

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Chairperson Sarah Lobdell called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:08 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Sarah Lobdell, Sharon Conklin, Sharon O'Brien, Jill Wegner, Trustee Diane Lewis

Park Commissioners absent: Dan Green, Nancy Krei, Melissa Colby

Also present: Gwenn Granquist, Village Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, CDA Commissioner Gail Hibbard, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, President Arvid Petersen, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

O'Brien/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes submitted for the meeting held September 16, 2009, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

Announcements

Check Presentation from Fontana Garden Club

Fontana Garden Club President Gwenn Granquist presented a check for \$1,000 to the Park Commission to help fund the prairie seeding project at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. The volunteer event to sow and spread the seeds at the Duck Pond is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009 beginning at 10:00 am at the Village Hall. Gail Hibbard has made a flyer to solicit volunteers for the event. The Outdoor Education program with Roy Diblik and Fontana Elementary School students at the Mill House Pavilion has been rescheduled for Friday, October 23, 2009 beginning at 1:00 pm. A presentation of the stream rehabilitation project being funded with the TIF funds will be featured at the next monthly meeting of the CDA on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 beginning at 6:00 pm.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used 16 times in September 2009.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for September 2009 was presented by Hayden.

Plan Commission Report

Lobdell stated that the updated Park and Open Space Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Plan Commission at the October 26, 2009 monthly meeting.

Public Works Report

Workman stated that the first phase of the Fontana Boulevard Lighting and Landscaping Project is almost complete, and the next phase will be the westbound lane. Workman stated that the volunteer bulb planting event at Porter Court Plaza was successful, and volunteers planted about 800 bulbs.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

Martin stated that remaining item on the list that still may be completed this fall is abating the seagulls at the beach house.

Old Business

Tree Enhancement Program Proposal

Lobdell stated that a draft of the Tree Enhancement Program was distributed several months ago and all the input received by Assistant Zoning Administrator Bridget McCarthy has been incorporated into the proposal. Hayden stated that the Park Commission has to make a recommendation to the Village Board for final approval of the program.

O'Brien/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the Tree Enhancement Program proposal as presented and to move it forward to the Village Board for final consideration. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Updated Park and Open Space Plan Presentation – Recommendation to Plan Commission for November 30, 2009 Public Hearing

Lobdell presented the updated Park and Open Space Plan that was drafted by the Park Commission subcommittee. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission has to recommend the updated plan to the Plan Commission, and the Plan Commission will have to schedule a public hearing.

O'Brien/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the updated Park and Open Space Plan as presented and to move it forward to the Plan Commission for consideration and a public hearing. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Duck Pond Tree Relocation Subcommittee – Update

Workman stated that the trees that were too large to transplant have been removed by the power company, but there still are a number of evergreens that can be dug up and relocated. The Park Commission has targeted some areas at the Duck Pond where a few of the trees can be transplanted, and some will be transplanted at the Pheasant Ridge corner lot. Lobdell stated that the Village should contract Prairie Tree Landscaping and see if they can be bartered for services. Conklin stated that the Park Commission could sell some of the trees to local residents as a fund-raising initiative. Workman stated that the evergreens are worth \$100 to \$200 each. Lobdell stated that the subcommittee will inventory the remaining trees, estimate their value, and offer them for sale during the winter months. Workman stated that the trees can be transplanted in the spring or fall.

Long-Range Planning for Reid Park Gazebo – Update

The gazebo was razed by the Department of Public Works crew after it was determined to be a liability risk by the Village of Fontana building inspector. Workman stated that the foundation is still in fine shape and that underground utility lines and other potential unforeseen problems dictate that the gazebo should be reconstructed on the same site. The Village Board has gone on record to assure the public that the gazebo will be reconstructed as soon as possible. O'Brien stated that the new Friends of the Parks 501c3 charitable organization could meet and discuss funding options. Hayden stated that she will be meeting with Frank Dobbs, the organizer of the annual triathlon and marathon events that use the gazebo, to discuss a possible donation; and CDA Chairman Bill Turner has stated that the CDA may be able to fund a portion of the cost for the reconstruction of the gazebo. O'Brien stated that the Park Commission members will concern themselves with the funding efforts and the architecture and design should be planned in conjunction with the proposed CDA lakefront projects. Hayden stated that even if the required referendums are not approved for the CDA lakefront projects, the gazebo can be reconstructed at its initial site as soon as funding is found.

Potential Calendar of Events for Reid Park

Lobdell stated that the members should continue to think of possible community events for the park and they can be discussed next month.

2010 Budget – Update & Blackstone Landscaping Contract Terms

Hayden stated that the Finance Committee and Village Board held their 2010 budget planning workshop and approved a preliminary budget for publication. Hayden stated that following the extensive cuts made by the Finance Committee because of the projected revenue shortfall, there was \$3,250 left in the budget for Park Commission capital items. The \$3,250 includes \$1,250 for the new boardwalk segment at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, and \$2,000 for tree trimming services. Hayden stated that the Park Commission can allocate the funds as the commissioners deem appropriate. The budget also includes \$35,000 for the landscaping services contract with Blackstone, and \$10,000 for green space management services.

