

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee
Wednesday, October 27, 2010
(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on October 27, 2010 by Chairperson Micki O'Connell.

Roll Call: Trustee Micki O'Connell, Rick Pappas, Lee Eakright, Ed Snyder, Robert Chanson, Joel Bikowski (arrived at 4:35 pm), Steve Beers (arrived at 4:40 pm)

Also Present: Al Bosworth, Jere Eyer, Bill Gage, Larry Larkin, Ed Maloney, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Jerry Oglesby, Carol Whowell, Tom Whowell

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Approval of Minutes for Meeting Held September 29, 2010

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the September 29, 2010 minutes as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Jerry's Marine Barge Permit – Tabled 7/28/10, 8/25/10 & 9/29/10

O'Connell stated that Pam Schense or a Wisconsin DNR legal department representative still has not contacted the village regarding a decision on the Jerry's Marine barge permit approval. Carol Whowell stated that the DNR permit approval that was received last year has been extended to November 2011. Carol Whowell stated that she talked to Schense and Schense stated that the DNR is not regulating ramps at this point, only pier permits and structures. Carol Whowell stated that the ramp area in front of Chuck's and the Village's four ramp areas do not fall under the regulations of the DNR. Carol Whowell stated that the Chuck's lakefront area has had a ramp for years. Carol Whowell stated that the ramp area at Gordy's Marine has been changed to office spaces over the years. Pappas stated that since the Jerry's Marine office barge was first brought up during the DMA review for the codification project, it has been called a barge, a structure and now a ramp. Carol Whowell stated that the Village of Fontana converted some of its ramp space and Gordy's Marine did not have a problem converting its ramp space and she asked why the Jerry's Marine barge is being questioned since it has been there for 12 years. Chanson stated that it is not the committee's goal to have the barge removed, the committee is just trying to get the situation clarified. Pappas stated that it is not fair that during the Village's DMA review other property owners have had to remove some moorings, ramps or lifts or exchange them for things that were put in over the years without the required approvals. Carol Whowell asked why the Jerry's barge could not just be defined as a ramp and be approved like the office space on the Gordy's Marine lakefront. O'Connell stated that the committee has asked Schense for a ruling on that proposal in order to get the situation cleared up. Pappas stated that he will ask the DNR to provide a definition of a ramp.

Pappas/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to table the item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

DMA Reviews for Codification Project – Belvidere Park

Jere Eyer, the waterfront director for the Belvidere Park Association, presented an updated diagram of the mooring area for the association's 275 feet of lakefront footage. At last month's

meeting, the committee directed Eyer to map out the current DMA consisting of 11 buoys, 14 slips, 96-feet of ramp space, 3 scow or sailboat lifts and 2 PWC lifts.

Pappas/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the DMA diagram as presented by the Belvidere Park Association, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Commercial Launch Rate Review – Tabled 9/29/10

Eakright stated that he would like to take time to review the commercial launch rates and revenue for the last five years before making a recommendation on the 2011 season. The committee directed Martin to accumulate the commercial launch rates and total revenue figures for the last five years and to distribute the information to the committee members.

Eakright/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to table the item and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Gage Marine Lease Renewal – Tabled 9/29/10

