

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
(Official Minutes)  
MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION  
August 20, 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, Laura Coates, Sarah Lobdell, Lynne Frost, Gail Hibbard

**Park Commissioner absent:** Sandra Hibbard

**Also present:** Director of Streets Ron Adams, Jade Bolack, Merilee Holst, Nancy Krei, Clerk Theresa Linneman, Administrator Dennis Martin, Bill Turner

**Approval of Minutes**

Sarah Lobdell/Mary Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the meeting minutes for July 23, 2014, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

None

**Announcements**

Martin stated that the Pig in the Park fundraiser is coming up next Saturday, August 30, 2014, at 3:00 pm. He asked Commissioner Green if she needs any additional volunteers or if she's all set. Green stated they can always use more volunteers, especially for the later shift. Martin added the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy annual GLC monitoring event is scheduled for September 4, 2014, at 9:00 am, but is dependent on good weather. Martin stated he included it with the announcements in case anyone was interested in going along on the walking tour.

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

The Park House was used three times in July 2014.

**Treasurer's Report**

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

**Plan Commission Report**

Martin stated the Village has published the final ordinances which were approved at the June 30, 2014, Plan Commission meeting and at the July 7, 2014, Village Board meeting on the Tourist Rooming House amendments and the FEMA Floodplain Ordinance update. Martin said the Plan Commission will likely need to meet in the near future to consider a potential zoning amendment and petition to combine the two lots at 268 Reed Street and the adjacent lot at 264 Third Street, which were recently acquired by developer John Tracy under a contract to purchase.

**Public Works Report & Park Commission Maintenance List**

Adams said he spoke with Brushfire Signs and the Mohr Road Park directional sign has been ordered. The driveway stakes on Mohr Road have been painted a forest green to better blend in with the area. Adams stated he was at Headwaters Park about three weeks ago and found an area that was filled with debris from storm water. Adams stated he would like to have it dug out and restored.

**Old Business**

**Park Commission Budget Review and Planning**

Martin said he would like to schedule a short meeting with Pappas and Lobdell and the village treasurer to discuss the 2014 budget year-to-date figures in order to prepare for the 2015 budget.

### **Dead Trees on Village Property**

Adams stated he is having a hard time keeping up with pruning the trees because as soon as he is done with one area, there is another area that needs attention. Adams stated there is a cluster of four dead oak trees off Wild Duck Road that need to come down. He said he must wait until fall to take them down due to the risk of Oak Wilt. Pappas stated there are three dying crab trees on the southeast corner of the beach. Adams stated he is aware of them and they are on their way out as well. Lobdell stated the Village should be keeping a record of the trees planted and the trees removed for the annual Arbor Day Foundation "Tree City" recertification application.

### **New Business**

#### **Park and Open Space Plan Update Proposal Submitted by Vandewalle and Associates**

Martin stated the current Village of Fontana Park and Open Space Plan that was drafted by Vandewalle & Associates in 2010 extends through the end of 2015. Village Planner Mike Slavney submitted a proposal to update the plan for five more years, per the statutory requirements. Included with the letter was a cost breakdown of the proposal. The offer included several different planning routes, part of which include public participation, and the incorporation of a bike route map and other recommendations. Martin stated it is time to start thinking about the direction the Village wants to go so it can be included in next year's budget. Lobdell asked if some of the technical items can be completed by the Park Commission in order to save some expenses; however, Martin stated the technical requirements for the plan compelled the village to contract with Vandewalle in 2010. Martin stated that he will get cost estimates from other planning firms in the state to be sure the proposal submitted by Slavney is in line.

