

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION

**Wednesday, June 21, 2006**

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

**Park Commissioners present:** Treptow, Dawn Sammons, Laurie Larson, Brent Horvath, Jill Wegner, Sharon O'Brien (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)

**Park Commissioners absent:** Trustee Joe Bidwill, Sarah Lobdell

**Also present:** Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs, Library Director Nancy Krei, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh, Louis Moravecsek, Public Works Director Craig Workman

**Approval of Minutes**

Sammons/Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meetings held April 19, 2006 and May 17, 2006 as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

None

**Announcements**

Treptow announced that longtime Village of Fontana official Robert Sandy passed away on Monday, June 19, 2006, and the Park Commission expressed its sympathy to his family. Wegner announced that on June 21, 2006 Van Slyke Creek was electro-shocked in order to conduct the required fish survey for the Trout Unlimited project. Wegner stated that she will report the survey findings at a future meeting of the Park Commission.

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

Treptow reported that the Park House was used 17 times in May 2006.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Financial Report as of May 31, 2006 was distributed.

**Old Business**

**Wayfinding Signs**

Treptow stated that Timber Line is working on the sample sign and it should be ready by the end of the week.

**Landmark Trees Application**

Treptow distributed the application forms for Landmark Tree nominations. The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Champion Tree Nomination Form was used as a model. The Park Commissioners were directed to review the Village application for possible additions or corrections.

**Parks Organizational Status**

With the recent resignation of Susan Geye, Treptow stated that Park Commissioners were needed to serve on the signs subcommittee and the landscaping subcommittee. Following discussion, it was determined that Sammons will fill the position on the signs subcommittee with O'Brien. Horvath will fill the position on the landscaping subcommittee with Larson and O'Brien. Other subcommittees remain the same with Lobdell on Duck Pond, Sammons, historical, and Wegner, streams.

### **Parks Projects/Completion Dates**

Workman stated that Magill Construction has commenced work on the new restroom and pavilion in Reid Park. Since the original construction schedule called for the building to be completed by the middle of June, the project is obviously behind schedule. The new project completion target date is August 18, 2006. Workman stated that the main lift station is almost complete and the construction equipment is being removed from the park. Once all the equipment is removed, the site will be leveled and grass seed planted. Workman stated that the area around the Gazebo is complete and the grass has grown in. Treptow stated that the Gazebo area and the new beach house both look great. Workman stated that the beach house will look even better when the wood work is completed on the exterior. The beach house construction project completion target date is July 17, 2006. Workman stated that the Highway 67 construction project is going well. Curb and gutter has been laid in the phase one area, and blacktopping work began this week. The intersections are the last items that will be constructed in the phase one area during this segment of construction. Median and terrace work will commence after the initial construction work in the phase two area is completed in November. Workman stated that a contractor hired by John Tracy has commenced construction on the new wing to the pavilion at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. The wing should be completed by the middle of summer. Workman stated that the contractor is working with Big Foot Recreation Director Keith Graunke to make sure summer activities are not disrupted during construction.

### **Park Walks – Date Change of July 11, 5:30 pm, Hildebrand and Headwaters**

Treptow stated that because of schedule conflicts, the walking tour of the Hildebrand Conservancy and Headwaters Park has been rescheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2006, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Participants will meet in the parking lot at Fontana Elementary School. Sammons stated that she can not attend the event because of a previously scheduled commitment, and she requested that one of the other commissioners take pictures at the event.

### **Shorepath/Boat Launch Study**

Treptow stated that a joint workshop meeting was held with the Lakefront and Harbor Committee and it was determined that a list should be drafted to outline the items that need to be further studied. Treptow requested that the Park Commissioners take a tour of the shorepath, especially the area located north of the Village boat launch. In a related matter, Treptow stated that some of the Park Commissioners planted flowers earlier in the day in the boat launch area.

### **Pioneer Park Crab Trees – Final Action**

Treptow distributed the report submitted May 17, 2006 by Wachtel Tree Science and Service with regard to the three crab trees that were hacked up by non-professional tree trimmers hired by John O'Neill. Two of the trees will die because of the shoddy trimming, and a third most likely will die, according to the report. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Park Commission that all three of the trees that were damaged should be replaced at this time.

O'Brien/Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to have the three damaged crab trees in Pioneer Park replaced, to follow the fertilization, treatment and care recommendations delineated in the Wachtel report dated May 17, 2006, and to bill John O'Neill approximately \$1,900 toward the total project cost. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Hildebrand Entrance – Final Plan**

McHugh stated that he wanted to present to the Park Commission the amended layout of the landscaping plan for the entrance area at the Hildebrand Conservancy and the Park Commissioners needed to provide direction regarding what size granite should be used for the pedestrian path. The plan was amended to address the modifications made by the Park Commission at its May 17, 2006 meeting. Prairie Tree has been contracted to complete the project, and the plans are to begin on the granite path next week. The Department of Public Works will place in the entrance area the checkerboard game table and the four accompanying chairs that were formerly located in Pioneer Park. A large rock also is needed to mount the Mill House plaque. The Park Commission was in consensus that quarter-inch rustic granite should be the material used for the path and final approval was given for this project noting that rock work is required around the base of the park sign as well as the large rock with plaque.