Bill Gage stated that the Lake Geneva Cruise Line has had a contract with the Village of Fontana for a long time and he thanked the municipality for the opportunity. Gage stated that the cruise line is able to provide access to its excursion boats for Village residents and guests at the Abbey Resort, as well as offer charters and its regular tours from the Fontana pier. Gage stated that the regular tour business has decreased in recent years and business is down about 40 percent. Gage stated that the expenses required to dock the cruise line boats at the Village pier are now more than the receipts. Gage stated that he understands the Village has to negotiate a lease fee for the pier space, and a recommendation was made last month for a significant increase; however, he would like to propose the use of less of the pier space for a reduced lease fee of \$3,500. The fee for the lease this year was \$6,563. A lengthy discussion ensued on the total space available on the pier, the space requirements for the cruise line boats and space requirements for boat parking on the west end of the pier. Snyder calculated that the current lease fee comes out to \$32 per square foot of pier designated for Gage Marine. Gage stated that the lease could be amended to include just the south side of the pier, and the 75 feet currently leased on the north side of the pier could be excluded. Snyder stated that using the \$32 per square foot and excluding the 75 feet on the north side of the pier would calculate out to a new rate of \$3,737.50. Pappas stated that the Village has to keep in mind that the lease fee for slips was increased next year to \$2,750 when setting the Gage lease terms. Chanson stated that the committee should consider Gage's proposal for a rate of \$3,500 considering the state of the economy and the unique benefit the cruise lines offers to the municipality and its business owners. Snyder stated that he agrees with Chanson and he would also suggest a new rate of \$3,500 on a two-year lease for the south side of the pier. Eakright stated that it was a reasonable suggestion; however, it will reduce the Village's total revenue for 2011. Beers stated that because of the economy he would also support the \$3,500 lease rate proposal. Bikowski stated that Gage Marine does use up a fair amount of space available on the pier; however, with the north side completely freed up, it will create more parking spaces for other boaters.

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend a two-year term on a renewed lease with Gage Marine for the south side of Village of Fontana Pier Number 1 for a rate of \$3,500 per year. The MOTION on a 6-1 vote, with Pappas opposed.

Mooring Lease Language Review of Ramp Space Limitation – Tabled 8/25/10 & 9/29/10

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to table the item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

2011 Antique Boat Show

Larry Larkin and Al Bosworth presented the preliminary plans for the Antique and Classic Boat Society annual meeting and boat show to be held at the Abbey Resort in September 2011. Larkin

stated that people will begin arriving in the village on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, and the boat show will be held in the Abbey Harbor on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 2011. Larkin stated that the show will be twice as large as the annual Classic Boat Show conducted by the Blackhawk Chapter of the ACBS at the Abbey Harbor. Larkin stated that 300 rooms have been reserved at the Abbey for the event and there will be about 130 classic boats brought in, with 600 total registrants anticipated for the week-long events that will be held throughout the Geneva Lake area. Larkin stated that the planning committee will have to work out various event organizational needs, including securing 150 slips in the Abbey Harbor. Larkin stated that the committee has contacted the Village's lakefront associations and the event planners will try to relocate some of the boats moored in the Abbey Harbor to the other association DMAs during the event, if there are open moorings. Larkin stated that the planning committee also would like to use any open buoys or slips the Village may have by September 20, 2011; however, the Village lease does not require boats to be taken out until October 15 each year. Larkin stated that the planning committee also would like to use the Village's boat trailer parking lot on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, September 20 and 21, 2010 for people arriving with their boats. Larkin stated that after the boats are launched, Cobalt Farm has offered to park the boat trailers on their property. Larkin stated that the planning committee also is requesting the establishment of a staging area for boat launching on Reid and High streets; the use of the Village parking lots and vacant lots for event visitors to park their vehicles; and the use of the Reid Park ball diamond area for parking the automobiles of event workers. The participating boats will be launched at the Abbey Harbor. The committee members reached a consensus that the Village should provide all the assistance it can to help make the event a success. With regard to the plans for the staging area and the need for Village police participation, the committee directed Larkin to submit a diagram that will be reviewed by the Lakefront and Harbor Committee and the Protection Committee. Chanson/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the requests made by the Antique and Classic Boat Society International Annual Meeting and Boat Show planning committee for the event to be staged at the Abbey Resort Tuesday, September 20, 2011 through Sunday, September 25, 2011, as presented at the meeting, with the condition the diagram for the boat launch staging be submitted for review by the Lakefront and Harbor Committee and the Protection Committee. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Shore Station Storage in Public Beach Area

