

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Chairperson Sarah Lobdell called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:05 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Sarah Lobdell, Daniel Green, Nancy Krei, Sharon O'Brien, Trustee Bob Youngquist

Park Commissioners absent: Brent Horvath, Jill Wegner, Dawn Sammons

Also present: Joe Abell, CDA Commissioner Gail Hibbard, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh, Andy Pearce, Village President Ron Pollitt, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

Youngquist/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes submitted for the meeting held December 19, 2007, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

Announcements

None

General Business

Park House Use

Lobdell reported that the Park House was used nine times in December 2007.

Treasurer's Report

The Financial Report as of December 31, 2007 was presented by Krei.

Plan Commission Report

Lobdell stated that the Plan Commission has not met since the last Park Commission was held.

Public Works Report

Workman stated that there will be nothing new to report until spring. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission received compliments on the condition of the Village's soccer fields and she thanked the Public Works Department employees for their maintenance efforts.

Old Business

Duck Pond Frisbee Golf Course

Lobdell stated that the subcommittee toured the Duck Pond area with Wally Bullard following the long-range planning meeting on Saturday, January 12, 2008. Lobdell stated that Bullard feels it will be easy to layout an 18-hole disc golf course using the available unused space – there would be no impact on the current playing fields or the open spaces. Lobdell stated that the subcommittee members were in consensus that the Park Commission should move forward with the less expensive temporary baskets for a nine-hole course. If the nine-hole course is well received, sponsorship funding can be pursued to expand the course to 18 holes and/or to switch to the permanent baskets for the individual holes. Signage also can be incorporated at the tees for each hole. Lobdell stated that the temporary baskets cost \$60 each and Bullard would charge a \$100 fee for designing the nine-hole course and assisting with the development of the holes. Lobdell stated that some brush will need to be cleared and some additional grass mowing will be required to develop a nine-hole course. O'Brien stated that the initial nine-hole course could be designed this winter and the course could be

laid out by April. Lobdell stated that the Park Commission could authorize the use of some of the discretionary funds in the 2008 budget to pay for the initial \$540 cost for nine temporary baskets and the \$100 fee for Bullard. Workman asked if Bullard could prepare an initial plan of the nine-hole design on an image of the Duck Pond Recreation Area, and Lobdell stated that she will contact Bullard to make the request. Following discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that the plan for an initial nine-hole course using the temporary baskets is a great idea. The Park Commission members also were in consensus that there should be no charge for people to play on the initial course; however, players will have to provide their own discs. Lobdell stated that the owner of Fontana Outdoor Sports also will be contacted to determine if he would be interested in stocking discs for people to purchase.

O'Brien/Green 2nd made a MOTION to approve the initial expenditure of \$640 of Park Commission budget funds to pay for nine temporary disc golf course baskets and to fund the design of a nine-hole course at the Duck Pond Recreation Area by Wally Bullard. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Little Foot Playground Improvements

O'Brien stated that the subcommittee members met with Bob Szalkowski of Gerber Leisure Products, Inc. on January 16, 2008 and charged him with drafting two different plans for the proposed improvements at Little Foot Playground. A new ship that the committee members all favored will cost about \$50,000. Workman stated that with the potential reconstruction of Third Avenue pending for the fall, the subcommittee members were in consensus that some work should be completed prior to this coming summer to address the deteriorating equipment. Workman stated that the Village could spend up to \$25,000 on improvements to the park without having to take the project out for bids. The subcommittee members were in consensus that the Park Commission should request \$25,000 in TIF funding from the CDA and plan to replace some of the equipment before Memorial Day. The initial proposal would be to purchase some new climbing equipment (a seven-panel Mobius Climber), replace the little houses, install new tot swings and rehabilitate the two diggers. The complete plan to incorporate more new equipment and replace the current ship with a new \$50,000 ship can be presented to the CDA for consideration, or it can be added to the Park Commission budget over a period of years. The new equipment can be installed in phases, or all at once. The \$50,000 ship is available in three phases, which would help spread the cost out over three budgets if necessary. The Park Commission was in consensus that the ideal plan should be drafted and presented to the CDA Board for consideration at its meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. If the CDA is not willing to fund the project with the rest of the Third Avenue construction project, a long-term budget will be developed to fund the plan with Park Commission funds and/or private donations. The Park Commission also was in consensus that the plan should include provisions that there will be equipment that is attractive to children of all age levels available during all the planned construction phases.

Duck Pond Gateway Triangle Update

McHugh stated that the advertisement for bids for the project has been published and the bids received are scheduled to be opened January 31, 2008. McHugh stated that after the first year, the CDA budget for the project does not include maintenance work. The plan includes the development of planting beds, which will have to be maintained, and grass areas, which will have to be mowed.