#### **Oak Savanna Volunteer Group Proposal for Native Areas Maintenance Plan**

Commissioner Gail Hibbard stated she wanted to give a little background on the volunteer group that she has organized to perform the annual tasks at the Oak Savanna and Native Prairie Restoration Area and a new initiative. Hibbard stated she received a call from former Village President, Trustee and CDA Director Bill Turner with regard to a maintenance and publicity plan for all the native land parcels owned by the Village. Hibbard stated she sometimes has difficulty getting a good turnout of volunteers to assist with all the work in the native areas. Many times, planned volunteer outings have resulted with only the Park Commission members and their families showing up. Hibbard stated there are so many native things unique to this area that if kept up, would help attract visitors and provide tourists with other recreational opportunities. Turner stated that the Park Commission contracted advisor Tom Vanderpoel who has been a good resource so far, but there is so much more to be done. Turner stated that while Hibbard has put a lot of time and effort into trying to lead volunteers, things need to be formalized in order to take the efforts to the next level. Turner recommended the Park Commission create a subcommittee which could develop a plan and an annual budget that can be brought back to the Park Commission and ultimately approved by the Village Board. Turner stated the group could create a publicity brochure that could include a map of the areas along with descriptions and pictures of the native species. Hibbard stated she would like to get the local 4-H, FFA, and Boy Scouts groups and Vanderpoel involved. She said she has already heard from 10 FFA students who are interested in helping. Hibbard stated that the work periods could obviously not be mid-day during the week when the kids are in school; they would have to be scheduled on a weekend, and it is currently outlined for once a month on Saturdays from 9am – noon, with lunch to follow. Turner stated the goal is to raise the current ratings of the native areas over a five-year period. He stated public works is doing a great job working with the Park Commission on all the parks, but they have other responsibilities to tend to and a formal plan to help administer the volunteer efforts should be pursued. Martin stated this is good timing for the proposal as it coincides with budget planning. He said he also agrees with creating brochures with maps because he has had people ask for maps. Merilee Holst asked whether this plan should be a function of government or volunteer work. She stated other nearby municipalities have Friends of the Park groups that are basically responsible for doing the same type of maintenance. Holst stated there is no accountability if this is done as a function of government. Holst asked if the group does not do as promised, how will it be held accountable, and is this plan appropriate for the Fontana government to handle? Frost agreed with Holst and stated the Garden Club went to the Friends of the Park with a similar request and things fell apart and never got done. Turner stated the group could be held accountable by writing reports and giving status updates, and that the annual budgets would be

reviewed by the Park Commission and approved by the Village Board. Holst stated it should be a responsibility of the citizens and not of the government body. Pappas stated the proposal is being used as a starting point and as a publicity effort to get the word out. Martin stated there is a Friends of the Fontana Parks group but he is not sure if it is still active. Former Park Commissioners Rick Treptow and Sharon O'Brien used to be officers of the group, but Martin stated that he is not sure what the current status is of the group. Lobdell stated the land listed in the plan is all village property and the money allocated for the parks ultimately comes down to what is appropriated by the Village Board and Finance Committee and what is deemed by the Park Commission members as the most important items.

Lobdell/Coates 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to endorse and move forward with the five-year plan to Restore and Develop Native Environments, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Park Permit Applications Filed by MPC for Company Picnic June 13, 2015: Geneva Lake United Soccer Club Picnic, Duck Pond Pavilion, Oct. 4, 2014**

Martin stated MPC, Inc. submitted an application for their annual company picnic on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Adams stated he has been providing a dumpster in past years for the MPC picnic because of the number of people who attend the event, but this year there was no dumpster available until after the event and trash was left piled up at the corner of the building. Martin stated that one way to address the concerns of the added Village expenses for the company picnic would to charge the applicant for having a dumpster made available from the Village's garbage contractor; or MPC could provide their own dumpster. Martin recommended including a cost recovery agreement for any miscellaneous expenses incurred for events that require extra village services.

Pappas/Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to reserve the date and to TABLE the application filed by MPC, Inc., until input is provided by the applicant, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Martin stated Geneva Lake United Soccer Club filed an application for the Duck Pond Pavilion with a Beer/Wine permit for a picnic. The club requested the fee to be waived due to the group being non-profit. Pappas asked if the Village should be waiving the fee for any non-profit group that wants to use the park, or if it should be reserved for non-profits that are raising money. Martin stated in the past the waiver of the application fee has been determined on a case-by-case basis.

Gail Hibbard/Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Park Permit application for the Duck Pond Pavilion with a Beer/Wine consumption permit as filed by the Geneva Lake United Soccer Club for Saturday, October 4, 2014, with the application fee waived as requested. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Adjournment**

Lobdell/Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 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:** 9/17/2014