Sledding Hill Proposal for Duck Pond Recreation Area – Tabled 2/18/09

The location for a proposed sledding hill at the Duck Pond that was presented last February would not be

safe because of its proximity to the pond. Also, the CDA has put its development project on hold for the Duck Pond so there will not be an immediate opportunity to create a new hill with excavated dirt. Following discussion on other possible sites, the Park Commission directed Workman to look at the Ball property on Third Avenue at Valley View Drive to determine if a sledding hill could be developed, and if the location would pose any safety concerns.

Pheasant Ridge Corner Lot Landscaping

Workman stated that Roy Diblik marked the new planting bed and the Village will relocate the entry sign. Workman stated that the perennials taken from the Fontana Boulevard planting beds will be planted in the Pheasant Corner Lot garden on Friday morning. Workman also distributed a list of shrubs and trees that were donated by Prairie Tree Landscape Center. Workman stated that the donated plants are worth about \$4,000. The plants will be added to the Pheasant Ridge corner lot. O'Brien will write a thank you note on behalf of the Park Commission.

New Business

Commemorative Tree Proposal for D.J. Barr

Workman stated that Dr. Robert Youngquist would like to donate a shade tree to the Village in memory of D.J. Barr, who passed away this year after battling cancer. Workman stated that Dr. Youngquist would like the tree to be planted at the lakefront if possible. Workman asked the Park Commission what species of tree should be planted and if there is an appropriate location in Reid Park for another tree. The Park Commission members stated that an oak tree would be more desired than a maple. O'Brien stated that there is an appropriate location near Chuck's. The Park Commission directed O'Brien to work with Workman to find an appropriate location for an oak tree to be planted in Reid Park near Chuck's.

Eagle Scout Project Proposal for Duck Pond Recreation Area

Lobdell stated that local Boy Scout Karl Nelson is seeking permission to erect and maintain wood duck nesting boxes in the Duck Pond Recreation Area and the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Nelson is seeking authorization to erect three or four nesting boxes in both areas as an Eagle Scout project.

O'Brien/Wegner 2nd made a MOTION to approve the proposal as presented and to forward it to the Village Board for final consideration, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Tree City USA Recertification Application –December 31, 2009 Deadline

Lobdell stated that the Village has received the annual Tree City USA recertification application, which is due December 31, 2009. Lobdell stated that she will complete the application with the assistance of staff.

Bills to Pay

Invoice Submitted by Savanna Landscaping for Fontana Fen Consulting Services; Invoices from Village of Fontana and CDA

The \$400 invoice from Savanna Landscaping is for services provided in April and June. The invoice from the Village is for this year's proceeds from the Pig in the Park event, to offset the funds "borrowed" by the Park Commission for the purchase of the new pirate ship at Little Foot Playground. Hayden stated that this year's allocation will be \$8,000. The invoice from the CDA is \$1,000 for half of the expense for the seeds for the native prairie restoration project at the Duck Pond. Hayden asked the Park Commission to also approve transferring the \$1,000 donated by the Garden Club earlier in the meeting for the other half other half of the CDA invoice for the prairie seed purchase.

Wegner/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve payment of the bills as submitted, and to approve the transfer of the \$1,000 donated by the Fontana Garden Club to the CDA for payment of the prairie seed invoice, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Review Park Application Fees

The Finance Committee requested that the Park Commission consider increasing its park permit application fees in lieu of the revenue crunch that the Village is experiencing. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission is going to be considering other amendments to the park permit application and the fees also can be considered at that time. Hayden stated that she will send out some preliminary recommendations on the park fees for the Park Commission members to review during the next month.

Park Applications

None

Any Other Comments or Concerns

O'Brien stated that she has received concerns with regard to new landscaping steps that have been installed at Fontana Shores. O'Brien stated that the steps lead down an incline to the lakeshore path and the steps can be very slick and dangerous at times. Since the steps are on private property, it is not a Park Commission issue; however, Martin stated that he will have the Building Inspector investigate the situation with regard to safety and liability issues. Conklin asked Workman if the path through Pioneer Park has been resurfaced so that it can be plowed this winter. Conklin stated that she walks her dogs through the park and last winter the path was not plowed by the Village because an area where there is dirt and not pavement prohibited the DPW crew from plowing the path. Workman stated that he will check into the situation; however, he warned the Park Commission members that the overtime budget that allowed the DPW employees to clear all the sidewalks and paths from snow was significantly cut from next year's budget.

Pending Items for Future Agendas

1. Park Maintenance Plan
2. Volunteer Opportunities (Master Gardeners Group)

Adjournment

Wegner/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 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: 11/18/09