

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Chairperson Cindy Wilson called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:01 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, Dan Green
Park Commissioners absent: Sharon Conklin, Advisor Diane Lewis

Also present: Gail Hibbard, Library Director Nancy Krei, Noreen Lamsam, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, President Arvid Petersen, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

O'Brien/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held September 15, 2010, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Big Foot Recreation District Director Chuck Thiesenhusen was not able to attend the meeting, so Martin read the following emailed message: "Program Coordinator Dean Connley won the Silver Star award for program excellence from the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association. He submitted an entry in the category of Special Community Events (under 24,000 residents) for our 'Movie Under the Stars' program this summer. Dean, Tara and Penny have done an incredible job helping make Big Foot Recreation what it is today and I am pleased that Dean is receiving this recognition for his efforts. Dean will officially receive the Silver Star award at the WPRA annual conference in LaCrosse on November 3."

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used 16 times in August 2010.

Treasurer's Report

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

Plan Commission Report

Lobdell stated that a proposed zoning code amendment to prohibit the assignment of riparian rights to lots not located on the lake will be presented at a public hearing at the next monthly meeting.

Public Works Report

Workman stated that the end of the season work has been completed in the Village parks.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

Wilson stated that a concern was received with regard to the recently completed Shabbona Path and the need for a safety railing. Workman stated that he talked to Building Inspector Ron Nyman and project engineer, Dale Broeckert, about the concern and they thought that a simple iron-pipe railing could be installed along the stairs portions of the path. Wilson stated that a railing was not included in the initial plans because the path did not have to conform to ADA standards since the Village was updating an existing path. Wilson stated that the path is new and it is not certain that it is under the auspices of the Park Commission. Following discussion, the Park Commission members reached a consensus that the pedestrian paths in the Village should fall under the auspices of the Park Commission's responsibilities. Workman stated that he will get more information on the cost estimate for installing a railing along the stair portions of the path. Hibbard stated that the continuous over-seeding of the prairie restoration project area at the Duck Pond should be added to the maintenance list. Hibbard stated that the volunteer group of Garden Club members who have been harvesting the seeds have collected several thousands of dollars worth of seeds which will be used for this year's plantings. Hibbard stated that the Village will need to spend only \$500 on purchasing seeds this

year thanks to the harvested seeds. Hibbard stated that in the initial years of the prairie restoration project the Village had to spend up to \$5,000 on seeds. Wilson commended Hibbard for her work in establishing the volunteer group of Garden Club members. Hibbard stated that the Fontana Garden Club most likely will allocate the \$500 for the seed purchase this year; however, the seeds have to be ordered now for planting this fall. Hibbard asked if the Park Commission would consider approving the seed purchase at this time, and if the Garden Club members approve, the \$500 will be reimbursed to the Park Commission by the club. Lobdell/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the purchase of \$500 worth of seeds for the Duck Pond Recreation Area Native Prairie Restoration project 2010 fall planting, with the expense to possibly be reimbursed by the Fontana Garden Club. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Wilson stated that with regard to the Porter Court Plaza, a meeting was held with Roy Diblik to discuss possible plans for redesigning the landscaping and plants. Wilson stated that Diblik has volunteered his services free of charge to address a problem with the soil in the plaza area and to come up with a list of some new perennials and annuals to plant in the plaza to make it more attractive and inviting. O'Brien stated that Diblik suggested attempting to plant some service berry trees in the plaza to replace the trees that are dead. Wilson stated that she and O'Brien also discussed with Diblik the possibility of replacing the current water fountain with a fire pit. Wilson stated that some sort of gathering spot has to be designated in the plaza in order to attract people. Green stated that a fire pit may cause scheduling concerns and asked who would be delegated to administer the site. Wilson stated that maybe the Porter Court Plaza could be added to the Park Commission's Park Permit Application if a fire pit is installed. Lobdell stated that the Village should continue to monitor the new park area and see how and if it is used prior to planning any changes. Wilson stated that nobody is currently using the plaza area and if improved, the area could become a gathering site. O'Brien stated that if grass were planted in the area it would help soften the look and maybe attract more visitors. Wilson stated that the subcommittee will continue to explore options and bring a proposal back to the Park Commission for consideration.

Old Business

Duck Pond Disc Golf Course – Update

Lobdell stated that the new permanent hole baskets for the nine-hole disc golf course have been installed at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Lobdell stated that the course layout has been slightly altered, so the disc golf course map will have to be amended before new copies are printed. Lobdell stated that planning for a club will continue this winter with the hope of developing a list of members for volunteer maintenance projects and club events. Lobdell stated that permanent tees for the course also will be pursued, as well as sponsors to help fund future improvements.

2011 Budget

Wilson stated that the preliminary budget includes all the items the Park Commission requested and \$5,000 for the boardwalk replacement plan for the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Wilson stated that the \$5,000 is in this year's budget, and if approved and initiated in 2010, the \$5,000 in the 2011 budget can be allocated for another project. Wilson stated that some of the park maintenance items also were combined into Public Works Department line items in the budget.

Pig in the Park Proceeds \$12,000 Payment to Village

The gross proceeds from the third annual event will enable the Park Commission to pay back \$12,000 of its balance due for the purchase of the pirate ship in Little Foot Playground. The balance due was \$31,547, minus the \$12,000 payment leaving a balance of \$19,547 for the pirate ship repayment.

