

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION  
Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Chairman Rick Treptow called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:04 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

**Park Commissioners present:** Treptow, Jill Wegner, Sarah Lobdell, Laurie Larson, Brent Horvath, Sharon O'Brien, Trustee Joe Bidwill

**Park Commissioner absent:** Dawn Sammons

**Also present:** Cheryl Bartz, Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh, Trustee Micki O'Connell, Trustee Ron Pollitt

**Approval of Minutes**

Wegner/Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meetings held November 15 and 28, 2006 as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

None

**Announcements**

Treptow stated that the Tree Ordinance Workshop to discuss possible amendments will be held Tuesday, January 9, 2007, beginning at 5:30 pm, and the Park Commission Christmas party will be held Thursday night, December 14, 2006.

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

Treptow reported that the Park House was used 13 times in November 2006.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Financial Report as of November 30, 2006 was presented by Lobdell.

**Old Business**

**Parks Projects/Completion Dates**

Treptow stated that Director of Public Works Craig Workman was not able to attend the meeting, so he reported that the Reid Park restrooms and pavilion project is near completion; however, it will not be finished until spring. Treptow stated that the new project completion date coincides with the landscaping planting schedule.

**Wayfinding Sign Issues – Final Update**

Treptow stated that the Park Commission's Wayfinding Signage Subcommittee met and the members are recommending final approval of the sign that has been erected for a review period on Highway 67 at West Main Street. Treptow stated that the sign on display is the same sign that the subcommittee wants used for all of the wayfinding signage, but only one sided, not readable from both directions.

Lobdell/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the subcommittee recommendation that the wayfinding signage be the same size and style as the sample sign, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Mill House Pavilion Grant Project – Solicitation/Update**

Treptow stated that he attended another planning meeting with McHugh, O'Brien and Trustee Pollitt, and the scope of the pavilion has been increased and the decision has been made to solicit private donations to help fund the project. Treptow stated that the CDA has approved \$35,000 in seed money for the \$100,000 project. Architect David Coates submitted a new concept plan for the pavilion that includes an Outdoor

Education classroom, historical features, sign boards for use by the Village and Fontana Elementary School, skylights and a cupola. Treptow stated that he drafted a letter soliciting private donations, and if there were no additions, corrections or concerns, it will be mailed out with a sketch of the new pavilion concept plan to residents prior to Christmas. Treptow stated that a mailing will cost about \$500 to \$600 and he suggested the funds be taken from the Park Commission budget. Treptow stated that the Village received an initial negative response from the Kikkoman Foundation, but Trustee Pollitt was told that the Village should reapply for consideration after more project funding has been secured from other sources. Trustee Pollitt stated that he feels the Mill House Pavilion proposal is a good project that merits support, and educators at Fontana Elementary School have stated that it will benefit the Outdoor Education Program. Treptow stated that the project has great historical significance, and one of the Park Commission's charges is the preservation of local history. Later in the meeting, Trustee Pollitt announced that he received a \$250 check during the meeting from Trustee O'Connell to kick off the Mill House Pavilion fund-raising effort. Trustee Pollitt stated that he was going to write a personal check to match O'Connell's donation. Both trustees were thanked and commended by the Park Commission for personally supporting the project.

O'Brien/Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve spending \$500 to \$600 on postage for mailing out funding solicitations for the Mill House Pavilion project, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Tree Ordinance Quarterly Reports**

Treptow stated that Wegner used Building and Zoning Department monthly permit reports to compile a list of permits issued for the removal of trees from February 2006 through November 2006. There were a total of 71 permits issued for the removal of trees, according to Wegner's list. Treptow stated that Assistant Zoning Administrator Bridget McCarthy also is compiling a more detailed list.

### **Tree City USA Recertification**

Treptow stated that he has received the application for recertification and he will obtain the required financial information from Treasurer Peg Pollitt. The application is due December 31, 2006.

### **Landmark Trees - List**

Treptow distributed the Protected Tree List – Memorial Trees that he compiled from Park Commission minutes and from notes left by Thel Shoberg. The list has eight individual trees and two areas of clustered trees. There is a cluster of 11 memorial trees in Reid Park, and a cluster of four weeping trees in Triangle Park. Treptow stated that the Park Commission can keep adding to the list, which is just a starting point in tracking the Landmark Trees in the Village of Fontana.

