

**VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

(Official Minutes)

Park Commission Monthly Meeting

October 19, 2016

The Park Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Whowell at 5:07 pm on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

Members Present: Mary Green, Gail Hibbard, Sandra Hibbard, Sarah Lobdell, Trustee Whowell

Members absent: Trustee Livingston, Jill Wegner

Also Present: Clerk Theresa Loomer, Karen Yancey

Approval of Minutes September 21, 2016

Lobdell/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted for the September 21, 2016 meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

Announcements

None

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used one time in September, 2016.

Treasurer's Report

Lobdell reported there is currently \$25,619.58 in the Park Commission Fund. Lobdell gave an overview of the budgeted funds laid out for 2017 which include the contract with landscape service company Blackstone in the amount of \$60,000 per year with a built in 3 percent increase for each following year, \$1,000 for holiday decorations, \$20,000 for the Pioneer Park bathroom project, and \$750 for the movies on the beach. Whowell was told that public works can build picnic tables as suggested for the Fen for \$100 each. There was also discussion about the Reid Park fence backstop discussed at last month's meeting for a quoted amount of \$4,700; Whowell stated he would like to move forward with that project and there was no objection by any members. Lobdell stated that she had not heard back from Martin about a possible reduction in price for Roy Diblik to take care of the medians; Blackstone submitted a quote for the same work at a price \$7,000 less than Diblik.

Public Works Report

McCollum was absent from the meeting so no report was given. Last year Whowell had asked the commission members to take responsibility for some aspect of the parks and/or land in the Village and make it their "Pet Project." Whowell stated that Trustee Livingston, who is also a board member for the Pheasant Ridge Association, had taken it upon himself to rehab the landscaping at the village entrance sign area located at the intersection of County Highway BB and Indian Hills Road and asked the commissioners to check it out when they had a chance.

Old Business & Pet Projects

Update on Pedestrian Path Extension at Headwaters Park – School District Support

Lobdell said she meet with Principal/Administrator for the Fontana Elementary School Dr. Sara Norton and she is open to looking at options to extend the pedestrian path at Headwaters Park. Lobdell said they are planning to walk the property to determine what might be some feasible

options and Lobdell stated that before she planned the walk that she wanted to find out if any of the other commission members would like to join in. Whowell stated he had also met with Dr. Norton and she invited him to attend the school board meeting where everyone seemed excited about the idea and requested more information. Whowell stated that the DPW crew has been working to clear out brush in order to connect the Fontana Fen with the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, and Bill Turner has offered to update and enhance the Park Commission's map of the pedestrian trails that run through the nature areas.

Trees Near Park House

Commissioners discussed the lack of usage of the Park House and whether it's due to the insufficient parking, the interior condition or possibly the landscaping and trees that block its view. They discussed lowering the rental rates for next year and charging only the cleaning fee rather than the current \$75 required park permit fee. The item will be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion on reducing the rental rate.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Gail Hibbard stated she received quotes to purchase a commemorative plaque for Roy Diblik from Brushfire. For a 1/8-inch bronze plaque the cost is \$85, for a tilled plaque the cost is \$300, and for a 1/4-inch brass plaque the cost is \$525. She will inquire whether Joe Kowalski who creates name could make a larger plaque for Roy Diblik and what the cost would be, and she will also contact Wolfgang Nitsch, who owns an engraving business to find out if he could make a plaque. The findings will be presented at next month's meeting.

New Business

Fontana Beach December 10 – Search of Eagles Day

An application was submitted by Nancy Williamson for the Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge to use the municipal beach on December 10, 2016 for "In Search of Eagles" day. Karen Yancey from the Geneva Lake Conservancy explained the event includes searching for eagles at four different locations in Northern Illinois and Southeast Wisconsin. The group that participated last year had luck in the area and wanted to make Fontana part of their four stops again this year.

Memorial Bench Application for Lakefront Path – Beau Roddy

A memorial bench application was submitted by Beau Roddy to purchase a bench to be placed at the lakefront in Reid Park, adjacent to the bench recently approved for Ray Fitzgerald and his children in memory of Virginia Fitzgerald.

Lobdell/Green 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Memorial Bench Application for the Lakefront Path as submitted by Beau Roddy, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Geneva Lake Conservancy Volunteer Events at Fontana Fen and Hildebrand Nature Conservancy

Karen Yancey of the Lake Geneva Conservancy gave a background on herself and how she came to be the new Executive Director for the GLC. She stated she had met with village contractor Josh Skolnick who is in charge of the Fontana Fen and stated he has been doing a great job on taking care of it and does not believe there is much more for her to step in and do. She stated the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy needs quite a bit of attention and a work day has been scheduled to cut buckthorn and pull garlic mustard on Saturday, November 19, 2016. She also suggested planting oak trees and creating more open areas in the Hildebrand. Yancey said she left a message for Roy Diblik about possibly donating oak trees for the Hildebrand and asked if the Village would be willing to donate any oak trees and stated she could take care of getting them planted. There was discussion about starting an oak nursery and the need for fencing for any trees planted due to the deer. Whowell said the Village has a Tree Reforestation Fund which could be used to purchase the trees for the public parkland.

Fall Bulb Planting Event Planning

The commission discussed this event which occurred several years ago but is not being planned for this year.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Gail Hibbard asked for approval to purchase pizza and soda for the annual seed sowing event at the Oak Savanna scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2016 beginning at 12:30 pm.

Lobdell/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the purchase of pizza and soda for the seed sowing event on November 12, 2016, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Sandra Hibbard suggested that if the medians were going to be thinned out that the removed plantings could be used for in front of the Park House.

Adjournment

Whowell/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Theresa Loomer, Village Clerk

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Park Commission, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: 11/16/2016