Glenwood Springs Association representative Ed Maloney stated that the association is pursuing the possibility of storing the shore stations at the Duck Pond next year. Maloney stated that the association actually owns half of the parcel on the village lakefront where the lift stations have been stored during the off-season. Maloney stated that it is too late in the year to contact owners about moving them this year. Maloney stated that the lifts had to be moved partially onto Village property when the association was requested by the Village to keep the road open all the way to the lake. O'Connell stated that she checked with Public Works Director Craig Workman and he indicated that there is a sewer easement that has to be kept open so the Village can access a shutoff valve if necessary. Maloney stated that he will discuss the request with the association members at its spring meeting, but the association needs assurance from the Village that they will be able to store the lift stations at the Duck Pond for no charge.

Water Safety Patrol Lifeguard Services Contract for 2011 Season

O'Connell stated that the contract renewal proposal is the same as last year's contract. Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the 2011 contract for lifeguard services with the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Launch Season Extension Review

The committee members decided to wait until the end of the month, since it was already the 27th, to review the success of extending the launch season at the village boat launch ramp. Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to table the item and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Live Bait Vending Machine Proposal for VOF Launch

The committee briefly discussed the proposal to have a live bait vending machine located by the Village launch site at a previous meeting, but did not make an official recommendation. Chanson stated that the committee members determined that it is not needed on the lakefront. Tom Whowell stated that the machine is already located on the lakefront, across the street from the launch on Gordy's property. Tom Whowell stated that the vending machine makes money, they just want to move it off their property. Beers stated that there is live bait available at the village gas station and the limited amount of revenue the village could make on the machine is not worth having to find a location for the machine or dealing with the supplier.

Beers/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to deny the proposal to place a live bait vending machine on the Village lakefront property, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

2011 Beach Fees

The Finance Committee made a recommendation an increase the daily admission fee to \$7 for adults, up from \$6; and \$4 for children, up from \$3. The Finance Committee also recommended that the \$30 season pass rate for residents of the Big Foot High School District be eliminated, and that the cost for season passes for non-residents be increased to \$70 each, up from \$60. Chanson stated that does not think that the daily admission fee for children should be increased. Chanson stated that larger families will end up having to pay too much to go to the beach. Chanson stated that he would support the \$1 increase in the daily admission fee for adults. The committee members also discussed the proposal to eliminate the \$30 season pass for Big Foot High School District residents, and reached a consensus that the special rate should not be eliminated.

O'Connell stated that if the fee is increased to \$70 to match the nonresident season pass rate, Big Foot High School students will not be able to afford the season pass and it will create other problems such as people attempting to jump the fence or entering in the Country Club Estates beach area. Following further discussion, the committee members reached a consensus that the daily admission fee for adults should be increased from \$6 to \$7, and that the season pass rate for nonresidents should be increased from \$60 to \$70; however, nothing else should be increased and the Big Foot High School District season pass rate should not be eliminated.

Pappas/Eakright 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the 2011 beach admission fee for the daily adult rate should be increased from \$6 to \$7, and that the season pass rate for nonresidents should be increased from \$60 to \$70; however, no other fees should be increased and the Big Foot High School season pass rate should not be eliminated. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Fontana Shores Lake Path Update

Snyder stated that the path where the new stairs were taken out has been unblocked and reopened and the association has a new plan for the installation of nicer stairs. Bikowski stated that the new stairs should be installed along the original path that leads down the hill and that was used for the pedestrian path for decades before the new stairs were installed last year and the initial path was blocked. Bikowski stated that the easiest way to address the situation is to put the path back in its initial location. Bikowski also distributed a letter dated September 5, 2010 that he wrote to the Village Board members seeking help to resolve the situation. Eakright stated that a directional sign that leads pedestrians to the Buena Vista property also should be removed once the stairs are fixed.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next monthly meeting date is Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 4:30 pm.

Adjournment

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis L. Martin, village clerk

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

APPROVED: 12/1/10