### **Unapproved Tree Removal – Final Action**

The property owner, Louis Moravec, obtained a Tree Removal permit after he had a dead tree cut down on

his property at 473 Hillcrest Drive. The tree has been replaced with a 6-foot Douglas Fir. Documentation was submitted by Moravecek that verifies the tree was dead, a permit was filed for and issued after the fact, and the replacement Douglas Fir tree has been planted. O'Brien stated that she felt the whole situation was simply a very sad comedy of errors by the tree trimming company and the property owners, who did not realize the Village has a Tree Ordinance and a permit was required. O'Brien stated that Moravecek should not be fined; however, he should pay the \$50 fee for the cost of a Tree Removal Permit for a live tree. Treptow stated that if the Park Commission approved a motion to waive the \$1,100 penalty fee, the Park Commission could be setting a precedent with regard to the newly adopted Tree Ordinance, but each case should be taken on a "case-by-case" basis, each receiving individual handling and attention. Treptow stated that the situation was similar to when applicants have to pay double fees if they do not acquire a building permit before projects are commenced.

O'Brien/Horvath 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to waive the penalty fee for Louis Moravecek and charge him a \$50 fee for the Tree Permit that was issued, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **New Business**

#### **Landscape Plans for Mill House Pavilion, Village Hall Parking Lot and Wild Duck Road**

McHugh presented the landscaping plans for the Mill House Pavilion, Village Hall parking lot and Wild Duck Road. The Park Commission requested that McHugh investigate the feasibility of laying the pier footings for the new Mill House Pavilion so that they could possibly be used in the future to support a roof or pergola over part of or the entire observation deck area. McHugh stated that the Village Hall parking lot and Wild Duck Road plans are being moved forward at this time to coordinate the construction by Mann Brothers with the ongoing Highway 67 project. After the pedestrian path is installed along Duck Pond Road, it will be landscaped.

Larson/Sammons 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the landscaping plans for the Mill House Pavilion, Village Hall Parking Lot and Wild Duck Road as presented with the conditions that the possibility of adding a roof to the Hill House Pavilion is looked into and that a kiosk is added for the historical marker, and that the locust tree in the Village Hall parking is replaced, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Village/Highway 67 Street Signs**

The Park Commissioners favorably reviewed the proposed sign colors, font and point size; however, following discussion it was determined that the "Fontana" located above the street name should be removed and the area left blank.

O'Brien/Wegner 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the street sign proposal as presented, with the condition that "Fontana" is removed from the upper area of the sign, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Bills to Pay**

Treptow stated that bills were received for the flowers that were sent to former Park Commissioner Rallee Whowell-Chupich, \$54; for the elementary school garlic mustard pulling event, \$31; for the final fen project payment from Agrecol, \$3,472; and for JT Landscaping, \$25.

Sammons/Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the payment of the bills as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Park Requests**

Following discussion, the Park Commission voted to approve the park permit requests as presented, with two of the fees waived. Permits were approved for the Life Fitness events on July 6 and 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m., 60 people each day at Reid Park, and on July 7, from noon to 5:00 p.m., 120 people at the Duck Pond for a softball event; for Big Foot Recreation to use the Park House on July 24 through 27 and July 31, and August 3 and 8, starting at 11:30 a.m.; for Karl Johannesen to use the Gazebo for a wedding on August 19, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; for Williams Bay High School to use the Gazebo for its annual Prom Court coronation ceremony on May 19, 2007, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; and for the McNally family reunion to use the Reid Park baseball diamond and Gazebo on July 22, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

O'Brien/Larson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the park permit applications as presented, with the fees waived for the Big Foot Recreation and Williams Bay High School permits as requested, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

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

Prior to adjournment, Larson asked why the Highway 67 landscaping plan tree substitution list that was distributed with

the other meeting materials was not discussed. Treptow stated that it was inadvertently left off the agenda and asked McHugh to present the information. McHugh reported that as a result of moving some of the Highway 67 street trees back from the roadway in order to accommodate the Geo-Foam located underground, certain trees are now going to have to be planted in locations with damp soil. The landscape architect hired by the Village has advised that English Oak trees do not fare well in wet soil, so substitute species were recommended. Following a meeting with representatives of the Park Commission and the landscape architect, Brad Drefcinski, the list of possible substitutes was narrowed to Shingle Oak, Skyline Locust and Swamp White Oak, because of their characteristics that allow them to grow in wet or dry soil conditions. Following discussion, the Park Commissioners were in consensus that they do not want Swamp White Oak trees in the area, and they should be replaced. Katsura trees were recommended, four on each side of the road south of the Fontana Boulevard intersection. Shingle Oak would be another alternative, though.

**Pending Park Commission Items for Future Agendas**

1. Van Slyke Restoration Project
2. Chuck's Landscaping Issues
3. Bird and Bat Houses
4. Landmark Tree List
5. Frisbee Golf at Duck Pond

**Adjournment**

Horvath/Sammons 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by Dennis Martin, Village Clerk

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: 07/19/06