

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Chairperson Cindy Wilson called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:00 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Trustee Wilson, Sarah Lobdell, Gail Hibbard, Sandra Hibbard, Mary Green, Sharon O'Brien

Park Commissioner absent: Laura Coates

Also present: Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, Library Director Nancy Krei, Russel Larson, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Micki O'Connell, John Palmer, Village President Arvid Petersen, Big Foot Recreation District Director Chuck Thiesenhusen, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

Gail Hibbard/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held October 19, 2011, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was not used in October 2011 because of the utility room roof and related problems.

Treasurer's Report

The updated treasurer's report as of October 31, 2011 was presented by Lobdell.

Plan Commission Report

Lobdell stated that the Chapters 17 and 18 rewriting project is moving along, and the new resort business district will be discussed at the next joint workshop meeting on Monday, November 28, 2011.

Public Works Report

Workman stated that the Public Works crew has been busy with end of the season work in the parks and with hanging the holiday decorations and lights. Workman stated that the lights will be turned on for the first time Friday, November 25, 2011 at 6:00 pm at a site by Pie High Pizza Co. and Scotty's on Mill Street. Workman stated that Porter Harrett again will be turning on the lights at the brief ceremony. Workman stated that Blackstone Landscape, Inc. has been helping with the leaf collection and with the park closing duties. Workman stated that the Park Commission members should notify him if they note any areas that still need attention.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

Workman stated that Tom Vanderpoel is still planning to do some garlic mustard spraying in the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy yet this fall. Wilson stated that the Mohr Road public park area should be added to the maintenance list for the Public Works crew or for Blackstone to make sure the shrubs are trimmed and the park sign for the public shorepath is visible. Micki O'Connell stated that the park bench area at the end of Mohr Road also needs to be cleaned up.

Wilson/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to direct staff to add the Mohr Road park area to the list for regular landscape maintenance, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Old Business

Porter Court Plaza Improvement Plan – Subcommittee Update

O'Brien stated that the subcommittee discussed the funding for the proposed water fountain renovation and they wondered if there is any money in the budget that could be allocated for the project. Wilson stated that she still needs to obtain photographs of the fountains that Gail Hibbard and O'Brien mentioned at the last monthly meeting. Workman stated that the autumn maple trees were approved by the Village Board at its last

monthly meeting and the trees were planted at the Porter Court Plaza earlier that day.

Highway 67 and Fontana Fen Invasive Tree Abatement Course of Action Recommendation

Workman stated that he and Vanderpoel looked at the area and there are some box elders and native weeds that need to be addressed, and some Purple Loosestrife has resurfaced; however, the abatement work needs to be completed in the spring.

Park House Repair/Renovation Updated Cost Estimates

Workman stated that he has not received a proposal from John O'Neill; Stan Fairchild provided an updated estimate; and Rick Slayton of Big Foot Construction & Consulting, Inc., has not yet responded. At last month's meeting, Workman distributed proposals for the Park House repair and renovation work that were submitted by Fairchild Residential Inc., Walworth, \$10,549, and by Big Foot Construction & Consulting, Fontana, \$9,420. There is \$10,000 in the 2012 budget for the project. Last month, the Park Commission directed Workman to determine if a water heater donated by Micki O'Connell could be installed for use at the Park House, and to solicit from Fairchild, Big Foot Construction, and O'Neill Builders, Inc., new bids for the repair and renovation project with the water heater donation considered. Workman stated that during his review of the proposal this past month it became apparent that if the Village was going to be allocating funds to repair the Park House, that the old electrical service should be upgraded to a 200-amp service. Workman stated that with the upgraded electrical service, the water heater donated by O'Connell can be used and a new forced-air furnace can be installed. Workman stated that Russ Ceschi has submitted a bid for Power Tech to complete the electrical service upgrade work for \$975. Workman stated that the Village can realize a \$1,500 savings from the initial bids by accepting a \$1,500 bid from North Walworth Heating to install the water heater and the new forced-air furnace. Workman stated that with the extra electrical work cost included and the \$1,500 bid from North Walworth Heating, the Village can have the rest of the project completed for about \$6,000. Wilson asked Hayden if it was possible to use any of the remaining funds in the 2011 Park Commission supplies account to help fund the project. Hayden stated that there is \$350 remaining in a Park House supplies account and there will be about another \$350 in the Park House heating account at the end of the year. Hayden stated that the Park Commission could consider funding a portion of the project with funds in this year's budget, and pay for the other portions of the project with funds in the 2012 budget.

