

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

SPECIAL MEETING of the VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Village Clerk Dennis Martin called the special meeting of the Village Board to order at 5:00 pm in the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Trustees present: Roll call vote: Petersen, Youngquist, Turner, O'Connell, Spadoni

Trustees absent: President Pollitt, Bidwill

Also present: Village Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs, Library Director Nancy Krei, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh

Elect President Pro-Tem

Because President Pollitt was unable to attend the meeting, a President Pro-Tem had to be elected to run the special meeting.

Spadoni/O'Connell 2nd made a MOTION to elect Trustee Turner as the President Pro-Tem, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Recommendation on Reid Park Landscaping Plan

Youngquist stated that he met Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at about 7:00 am with Park Commissioner Sharon O'Brien in Reid Park at the site of the new restrooms and pavilion building. Youngquist stated that he and O'Brien discussed the situation and they agreed that many of the 12 crab apple trees that were planted in the area in front of the new building could be planted in better locations. Youngquist stated that preliminary ideas for other locations that he and O'Brien came up with were on the other side of the park by the boat trailer parking lot or out by the medians on Fontana Boulevard. Following the meeting with Youngquist, O'Brien contacted the other Park Commission members and they came to the consensus that one of three options would be acceptable. The first option was to remove all 12 of the trees in question and put them on ice until new locations to plant the trees are determined. The second option was to take out just the one tree that is located out furthest into the open space area. The third option was to leave all the trees planted in their present locations. Youngquist stated that there are many other possible locations for the trees and Director of Public Works Craig Workman has indicated that the trees still can be removed without harm, as long as they are planted again within a short period of time. Petersen stated that Prairie Tree Landscaping had to move forward on the park restoration project and their crew hydro-seeded the area with grass seed that day. Petersen stated that any work to dig up the trees and replant them in the area will hamper the grass growing schedule. Hayden-Staggs stated that Prairie Tree representatives indicated to the Workman that the trees still can be removed with little impact on the grass seed that already has been planted. Hayden-Staggs stated that she talked to Park Commissioner Laurie Larson and Larson stated that the Park Commission will not want make a decision on other sites for the trees if they are dug up, and Larson also was concerned about where the funds will come from to pay for the extra landscaping work. O'Connell stated that the Park Commission members spent many hours preparing the landscaping plan and the master plan for the park calls for walkways to be located in the current open area of Reid Park. O'Connell stated that the trees should be left planted where they are and the Village officials should wait and see "how it goes." Spadoni stated that he appreciates all the hard work and time the Park Commission members donate to the Village; however, there were too many trees planted along the beach and the trees planted in front the new building in Reid Park will negatively impact the recreational opportunities available to

residents and their children. Spadoni stated that many residents of the Village use the open space in Reid Park to play ball or soccer with their children. Spadoni stated that expert planners have recommended to the Village in the past that the view of the lake from Reid Park should be opened up more, and all the trees being planted in the area are causing the view of the lake to be blocked even more. Turner stated that the Park Commission has been given great latitude in the last few years to prepare landscaping plans for the Village projects, and they've worked very hard. Turner stated that the Park Commission members should not be upset that some of the Village Board members have difficulty with one aspect of one of the many landscaping plans the committee has created. Turner stated that the best option may be to move just the one tree and wait for a year to see how the other trees impact the use of the park. Turner stated that if necessary the trees could be moved in the future, up until they are about two years old. Youngquist stated that removing just the one tree will not preserve the open space area that is used by people playing football or catch with as baseball or Frisbee. Youngquist stated that the Village will be eliminating recreational opportunities in the park if the trees are not relocated. Youngquist stated that if there were a good reason for the trees to remain in their present locations, he'd be willing to listen to the argument; however, there is not a good reason. Youngquist stated that the final locations for the new walkways haven't been determined, so the tree locations can be changed. Youngquist stated that the Duck Pond Recreation Area is a great facility, but the residents still need the Reid Park space for parents and their children to enjoy. Youngquist stated that four of the trees are located adjacent to a concrete slab close to the new building, and they do not infringe on the open space area; however, the other eight trees should be dug up and relocated. Spadoni stated that he agreed with Youngquist and the four trees by the concrete slab should remain in their present locations, but the other trees should be dug up and put on ice until they are relocated. Petersen stated that there will be plenty of open space available in the park after all of the work called for in the master plan is completed. Petersen stated that the master plan calls for more shade trees in the park, and that's what the crab trees would provide. Petersen stated that Reid Park is not an active sports park, but it will still provide adequate recreational opportunities once the master plan is completed. Turner stated that the crab trees really are not shade trees, they are more ornamental. Spadoni stated that the trees should be taken out and the view of the lake opened up as the Village was previously advised by a consultant. Turner stated that viewing the landscaping plan on paper never really gave the officials an opportunity to determine the impact of the 12 crab trees; once they were planted, their impact became apparent. Youngquist stated that there are other spots located in the area for the trees and there are other ways to help soften the look of the back of the buildings on Lake Street. Youngquist stated that the pattern in which the trees were planted would prevent the installation of sidewalk/paths through that area. Hayden-Staggs stated that with any landscaping plan, it is difficult to get a really good determination of how the trees will look and how they will impact an area until they are actually planted. Turner stated that he does not like the present location of the trees and they intrude enormously on the park. Turner stated that he agrees that the four trees located closest to the new building should remain in their present locations; however, the rest should be dug up and replanted in better locations. Petersen stated by voting to amend the landscaping plan at this time would be an insult to the Park Commission members and their hard work. Youngquist stated that he disagreed with Petersen, and he has great respect for the Park Commission members and the hard work they do. Youngquist stated he is just concerned about the one aspect of the one landscaping plan, and he felt it was his duty to the people who he represents to try to address the situation. Turner stated that there already are a couple of ideas as to where the trees would be better located, and Workman has indicated that the trees can be dug up and stored for a short period until they are replanted.

Spadoni/Youngquist 2nd made a MOTION to direct Public Works Director Craig Workman to have all of the crab apple trees planted in Reid Park in the area in front of the new restrooms and pavilion building, except the four trees located adjacent to a concrete slab next to the new building, dug up and put on ice until the Park Commission and Village Board members determine new locations for the dug-up trees to be replanted. The MOTION carried on a 3-2 vote, with Trustees Petersen and O'Connell opposed.

Adjournment

Spadoni/Youngquist 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn at 5:29 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis L. Martin, village clerk

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

APPROVED: 06/04/07