that was paid for the tree permit violation, that there should be no flexibility in the fine schedule for the tree ordinance because it would set a bad precedent, and that a resolution defining the facts and findings of the issue should be drafted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote. Treptow abstained.

Old Business

Parks Projects/Completion Dates

Workman stated that construction of the new restroom and pavilion building in Reid Park is moving along. Workman stated that the new building should be completed by Friday, October 27, 2006; however, it may be one week later because of the recent weather. The completion date for the Highway 67 project is November 2, 2006; however, weather issues and the project manager's involvement in an automobile accident have caused recent delays. The concrete work is completed, the paving is almost finished, and the lamp posts will be installed to complete Phase II of the project. Workman stated that the staining of the Duck Pond pavilion has been contacted with Drew Mohle, and the painting will commence next week. Treptow stated that Workman should make sure that the contractor for the new beach house addresses an area at the entrance where rain water forms a puddle, and the dripping faucets before the Village signs off on the contract.

Wayfinding Sign Issues – Update

Treptow stated that recommended alterations to the preliminary wayfinding signage have been incorporated into the sample sign and it will again be erected at the intersection of Highway 67 and Third Avenue/South Main Street for review. Workman stated that the sign will be mounted closer to the street in the terrace.

Chuck's Landscaping – Update

Carol Whowell stated that she has not selected exactly what plants to use for the new landscaping along the south side of the building. Since the landscaping will be on Village property in Reid Park, Whowell stated that she wants to make sure whatever is done to the site has been approved by the Village. During the discussion it was clarified that the Park Commission previously approved a motion to approve the installation of new landscaping and the opening of the side railing area along the Reid Park side of Chuck's, and to approve the installation of a new sidewalk portion in Reid Park that will connect the side entrance area at Chuck's to the other sidewalks that run through the park; however, the renovation plan for Reid Park will have to be planned and then approved in a referendum prior to the actual construction of a new sidewalk. McHugh stated that it will be at least two years before the Reid Park plan can be finalized and approved in a referendum. Whowell stated that she would like approval at this time to take down part of the side fence along the building and to take out the current landscaping on the side of building and observe how the pedestrian traffic pattern to Chuck's is affected during the winter months. Whowell stated that she would have the new landscaping planted in the spring to coordinate with the pedestrian traffic pattern. Whowell stated that she would have bark chips put down over the dirt areas during the winter months. The new landscaping plan will be finalized by O'Brien and Whowell.

O'Brien/Sammons 2nd made a MOTION to authorize taking down part of the current fence along the south side of Chuck's, and removing the current landscaping and plants and putting down birch bark chips until Spring, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Mill House Pavilion Grant Project – Update

Treptow stated that Trustee Pollitt was out of town; however, the Village has received only three rejection letters to date from the organizations and associations that received grant solicitations from the Village.

2007 Budget Requests – Update

Treptow distributed the budget requests and stated that the Christmas decorations were inadvertently left off the list. There will be 54 new street light poles on Highway 67 because of the reconstruction project. The 57 total street lights (including three others to be located on off streets) meet the minimum requirement of the Wisconsin DOT.

“Summer Breeze” – Update

Treptow stated that the Park Commission's recommendation for a new site for the “Summer Breeze” statue was tabled by the Village Board and referred to the Lakefront and Harbor Committee for input. Trustee

O'Connell stated that the Lakefront and Harbor Committee did not favor the proposal to relocate the statue on the outside angle portion of grass in front of the fence at that corner of Lake Street and South Lakeshore Drive, and recommended to erect the statue in front of the beach house in the area of the tall grasses, or to keep it where it was initially erected. O'Brien suggested that the decision be delayed to allow for more thought on the issue. Treptow stated that when he discussed the matter Mr. Brost, his only concern was that the statue location remains in the beach area. Treptow will notify Mr. Brost that the statue will not be moved from outside the DPW garage for the winter months until a final location for the statue is approved.

Agrecol Trail and Natural Areas Guide

Treptow asked if there were any modifications for the preliminary Trail and Natural Areas Guide that was drafted by Agrecol and distributed at last month's meeting. Sammons stated that she will review the guide and provide feedback at next month's meeting.

Fencing – Update

O'Brien stated that following the special joint workshop meeting on September 20, 2006 with the Lakefront and Harbor Committee at which a consensus was reached with regard to the proposed new fencing for the Village lakefront, the Park Commissioners changed their opinions. O'Brien stated that the Park Commissioners do not like the fence that was selected at the September 20, 2006 meeting and they would like to recommend that a wrought iron fence be proposed instead of a 4-foot-high, manufactured black steel fence, with three rails, 5/8-inch-thick pickets flush on the top and bottom (two bars on the top and one on the bottom), and the posts located eight feet apart. O'Brien stated that wrought iron fencing will not block the view of the lake as much as a manufactured steel fencing, and wrought iron fencing is much more attractive than manufactured steel fencing.

