

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN
(Official Minutes)
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 20, 2013

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

Park Commissioners present: Trustee Wilson, Gail Hibbard, Sandra Hibbard, Mary Green, Sarah Lobdell

Park Commissioners absent: Laura Coates, Lynne Frost

Also present: Maryanne Bruss, Merilee Holst, Library Director Nancy Krei, Clerk Dennis Martin

Approval of Minutes

Gail Hibbard/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the meeting minutes for October 16, 2013, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Nancy Krei stated that she wanted to thank the Park Commission for a fabulous mortgage burning party at the Park House on November 14, 2013. Krei stated that the event was great and the Park Commission members and staff deserve kudos. Krei stated that in particular, Village Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, Mary Green, Martin and Wilson put in a lot of hard work to plan and decorate for the event. Wilson stated that she was contacted by Sharon Conklin, 123 Big Foot Street, with regard to an old tree at the site of Chief Big Foot's local lodge. The tree had grown into a dangerous state with branches falling off and most of the tree leaning over a structure. Wilson stated that the utility company trimmed the tree down to a pole, and Sharon and Bill Conklin have offered to have something done with the trunk to commemorate the historic site. Wilson stated that maybe the trunk could be carved into something or a cross-section could be cut out of the trunk and preserved to be put on display like was planned for a historic tree that was cut down on North Lakeshore Drive a few years ago. Wilson asked the Park Commissioners to visit the site and try to come up with some ideas to be discussed at the next monthly meeting.

Announcements

Geneva Lake Conservancy Stewardship Award Presentation to Gail Hibbard at Annual Holly Ball Saturday, December 7, 2013 at Big Foot Country Club

Wilson stated that Gail Hibbard has been selected to receive the prestigious Geneva Lake Conservancy Stewardship Award for her hard work coordinating the native prairie restoration volunteer workforce. Gail Hibbard coordinates the maintenance duties and leads groups of volunteers on planting and harvesting missions throughout the summer and fall. The Park Commission members congratulated Gail Hibbard for the well-deserved recognition and thanked Merilee Holst for nominating her for the award. Gail Hibbard stated she is honored to be considered for the prestigious award, and her volunteer workers in the Friends of the Fontana Savanna group also deserve recognition. Gail Hibbard stated that there was a great turnout of local families for the annual Seed Sowing Event held November 9, 2013, and that the village should be proud of its prairie restoration area for earning high praise from Tom Vanderpoel and Roy Diblik. Both of the landscape and gardening professionals have stated that Fontana's native prairie area is the best restoration area they have ever seen. Gail Hibbard stated that the prairie is in such good shape that the Village could possibly start selling the seeds it harvests from the native grasses. Also, Gail Hibbard stated that the prairie has grown in so thick that the Fire Department will have to be very careful next spring with the annual controlled burn as the fire will burn hotter than the previous years.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used twice in October.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report as of October 31, 2013 was presented.

Plan Commission Report

The Plan Commission has to review a tabled Certified Survey Map application at its next monthly meeting on Monday, November 25, 2013 at 5:30 pm. There also will be a joint session meeting held with the Village Board beginning at 5:45 pm for a presentation by the Shodeen Group on development concepts for its property located in the Fontana TIF District.

Public Works Report

Martin stated that Street Director Ron Adams provided him with updates for the DPW items, and that the crew has been busy hanging the holiday decorations and vacuuming up leaves.