Lobdell/Green 2nd made a MOTION to allocate \$12,000 of the proceeds from the third annual Pig in the Park event to the Village of Fontana General Fund for repayment of the pirate ship purchase, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Hildebrand Nature Conservancy Boardwalk Plan Approval

Wilson stated that a meeting was held with Larry Quist of Pier Docktors to discuss a plan to repair the boardwalk in the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Wilson stated that it was determined that the composite material initially considered was too expensive and the new plan is to use pier materials to create the 100 linear feet of boardwalk. Workman stated that that the pier material plan will not require posts or concrete pilings and the proposal should be less than the \$5,000 budget. Wilson stated that a proposal should be finalized this month for consideration at the next monthly meeting.

Tree City USA Recertification Application

The annual recertification application is due December 31, 2010. Lobdell stated that she will again complete the application, with the assistance of Martin.

New Business

Memorial Tree Donation Proposal for Duck Pond or Lakefront – Jean Casciaro

Wilson stated that Indian Hills Association resident Jean Casciaro would like to donate two trees to the Village of Fontana in memory of former Indian Hills Association residents who recently passed away. Wilson stated that Casciaro would like the trees to be planted either at the lakefront or at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Martin stated that the Park Commission has previously approved memorial trees for the lakefront and the Park Commission should make sure all of those approved trees have been planted. Lobdell suggested that a subcommittee be appointed to define possible locations for future memorial trees and to come up with a procedure for identification plaques for the memorial trees. Following discussion, the Park Commission members reached a consensus that the two memorial trees to be donated by Jean Casciaro should be planted in the playground area at the Duck Pond.

O'Brien/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to approve the donation of two memorial trees donated by Jean Casciaro to be planted by the playground at the Duck Pond Recreation Area, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Median Planting Changes for 2011 to Address Traffic Safety Concerns

Wilson stated that the plants in the medians grew so well this past season that the tall grasses caused traffic safety concerns on Fontana Boulevard, especially at the intersections with Reid and High streets. Workman stated that when he met with Roy Diblik a few weeks ago, Diblik was shocked by the grasses being chopped down, but he understood the traffic safety concerns had to be addressed. Workman stated that Diblik suggested that in order to avoid the plantings causing a sightline concern, that regular grass turf could be planted in the vision triangle for motorists and the current plants could be transplanted in areas away from the intersections. Workman stated that Diblik indicated that the Blackstone maintenance contract can be amended to reflect the reduced planting areas in the medians and other areas can be added, such as by the beach house where some of the grasses can be transplanted. Wilson asked Workman to continue to work on the median planting plan and to reorganize the Blackstone maintenance list with Diblik and to report back at the next monthly meeting.

Review Park Permit Application & Fees

Wilson stated that the application was distributed for review and asked if any members supported a fee increase or the establishment of an application fee. Following discussion, the Park Commission members reached a consensus that the fees were just raised last year and the application should not be amended at this time.

Park Applications: Amanda McConnell, Reid Park Gazebo or Village Beach, Saturday, October 1, 2011, 3:00 PM; Big Foot High School Cross Country Event, Duck Pond Recreation Area, Thursday, September 22, 2011, 3:30 PM; Lottes Family Reunion, Reid Park, Saturday, July 23, 2011, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Martin stated that an application was filed by the Lottes family for a designated area in Reid Park on Saturday, July 23, 2011. The Park Commission removed the option for a designated area in Reid Park from the application last year. Only specially permitted events for civic clubs and organizations are considered for Reid Park.

Lobdell/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to deny the Park Permit application filed by the Lottes family for Reid Park on Saturday, July 23, 2011, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Amanda McConnell filed an application to use the new Reid Park gazebo if it is constructed by Saturday, October 1, 2011, or the Village beach with a tent to be erected for a wedding ceremony from 3:00 pm to dusk. The Big Foot High School cross country coach filed an application to use the Duck Pond Recreation Area for a cross country race for middle school students on Thursday, September 22, 2011, from 3:30 pm to dusk. Martin stated that there are no conflicts with the requested dates.

Lobdell/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the Park Permit applications filed by Amanda McConnell to use the new Reid Park gazebo or the Village beach on Saturday, October 1, 2011, for a wedding ceremony from 3:00 pm to dusk, and by the Big Foot High School cross country coach to use the Duck Pond Recreation Area for a cross country race on Thursday, September 22, 2011, from 3:30 pm to dusk. The

MOTION carried without negative vote.

Bills to Pay: Brushfire Signs \$335 Invoice

The invoice is for the new park sign on Mohr Road. Workman stated that the sign will be erected next week. Lobdell/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve payment of the \$335 invoice form Brushfire Signs, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments or Concerns

Fontana Elementary School teacher Noreen Lamsam stated that her students love taking field trips to the Fontana Fen. Lamsam asked if the Park Commission would address the bulletin board as it is in need of repairs and she has photographs for class projects that she could post. Workman stated that he will have the DPW crew repair the bulletin board at the Fontana Fen. Following discussion, the Park Commission members reached a consensus that the class can use one of the display cases in the Mill House Pavilion to post photographs and other materials related to their outdoor education classes. The Park Commission directed Martin to add an item to next month's agenda to take a look at the Mill House Pavilion account and finalize the plans for the permanent display cases and maybe add a table and storage area.

Adjournment

O'Brien/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 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: 12/15/10