### **Trails and Natural Areas Guide**

Treptow stated that he has not received any suggested amendments to the guide as presented a few months ago. Treptow stated that he suggested changing of some of the plant photos on the guide to create more variety in the colors, and he also noticed a couple of typos that will be corrected.

### **Donated Trees From Gerdes Nursery/Beach Plantings**

Treptow stated that Sharon O'Brien did a remarkable job distributing the 107 trees that were donated to the Village by Gerdes Nursery, Harvard, IL. O'Brien contacted all of the Village subdivision associations to inform them that trees were available to be planted on their properties. The Village and nine of subdivision associations planted 102 of the donated trees – there were five ash trees that were not planted. Treptow stated that trees planted on Village property included four crabs by Little Foot Park, eight redbuds in the beach area at the corner of Lake Street and South Lake Shore Drive, eight Witchhazels in the area at the end of the beach house, five sweet gums at the south end of the beach by the channel, and three Jane Magnolias to the north of the channel area. Treptow stated that some of the trees may have to be replanted in other locations in the spring, to prevent blocking the view of the beach from across the road. Treptow stated that Gerdes Nursery should be named a Friend of the Parks and their name should be added to the board of recognition on display in the Village Hall. Treptow stated that he also will send a thank you letter to the nursery for making such a generous donation.

Treptow/Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve naming Gerdes Nursery a Friend of the Parks and to have their name added to the plaque at the Village Hall, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Landscape Plans – Reid Park Restrooms/Pavilion**

Treptow distributed a list of the woody plants that will be planted around the new restrooms and pavilion in

Reid Park. Since the building was not completed in time to plant the trees or the other plants that comprise the landscaping plan prior to winter, the landscaping will be planted in the spring.

### **New Business**

#### **Mr. Henry - Site Visit**

Treptow stated that he visited the 18-acre William Henry property with O'Brien and Wegner. The site is right on the border of the Village in Walworth Township. Treptow stated that William Henry is proposing a underbrush clearing plan that is exactly the same as what the Village recently completed to create the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Treptow stated that they did not observe many small trees that would have fallen under the replacement regulations of the current Tree Ordinance; however, they did observe several very large oak trees that will not be cut down. Treptow stated that even though the Village Board voted to place a moratorium on the enforcement of the Tree Ordinance in the ETZ District until after the ordinance is amended, the proposal for the Henry property probably would not have been adversely affected by the replacement regulations since most of the invasive trees that will be cleared out are not large enough to fall under the replacement requirements of the ordinance. O'Brien stated that the Henry parcel is beautiful land and his proposal is a fantastic project. Treptow stated that Henry indicated he has no plans to clear cut the land; Henry loves the trees on his property and he is planning to create a beautiful oak savannah. Treptow stated that the plan would have worked well even if the Village Board had not voted to place a moratorium on the enforcement of the Tree Ordinance in the ETZ District. Following discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that they favor the waiver of the Tree Ordinance requirements for property owners who have proposals that have been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Program.

#### **Bills to Pay**

None

#### **Park Requests**

None

#### **Any Other Comments or Concerns**

Hayden-Staggs stated that the Village received a letter from the Pheasant Ridge Association that requests the Village to come up with a landscaping plan for the jointly owned parcel at Indian Hills Road and County Highway B. The Public Works Department cleared the lot and fill was recently dumped on the site. The fill will be leveled off in the spring, at which time some trees will be planted on the parcel. The suggestions were made to erect a Village entrance sign at the site and to transplant some of the trees that are being "stored" at the Public Works Department garage site. The Park Commission will finalize the landscaping plan during the winter and Treptow asked the commissioners to visit the site in the meantime.

#### **Pending Park Commission Items for Future Agendas**

1. Landscape Plans for Mill House Pavilion, Wild Duck Road, Beach House, VOF/Pheasant Ridge Parcel
2. Bird and Bat Houses
3. Frisbee Golf - Duck Pond
4. Village Irrigation Systems
5. "Summer Breeze"
6. Chuck's Landscaping
7. Holiday Decorations

#### **Adjournment**

Larson/Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 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: 01/17/2007