Lobdell/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to rescind the Park Commission recommendation made at the September 20, 2006 joint workshop meeting with the Lakefront and Harbor Committee, and to recommend that wrought iron fencing be proposed, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Pioneer Park Tree Trimming/Bulb Planting Schedule

Treptow stated that the bulbs will be planted with Roy Diblik on October 31, 2006. With regard to a letter the Village received from Stu Bagni inquiring about the Pioneer Park tree trimming schedule, Treptow stated that he will write a letter in response to explain the situation to Bagni.

Presentations

Porter Court Plaza – Landscaping (Planning & Design Institute)

Carolyn Esswein and Brad Drefcinski presented the modifications to the proposed Porter Court Plaza landscaping plan that were directed last month by the Park Commission. Drefcinski stated that he met with Roy Diblik to select the plant species, and water fountain and pedestrian bridge features were added to the plan. Following discussion, the Park Commission directed Drefcinski to add witch hazel back in the plan.

Larson/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the plant species list for the Porter Court Plaza as presented, with the addition of witch hazel, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Drefcinski presented the plans for a 6-foot-wide water fountain and an approximate 22-foot-long pedestrian bridge to be constructed out of matching stone. Following discussion, the Park Commission directed Drefcinski to use the round, natural fieldstone, not the cut fieldstone for the water fountain and bridge. The water fountain will be in the style of a bubbling spring and it will be illuminated with subtle lighting. Drefcinski will present five different lighting fixture options for the Park Commission to consider at next month's meeting. Blue stone will be used to tie together the two end portions of the site. Drefcinski also will present blue stone options for the Park Commission to consider at next month's meeting. A design manual will be drafted by Drefcinski.

Treptow/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the Porter Court Plaza proposal as presented, with the conditions that round stone be used on the bridge and fountain, that the lighting fixtures to be located within the landscaped area surrounding the fountain be approved at a future meeting, and that landscaping irrigation be included in the proposal. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

New Business

Fen Walk-Through – Invite Mary King and John Schwenn

Treptow stated that Mary King and John Schwenn will be invited to attend the Park Commission's walking

tour of the Fontana Fen. Treptow stated he will notify King and Schwenn when a date is scheduled.

Holiday Decorations

Treptow stated that the proposed budget does not include funding to decorate the 54 new lights to be erected on Highway 67. Treptow stated that the Village could use the old holiday decorations on some of the new poles, and donations could be solicited to purchase new decorations. Treptow stated that he will provide an update at the next meeting.

Reid Park Building Landscape

Treptow stated that he picked up a copy of the plans on file for the Reid Park restroom/pavilion building project and he will forward them to Roy Diblik to prepare a landscaping proposal for the new building. The plan will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

Duck Pond Workshop Issues

Treptow stated that the CDA will host a Town Hall Meeting/workshop to discuss future plans for the Duck Pond Recreation Area on Saturday, October 28, 2006, beginning at 9:00 AM. Treptow stated that the Park Commissioners should attend the meeting to provide input on the issues at the Duck Pond Recreation Area.

Bills to Pay

Treptow stated that the Village received bills from Lee Recreation, \$2,590 for picnic tables at the Duck Pond, and from Agrecol, \$31 for hand-hoeing and weed covering work at the Fontana Fen.

Horvath/Sammons 2nd made a MOTION to approve payment of the bills as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Park Requests

None

Any Other Comments or Concerns

Martin stated that he distributed an email from Plan Commissioner Jill Wegner that provides an update on the Van Slyke Creek/Trout Unlimited project. Wegner's email states that she walked a small portion of the stream on October 16, 2006 with Jeff Hastings of Trout Unlimited of Wisconsin and Doug Welch, the area DNR fisheries biologist. Hastings, the project manager of the TUDARE restoration effort, gave some basic suggestions, probably for the springtime. Hastings also took a few photographs and advised that he will provide Wegner with some diagrams for improvement projects. Hastings suggested making small improvements to the creek with materials available, logs, rocks, etc. He felt there was not much work needed, as the stream is currently in good shape. Wegner wrote that she also heard from Greg Igl, from the National Resources Conservation Service, about Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program grants. Igl stated that their fiscal year begins in October and he would be happy to help with the completion of an application for funding. Wegner stated that based on Hasting's initial review of the stream, it looks as if volunteer work will be of the greatest benefit and not too much funding will be necessary to complete the project. Wegner also stated in the email that at the October 16, 2006 Blackhawk Chapter Trout Unlimited meeting, she was advised that the chapter may earmark some funding for the spring after they are given more information.

Pending Park Commission Items for Future Agendas

1. Landscape Plans for Mill House Pavilion, Wild Duck Road, Beach House, Porter Court
2. Bird and Bat Houses
3. Landmark Trees - List
4. Frisbee Golf - Duck Pond
5. Village Irrigation Systems

Adjournment

Lobdell/Horvath 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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: _____