

**VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**(First Draft Minutes)**

**Park Commission Monthly Meeting**

February 20, 2019

The Park Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Livingston at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

**Members Present:** Trustee Livingston, Sarah Lobdell, Gail Hibbard, Robin Nuzzo, Jill Wegner

**Members Absent:** Mary Green, Sandra Hibbard

**Also Present:** Kevin Day, Janet Happ, Theresa Loomer, Sally Ratay, Karen Yancey

**Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2018**

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Nuzzo 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted for the October 17, 2018 meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

None

**Announcements**

None

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

The Park House has not been used since September, 2018. Trustee Livingston announced the Village has agreed to rent the Park House to Maryanne Bruss for a second Coffee Mill location.

**Treasurer's Report**

Lobdell reported the Park Commission account has \$36,685.77 and the \$2,000 donation from the Big Foot Lions Club for the 2018 Lobster Boil will be reflected in next month's Treasurer's report.

**Public Works Report**

None

**Old Business**

**Discussion on Retaining Village Arborist**

At this time there is nothing to discuss. The Village is considering amending the Tree Ordinance and depending on the language in the ordinance, the Village may need to consider contracting for the service. The item may be brought back for discussion at a later date, if necessary.

**New Business**

**Park Bench Application Filed by Shawn Schatteman**

The Village Board approved the application earlier in the month contingent on approval from the Park Commission. There are still several older benches at the lakefront that need to be replaced. Public Works Director Kevin Day will work with Schatteman to choose a location for the bench. Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Nuzzo 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the Park Bench Application filed by Shawn Schatteman to work with public works to replace a bench at the lakefront, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Garden Club Proposal to Redo Landscaping by Chief Bigfoot Statue**

President of the Fontana Garden Club, Sally Ratay, along with Roy Diblik, proposed redoing the landscaping around the Chief Bigfoot statue. The proposal is to have DPW remove the current landscaping and then plant two burr oak trees, either 2" trees for \$150 or 2.5" trees for \$210 plus a \$50 delivery fee. Diblik explained that he would donate May Apples, Sedge Meadows and other native species that have lived with oak trees for their entire existence. Diblik said that as the tree canopy grows, the native plants could also be extended and it would be a great community or school project. The commissioners discussed connecting with the school for the planting of the surrounding species.

Commissioner Wegner/Commissioner Nuzzo 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Reforestation of Chief Bigfoot, for an amount not to exceed \$470, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Geneva Lake Conservancy Proposal to Establish Permanent Conservation Protection for Fontana Fen, Prairie and Oak Savanna**

Janet Happ and Karen Yancey from the Geneva Lake Conservancy attended the meeting and asked the commissioners to consider making a recommendation to establish a permanent conservation easement through the Conservancy for the Fontana Fen, Prairie, and Oak Savanna. Happ read a letter to the commissioners about the proposed conservation easement. Several questions were posed such as who would maintain the properties and who would conduct the burns. Yancey replied there would be a more joint effort between the Village and the conservancy, but the Village would still be responsible for the properties. Yancey stated the benefit to a conservation easement through the conservancy is that there will never be a development at any of the protected locations and all the hard work and volunteer hours will be preserved. There was also discussion about the Village retaining rights to the land especially by the Duck Pond area for possible future use. Lobdell asked if it would be appropriate to discuss the proposal during the comprehensive plan update scheduled to take place in 2019. The commissioners agreed and Trustee Livingston said he would discuss the idea with the Board at the next meeting.

### **Proposal to Create Path from Fontana School to Headwaters Park**

Lobdell stated there was discussion some time ago about clearing a path from the school to Headwaters Park. At that time, the school was against the proposal, however, because it would be a safer way for the students to get to the Fontana Fen, or to St. Benedicts during an emergency, they would like to proceed with clearing a path. Due to the navigable streams that run through the land there was discussion on whether the DNR had ever been contacted about installing a bridge. Livingston stated he would get in touch with the DNR and report back at a future meeting.

### **Discuss Donation to the Fontana Outdoor Education Fund**

Lobdell provided an overview of the Fontana Outdoor Education Fund and said it is moving back to Conference Point this year where the lake can be incorporated into the activities. She said the program helps to get kids interested in the natural world. The levels of sponsorship range from \$100 to \$500 and higher. The commissioners agreed to donate \$500.

Trustee Livingston/Commissioner Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve a \$500 donation to the Fontana Outdoor Education Fund, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Hibbard/Commissioner Nuzzo 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 5:28pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Theresa Loomer Administrator/Clerk

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

APPROVED: 03/20/19