Park Commission Maintenance List

The updated list was distributed. Gail Hibbard stated that she talked to Adams and Vanderpoel about the village owned lot that is located adjacent to the Geneva Lake Conservancy office building on Mill Street and the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. The lot is overgrown with invasive weeds, junk trees and brush. Gail Hibbard stated that Adams came up with an idea to have the junk trees and brush cut down and removed this winter, and for no-mow grass to be planted on the lot. Following further discussion on no-mow grass and the reasons why it was not successful at the Nature Conservancy Mill Street park entrance, the Park Commission directed staff to put the item on the agenda for the next monthly meeting. Mary Green stated that she has heard that ticks are a big problem this year, especially by the Duck Pond Recreation Area dog walking track. Green stated that she has not yet researched it, but she has been informed that there is a species of birds that feeds on ticks and that there are certain bird houses that attract those birds. Following discussion, Martin stated that he will contact the Bird City Wisconsin officials to solicit information and an item will be included on the agenda for the next monthly meeting. Wilson stated that Adams also informed her that the bird houses that are used to delineate the boundary line at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy need to be replaced. An item will be included on the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

Old Business

Farmer's Market Season Report

Coffee Mill owner Maryanne Bruss presented the Park Commission with a \$300 check as a donation from the proceeds she received this past summer for the Farmer's Market events held Saturday mornings at Porter Court Plaza. Bruss stated that she used the rest of the funds she collected for vendor fees for event publicity and signage. Bruss stated that there have been a couple of vendors that participated in the first two years of the Farmer's Market events, and there were some new ones this year; and all of them are getting established with regular customers. Bruss stated that she does not want to give up on the events and she is planning for a third season next year. Bruss stated that the events are a good use of the Porter Court Plaza space and she would like to incorporate some changes next year. Bruss stated that she would like to keep the vendors and Fontana event traditional in the same manner as the Madison farmer's market and continue to not allow crafters. Following discussion, the Park Commission directed staff to work with Bruss to schedule a planning meeting for next year, and to invite the current vendors to attend to solicit their ideas to make the events more successful. Bruss stated the one proposal she would like considered is the erection of a sign at Porter Court that could be left up throughout the week to publicize the Saturday events. The Park Commission members also suggested that a farmer's market sign could be added as one of the hanging shingle signs on the Village Fontana municipal signage located off the road by the entrances to the municipality. A planning meeting will be scheduled and an item for approval of next year's events will be included on the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

Northwind Perennial Farm 2014 Work Estimates – Funding Allocation from Green Space Management Budget

Roy Diblik at Northwind Perennial Farm submitted an estimate for his 2014 maintenance work on the Fontana Boulevard planting beds, which totals \$13,870, and for the additional work he will be taking care of at Porter Court Plaza, \$5,176. The approved 2014 budget only included the initially submitted estimate for the Fontana Boulevard maintenance work, and not the additional work at

Porter Court Plaza; however, there are funds in the Green Space Management budget line item that could be allocated to cover the additional \$5,176. Wilson stated that the Park Commission previously determined that Diblik should be directed to take over the plantings and the maintenance of the plants at Porter Court Plaza. The area used to be included with the Blackstone Landscaping maintenance contract. Wilson stated that the additional funds needed to pay for Diblik's additional plantings and maintenance duties should be available in the Green Space Management account because there will be less funds allocated for the Blackstone work since Porter Court Plaza has been removed from their list; regardless, the budgeting situation can be worked out during the next year. Wilson/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the estimates submitted by Northwind Perennial Farm for maintenance work on the Fontana Boulevard planting beds and Porter Court Plaza landscaped areas as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Pioneer Park Turnaround for Boat Launch – Update