Lobdell/Wilson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of allocating 2011 budget funds for the \$1,500 proposal submitted by North Walworth Heating to install the water heater donated by Micki O'Connell and a new forced-air furnace in the Park House; and allocating 2012 budget funds for the \$975 electrical service upgrade proposal submitted by Power Tech, and for an amount not to exceed \$6,000 to have the repair and renovation work completed by the firm that submits the low bid. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Reid Park Gazebo Interior Roof Project

Workman stated that the exposed nails on the interior ceiling can be covered with a knotty pine wood for a total cost of about \$1,500, or with cedar wood for about \$2,500. Workman stated that the wood would be cut tongue-in-groove and could be installed by the Public Works Department crew. Workman stated that with sealer applied, the knotty pine wood will look nice. In response to a funding question, Hayden stated that there is about \$3,000 left in the Reid Park gazebo replacement budget item.

Lobdell/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the purchase of the knotty pine wood for a cost not to exceed \$1,500 to be installed on the interior ceiling of the Reid Park gazebo by the Department of Public Works crew, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Following the vote, President Petersen stated that the Park Commission should consider purchasing the higher quality cedar wood for the project as long as the funds are available in the budget. Petersen stated that the gazebo is located on the lakefront and it has to stand up to some tough weather conditions. Petersen stated that the cedar wood will stand the test of time longer than the knotty pine wood.

Duck Pond Oak Savanna/Prairie Restoration Area Signage Proposal

The Park Commission reviewed the sign options submitted by Wolfgang Nitsch and his company, Laser Works Unlimited, LLC. Since the sign will be temporary, the Park Commission members reached a consensus that the Alumacore material would be good enough at a cost of \$400. A routed cedar sign would cost \$775, and a sand-blasted cedar sign would cost \$1,225. The Park Commission members also agreed with Nitsch's recommendation to have the large oak tree printed on the sign as a watermark behind the lettering, instead of splitting the words in the middle with the oak tree. The members agreed that the best option was

“A” which states: “Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake; Oak Savanna & Native Prairie Restoration Area; All Vehicles Prohibited; Absolutely No Driving or Riding Permitted in Project Area; For information on Joining the Volunteer Work Crew contact: Fontana Park Commission: 262-275-6136; ‘Help Us Grow.’” Workman stated that the Public Works crew will be able to erect the sign by the Oak Savanna area.

Gail Hibbard/O’Brien 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of an Alumacore sign for a cost not to exceed \$400, with the option “A” layout as proposed by Laser Works Unlimited, LLC, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Beach Tree Pruning Proposal

Wilson stated that a meeting has been scheduled with Jeff Epping for Thursday, December 1, 2011 and they will be looking at the trees on the beach to come up with a proposal to be presented at the next meeting.

New Business

Fontana Lakefront Triathlon Proposal for Saturday, September 8, 2012 – Pig in the Park Coordination Proposal

Local resident John Palmer was directed by the Village Board to present his preliminary proposal for the Fontana Lakefront Triathlon to the Park Commission and the Protection Committee after he received a recommendation for approval from the Lakefront and Harbor Committee. Palmer presented the preliminary plans and stated that as well as hosting an inaugural Fontana Lakefront Triathlon featuring an Olympic distance event and a shorter sprint event on the second Saturday of September, he would like to include a post-race food and entertainment event in Reid Park. Palmer stated that he would like to work with the Park Commission and add the cost of one admission ticket for the fund-raising pig roast to the entry fee for the triathlon if the Park Commission would be willing to delay its annual event by one weekend and start it earlier in the day. The annual Pig in the Park event has been held the first four years on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, and children’s events have not commenced until about 4:00 pm, and dinner service at about 5:00 pm. Palmer stated that the second Saturday of September was selected as the proposed date because it works best for the Abbey Resort and it’s after the busy summer season. Palmer stated that he would like a post-race event to offer the participants a social opportunity and a meal following the race, but food service would have to be offered around lunch time. Palmer stated that if the Park Commission was willing to make some changes to its annual pig roast, he could guarantee an income for the fund-raising event regardless of the weather. Following discussion that included potential concerns with moving the Pig in the Park date back by one week and attracting volunteer event workers for up to four additional hours, Palmer stated that he could also work with the Big Foot Lions Club or on his own to organize and run an independent post-triathlon event on the second Saturday of September, such as a pancake dinner, and the proceeds would still benefit the Park Commission. O’Brien stated that she would recommend that the Park Commission approve the use of Reid Park and the Fontana beach area on Saturday, September 8, 2012 for the Fontana Lakefront Triathlon, and that a mutually beneficial post-race event can be planned and presented for final approval at a later date. Mary Green stated that maybe the Pig in the Park could be planned to coincide with the triathlon in 2012, and if it is not successful, it could be moved back to Labor Day weekend. Palmer stated that he is willing to keep the options open at this time, and if the Park Commission decides to not alter its annual Pig in the Park plans, he will pursue planning and operating an independent post-race event that will still benefit the Park Commission.