Report from Long-term Planning Workshop

Lobdell stated that the meeting was held Saturday, January 12, 2008, from 9:00 to 11:00 am, but she has not yet finished typing the notes. Lobdell stated that with regard to Reid Park, the Little Foot Playground renovation is the main item of concern. Overall, the Park Commission will draft a list of all the facilities that need to be maintained and a calendar will be developed to schedule the annual maintenance projects (such as painting projects, tree trimming schedules, etc.). Lobdell stated that some of the projects discussed for the immediate future are improvements to Pioneer Park to better recognize its historical significance. Lobdell stated that the historical significance of all the Village park sites will be pursued through a plaque program and possibly an informational pamphlet will be drafted. Other areas of concerns are the improvement of the Geneva Lake shorepath on Village property; planning to take over maintenance from Agrecol after the current contract expires for the Fontana Fen and the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy; and the continued development of the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Some of the work desired at the Duck Pond includes the installation of hard courts for basketball and tennis, the development of a sledding hill and cross country trails, and the development of a Frisbee golf course. General items include the planning of open house events and the finalization of the establishment of 501C charitable organization status for the Park Commission to accept private donations. Lobdell stated that she will type up the notes and present them to the Park

Commission for approval at the next monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

Garden Club Bench Donation

O'Brien stated that the bench purchased by the Garden Club has been delivered, but the club members no longer want the bench to be installed at the Fontana Fen. O'Brien stated that the club members requested that the bench be installed at the lakefront; however, it is green and the Village plans call for black colored benches at the lakefront. Also, there is no location on the current plans for another bench to be located at the lakefront. O'Brien stated that one of the club members asked if the bench could be located at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy adjacent to Van Slyke Creek; however, DNR regulations would prohibit the placement of a bench in the delineated wetland areas. Following discussion, the Park Commission members were in consensus that a good location for the bench would be at the site of the future Mill House Pavilion. O'Brien stated that the bench could be placed by the future garden beds or maybe at the trailhead. O'Brien stated that she will contact the club members with the proposal and report back to the Park Commission.

New Business

Park Open House Events

Lobdell stated that the Park Commission has been planning to host open house events to showcase the new facilities and improvements at the Village parks. An initial idea was to host a community picnic at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Lobdell stated that other ideas include planning events at Reid Park and at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy/Headwaters Park area. Lobdell stated that elaborate plans do not have to be made; maybe the events could just include guided tours and the presentation of general information. President Pollitt stated that the Mill House Pavilion is scheduled to be completed in the spring, and a grand opening event could be planned at that time. Green stated that the Village could host a tournament on the new Frisbee golf course at the Duck Pond and maybe combine it with a picnic event in the fall. Krei stated that maybe the Fontana Public Library's Summer Reading Program could include a date at the new Mill House Pavilion and the topic could be nature related – such as bugs and other insects. A tentative date of Sunday, September 14, 2008 was scheduled for the Duck Pond event, to possibly include a community picnic and a Frisbee golf tournament. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Duck Pond on Saturday morning, March 22, 2008.

Bills to Pay

Flagsource North

Lobdell stated that the final bill has been received from Flagsource North for the new holiday decorations. The Park Commission approved payment of the bill at last month's meeting, but the new banners have not yet been received. The Village will send the check to Flagsource North to pay the bill after the new banners are delivered.

Park Requests

Lobdell stated that the Village received an application from the Tauscher family for a wedding to be held at the gazebo on Saturday, May 3, 2008. There will be 25 to 50 people attending the event, which is scheduled to last four hours.

O'Brien/Green 2nd made a MOTION to approve the park permit application for use of the gazebo for the Tauscher wedding on Saturday, May 3, 2008, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments or Concerns

McHugh asked the Park Commission to consider the placement of an observation tower in the Fontana Fen, similar to the observation tower in the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy in Williams Bay. McHugh stated that a tower would be an attraction that may draw more visitors to the Fontana Fen.

Big Foot Lions Club Fourth of July, Lobster Boil Events

Lions Club members Andy Pearce and Joe Abell presented the plans for the annual fund-raising events and requested approval for the use of Reid Park. Abell stated that the Fourth of July concession stand will be staged in the same location as previous years and the club will again be selling brats and hotdogs, soda, water and popcorn. Abell stated that the tent and grill area will be setup on Thursday, July 3, 2008 and taken down after the fireworks display on Friday, July 4. Abell stated that the tent may have to remain erected until July 5 if it rains on July 4.

Youngquist/Green 2nd made a MOTION to approve the proposal as submitted by the Big Foot Lions Club for the use of Reid Park for the annual Fourth of July concession stand, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Pearce stated that the proposed plan for the Lobster Boil is the same as last year, with the exception that the club would like the live music to be extended until 11:30 pm, instead of ending at 11:00 pm. Pearce stated that he will request Village Board approval of the half-hour extension of the live music. The plan includes a carryout service at the Park House on Third Avenue. In response to a question from Krei, Workman stated that the Third Avenue construction project will not commence until next fall if it is approved in the April 1, 2008 referendum, so there will be no concern with regard to using the Park House for the July 26, 2008 event. Lobdell stated that Village did not receive any complaints or concerns last year, only positive comments with regard to both events.

Youngquist/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to approve the proposal as submitted by the Lions Club for the annual Lobster Boil event to be held Saturday, July 26, 2008, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Abell presented the Park Commission with a \$1,500 check from the Lions Club and thanked the Village for the continued use of Reid Park for the fund-raising events. Abell stated that the lakefront park is great location and the club appreciates the opportunity to host its events where the visitors can enjoy the excellent view of the lake.

Pending Items for Future Agendas

1. Landscape Plans for Mill House Pavilion and VOF/Pheasant Ridge Corner Lot at County Highway B & Indian Hills Road
2. Fontana-Walworth Pedestrian Connection
3. Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)/Upgraded Parks and Open Space Plan
4. Garden Club Bench Donation
5. Van Slyke Creek
6. Brick Program
7. Pet Waste
8. Money Raising Opportunities

Adjournment

O'Brien/Youngquist 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 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: 2/20/2008