

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN
(Official Minutes)
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Park Commission Chairman Rick Pappas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Trustee Rick Pappas, Mary Green (arrived at 6:01 pm), Laura Coates, Sarah Lobdell, Lynne Frost

Park Commissioners absent: Gail Hibbard, Sandra Hibbard

Also present: Director of Streets Ron Adams, Merilee Holst, Clerk Theresa Linneman, Administrator Dennis Martin

Approval of Minutes

Sarah Lobdell/Laura Coates 2nd made a MOTION to approve the meeting minutes for June 18, 2014, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Martin stated Big Foot Recreation District Director Chuck Thiesenhusen was not able to attend the meeting so he submitted an emailed message that provides attendance totals for the Movies on the Beach summer program. The attendance totals for the Lego Movie, Frozen, and The Hunger Games – Catching Fire was 286, 107 and 117, respectively. Thiesenhusen stated that it was raining the night Frozen aired and while The Hunger Games had lower attendance than normal, he pointed out that it attracted a teen audience that normally does not attend the children's movies.

Announcements

None

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was used twice in June for Big Foot Recreation District programs.

Treasurer's Report

Lobdell presented the treasurer's report as of June 31, 2014.

Plan Commission Report

The Plan Commission met on Monday, June 30, 2014, and held three Public Hearings for a Petition to Amend Zoning Code Filed by Abbey Villas Condominium Association to Amend Section 18-40 II, a Petition to Amend Zoning Code Filed by Abbey Ridge Condominium Association to Amend Section 18-40 III, and a Petition to Amend Zoning Code Filed by Village of Fontana for Proposed Zoning Code Amendment to Chapter 18, Article VIII, Floodplain Zoning Ordinance. All three zoning amendments were recommended for approval by the Plan Commission, and on July 7, 2014, the Village Board voted unanimously to pass the ordinance amendments.

Public Works Report & Park Commission Maintenance List

The updated maintenance list was distributed. Street Director Ron Adams stated the renovated lighthouse by Little Foot Playground in Reid Park has been wired and the light is now installed and working. The special mulch has been delivered and spread at Little Foot Playground and at the Duck Pond Recreation Area playground; and the garlic mustard has been weeded and volunteers have helped clear out brush at the native prairie restoration area. The brush has also been cut back at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. Adams and Administrator Dennis Martin stated all Mill House Pavilion projects are now complete with the recent erecting of the memorial plaque for architect David Coates and project coordinator Ron Pollitt. A dedication ceremony will be planned to recognize both gentlemen for their efforts in constructing the pavilion located across the street from

Fontana Elementary School.

Old Business

Fontana Fen Management Plan Approved April 8, 2013

Martin stated the Fontana Fen Management Plan, which was originally approved April 8, 2013, has been waiting for final approval from Village Attorney Dale Thorpe. The Management Plan was brought up at the July 7, 2014, Village Board meeting and Attorney Thorpe stated he would have it reviewed by the next Park Commission meeting so the plan can be recorded and executed. Martin stated nothing has been received yet from Attorney Thorpe's office. Merilee Holst stated she was not speaking on behalf of the Geneva Lake Conservancy, but as a concerned citizen and taxpayer. Holst stated having to wait so long to get the Fen Management Plan approved is unacceptable and is not a good use of taxpayer dollars for legal fees. Holst stated the a similar plan approved by Walworth County for a new park took less than 90 days from the time it was first discussed and the time it was executed and recorded, and she stated the legal services that the taxpayers are funding for the Village of Fontana are not efficient.

Mohr Road Park Review

The overall consensus between Park Commission members was that Mohr Road Park looks great. Martin added that former Park Commission Chairman Cindy Wilson also mentioned she thought the park looks very nice. Frost stated she visited Mohr Park earlier in the day and was really impressed with what she saw and the landscaping is very well done. She brought copies of three pictures she took while at Mohr Road Park and shared them with the other members. Pappas asked Adams if the white stakes that block the private driveway entrance could be painted green or brown to help them blend in with the landscape. Adams agreed but stated they would not be as visible to drivers. Pappas also suggested a sign with an arrow and the caption "Lakefront Path" or "Shore Path," should be created and erected at the park entrance.

Park Budget Review and Planning for Donated Funds

Martin distributed budget information from last year, which included some "wish list" items for the future. Martin stated that the Pirate Ship in Little Foot Playground was paid off last year and the Park Commission will now have to make plans for the donated funds that will be presented to the Park Commission from the Big Foot Lions Club Lobster Boil & Steak Fry and from the Pig in the Park fund-raising pig roast. Martin asked the members to think about what might be a good use. A preliminary discussion ensued regarding possible uses of the money and whether the donated funds should just be saved and carried over. The topic will be revisited during the upcoming 2015 budget planning meetings.

New Business

Removal of Three Crab Trees by Reid Park Pavilion/Restrooms

Martin stated the Big Foot Lions Club requested that the Village dig up and transplant three crab trees from the area by the Reid Park Restrooms/Pavilion building to create more serving space for the annual lobster boil event. The DPW crew will attempt to have the trees replanted; however, if they do not survive, the trees will be replaced by the Lion Club and planted on other parkland. Chairman Pappas/Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to authorize the DPW crew to remove the three crab trees from Reid Park as proposed, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Temporary Event Signage on Beach Fence Approval Procedures Review

Pappas stated last weekend he observed five signs on the Fontana beach fence and the number of signs are slowly creeping upward. The Chapter 18 Zoning ordinance section that governs temporary signage proposals states signs must be approved upon application by the Zoning Administrator. Martin stated according to the section, non-profit groups are allowed one sign per event to be erected on the beach fence. Some groups have been putting up signs on each end of the beach. Following discussion, staff was directed to monitor the signage on the beach fence to ensure only one sign is being erected per event for the remainder of the summer.

Park Permit Application Filed by Steven Knuth, Reid Park Gazebo, October 11, 2014

A park permit application was submitted by Steven Knuth to use the Reid Park Gazebo on October

11, 2014, as a starting point and registration location for his inaugural event titled, "Hump For Heroes," a 10-mile hike organized by a non-profit group which honors and supports wounded and fallen Special Operations Marines and their families.

Lobdell/Green 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board Approval of the Reid Park Permit application filed by Steven Knuth for Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 7:00 am to Noon, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Frost stated the Village Launch Ramp Porta-Potty in Pioneer Park should be maintained better than it is currently and asked whose responsibility it is. Martin stated the contract is with PATS Services, Inc. and the agreement is PATS cleans and empties the Porta-Potty once per week. Discussion took place on possible solutions to keep the facility clean between service calls. Some ideas mentioned were having the launch staff perform general cleaning, locking it at night using a lock or something as simple as a zip tie and having the launch staff cut it off in the morning, having PATS empty it on a different day of the week other than Wednesday, possibly more frequently, or the possibility of having it emptied on an as-needed basis determined by the launch staff. The two main issues were defined as general cleaning and how often it should be emptied. Martin stated he would look into the contract with PATS and how it could be adjusted. Frost stated the boulders at the beach have become overgrown with weeds and need to be better maintained as they are often a tourist destination for photos, especially for weddings. Adams stated he believed the maintenance contract with Blackstone should cover the boulder wall. Martin stated he would review the Blackstone contract to find out whether that area is listed under the maintenance agreement.

Adjournment

Lobdell/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m., 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: 08/20/2014