Staff reviewed the records and verified that the turnaround proposal for village boat launch traffic to be routed through Pioneer Park and back to Third Avenue, instead of down Lake Street to Kinzie Avenue, was taken out of the plans and the referendum question for the Third Avenue Project that was completed in 2008. The item was removed at the request of a group of citizens who opposed the initial failed referendum for the CDA's Third Avenue Project. At the September 18, 2013 Park Commission meeting, Laura Coates stated that she requested the agenda item because she would like to see the boat trailer traffic rerouted through Pioneer Park and back up Third Avenue. Coates stated that Kinzie Avenue has a lot of residences on it and all the boat trailer traffic also passes by the Buena Vista subdivision. Sharon Conklin, 123 Big Foot Street, and Bob Ahern, 338 Kinzie Avenue, stated at the September 18 meeting that as well as the safety concerns caused from all the boat trailer traffic, the one-way traffic patterns and other traffic laws are not enforced in the area, and boaters create even more congestion on Lake Street and Kinzie Avenue staging their boats prior to launching and putting them back on the trailers. Conklin stated that the current route takes vehicles and boat trailers past 60 plus homes, including the condominium units in the Fontana Shores building. Staff researched the issue following the September 18 meeting and verified that the proposal to develop boat traffic lanes in Pioneer Park is one of the items that the FROG group had placed on the list of potential lakefront projects that require referendum approval; that the Pioneer Park proposal was discussed by the CDA, Plan Commission and Village Board in 2005 and 2006 before it was removed from the Third Avenue Project proposal at the urging of the FROG group; and the proposal was not included in a subsequent CDA referendum that failed to earn approval for the construction of a new lakefront building and parking lot and the reconstruction of Lake Street. Also, the TIF District, which funded the Third Avenue Project, is now a state of distress and there is no funding available if a proposal does receive referendum approval; and the cost of the project would be escalated to reconfigure and reconstruct lower Third Avenue, which is now one-way to the east. Martin stated that a resident or group of residents could have a petition circulated to determine if there would be enough support from registered voters to get a referendum approved for the Pioneer Park proposal, or a direct legislation petition could be circulated in an effort to take a proposal straight to referendum. Wilson stated that with the current tight budget conditions in the Village, funding would be a problem if a proposal were to be presented for referendum approval. Wilson stated that it is up to the citizens to follow through with a petition if they want to pursue approval for the proposal.

Country Club Estates Lakefront Boardwalk – Update

Wilson and Lobdell have not yet met with the Country Club Estates Association Board of Directors to request that they consider having another wooden boardwalk installed to replace the current boardwalk that is in bad shape and is rotting out. The initial proposal for a stamped concrete sidewalk to replace the wooden boardwalk has drawn some concerns and the Park Commission members are wondering if there are other alternatives than cement. Martin stated that he will contact the association president and request that the Board of Directors consider the request.

New Business

Tree City USA Renewal Application for 2014

Martin stated that he has begun the process of filing the annual recertification application online and it will be completed by the end of the month.

Gail Hibbard/Sandra Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to authorize staff to file the annual Tree City USA recertification application online, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Park Permit Application Filed by Krystal O’Neill, Reid Park Gazebo, July 12, 2014

There are no conflicts with the date requested, but the application fee still has to be paid. Lobdell/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the Park Permit application, with the condition that the permit fee is paid prior to the event, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Holiday Lights for Park House

Wilson stated that Village President Arvid Petersen suggested at the mortgage burning party that the Park Commission consider hanging some holiday lights on the Park House to decorate the facility for the season. Following discussion, the Park Commission members determined that there should be \$100 still available in the Park Commission budget to purchase some lights to be hung on the front and two sides of the Park House. The determination was made that lights would not be visible or necessary on the back side of the Park House. Wilson stated that mounting hooks can be fastened along the roof line and the lights can be easily hung and plugged in behind the building. Krei stated that the Park Commission may also want to purchase a timer for the lights. Wilson/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to allocate \$100 of the Park Commission 2013 funds to purchase holiday decoration lights to be hung on the exterior of the Park House, along the roof line during the holiday season. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Payables

None

Any Other Comments/Concerns

The next monthly meeting will not be held until January 21, 2014 unless something pressing comes up prior to December 18, 2013. Wilson stated that she wanted to formally thank outgoing Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden for her service to the Village and in particular for all her assistance with the Park Commission projects. Wilson stated that Hayden always supported the Park Commission programs and initiatives and volunteered her personal time for the benefit of the Village throughout her tenure in Fontana. Gail Hibbard stated Hayden will be missed and she hopes that there will be a going away party or something planned to thank Hayden for her service.

Adjournment

Lobdell/Wilson 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 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: 1/15/2014