O’Brien/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Fontana Lakefront Triathlon to be operated by John Palmer and Fontana Endurance Sports, LLC, on Saturday, September 8, 2012, as presented, to approve the use of the Fontana beach and Reid Park, and to form a subcommittee to meet with John Palmer to plan a post-race event in Reid Park. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Multi-Sports Triathlon Proposal

Russ Larson, the director of Multisport Event Management Partners, LLC, Fitchburg, stated that he worked with the Village of Fontana and ZOOMA to coordinate the women’s half marathon and 5K event that was hosted by the Abbey Resort on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Larson stated that the ZOOMA race went well and all the associated events were well received by the participants, so he is planning and proposing to host the Geneva Lake Triathlon in Fontana on Sunday, June 3, 2012, with setup for the event on Saturday afternoon, June 2, 2012. Larson stated that he looked into hosting a spring triathlon event the week prior to Memorial Day weekend; however, concerns about the Geneva Lake water temperature for the swimming portion have prompted him to move the proposed date back by two weeks. Larson stated that he is

proposing a spring event and he does not want to compete with the fall Fontana Lakefront Triathlon event being planned by Palmer. Larson stated that he is aware of the shortsighted planning efforts and the subpar event-day operations of the previous triathlon that was held in Fontana, and of all the associated concerns of the participants, village officials and residents. Larson stated that his group will be sure to plan and operate a first-class triathlon that will feature Olympic distance and sprint distance options. Larson stated that he is willing to donate a portion of the proceeds for the event admission fee to the village, with a minimum amount threshold established to cover the Village expenses. Larson stated that the event would run from 7:00 am to noon on Sunday, June 2, 2012. Larson stated that he targeted the date to work with the Abbey Resort and to avoid the period between the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekend. Larson stated that if approved, he would like to have the event participants check-in at the Abbey Resort on Saturday, June 2, 2012. Participants would also check-in their bicycles and they would be placed in the secured staging area by the beach the day before the races. Larson stated that the prior day check-in will alleviate traffic and parking congestion on the day of the event, and bring visitors to the Village the village to help support the local businesses. Hayden stated that there would be some concerns with the water buoys and staging area setup operations on a Saturday afternoon since the beach will be open for the season, and it could impact the Village's annual revenue that is typically taken in on the first weekend of June. Following discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that the first weekend of June will still not be very busy as it is early in the summer season, and if properly planned, the setup activities on Saturday should not pose a problem. With regard to the event day, the swimming portion will be between 7:00 and 8:30 am, and it should not impact the Sunday beach operations as most people don't arrive at the beach until about 11:00 am. O'Brien/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the proposed Multisport Event Management Partners, LLC Geneva Lake Triathlon to use a portion of the Fontana beach and Reid Park on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3, 2012 as presented, with the condition all the related planning details are worked out with the Lakefront and Harbor Committee, the Protection Committee and the Village Board. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Big Foot Recreation District Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 7, 2012 at Duck Pond

District Director Chuck Thiesenhusen stated that they would like authorization to use the Duck Pond Recreation Area for the annual Easter egg hunt event on Saturday, April 7, 2011. The district and the Park Commission split the cost of the event.

Lobdell/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the annual Easter egg hunt at the Duck Pond Recreation Area on Saturday, April 7, 2012, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Mary Green stated that she knows of a lot of people who are interested in helping with the Pig in the Park planning committee and she will have a list of names at the next monthly meeting.

Adjournment

Lobdell/Green 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 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: 12/21/2011