

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE

Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:00 pm on August 23, 2017 by Chairman Rick Pappas.

Committee Members Present: Trustee Rick Pappas, Ed Snyder, Joel Bikowski, Bob Chanson, Lee Eakright (arrived at 4:25 pm), Don Holst, Steve Beers (arrived at 4:09 pm)

Also Present: Clerk Theresa Loomer, Administrator Dennis Martin

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Approval of Minutes for Meeting Held July 26, 2017

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes from July 26, 2017, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Chapter 54 Ordinance Rewrite Subcommittee Update

Snyder stated that the subcommittee will provide an update on the Chapter 54 Ordinance amendments at the next monthly meeting.

Boat Trailer Parking Review

Martin stated there will be additional signage posted on the streets where boat trailers are not allowed to be parked, as listed in the Village Municipal Code, as not all of the areas have physical signage posted to warn motorists of the restriction. Martin stated that there was also some early season confusion with the requirement that parking is only allowed for empty boat trailers that are attached to automobiles in the village's boat trailer parking lot, and the Municipal Code is being reviewed by Police Chief Jeff Cates to make sure it is enforceable.

Geneva Lake Channel Markers and Slow/No Wake Buoys

The Village has received concerns from the Country Club Estates Association Board of Directors that boaters are going too fast through the channel and through the no-wake zone entering Fontana Bay from the Abbey Harbor, and have requested additional Slow/No Wake buoys. Pappas proposed installing an additional Slow/No Wake buoy south of the current buoy closest to the channel, in line with the furthest out Slow/No Wake buoys in front of the municipal beach and the Chuck's and Gordy's mooring areas. Pappas stated that with the removal of the Village mooring buoys, many boaters are speeding up as soon as they pass the last channel buoy and an additional slow/no-wake buoy should be installed next season. There was discussion on the boaters who are driving too fast through the no-wake zone also being an enforcement issue with the Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency, and the Village staff will continue to request that the GLLEA officers step up enforcement efforts. Martin stated that the Village pier contractor, Austin Pier Service, will install the additional channel marker and slow.no-wake buoy at the required distances from the current buoys and piers. The committee members also indicated that the CCE or Glenwood Springs associations are welcome to have installed another Slow/No Wake buoy on their side of the channel.

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the proposal to install an additional channel marker and slow/no-wake buoy out in Fontana Bay in line with the furthest out Slow/No Wake buoys in front of the municipal beach and the Chuck's and Gordy's mooring areas, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Review Revenue and Expenses for Lakefront Facilities

In 2016 the total Lakefront expenses including parking facilities, parks, beaches and launch was a total of \$196,354. The total revenue from parking meters, parking stickers, parking fines, beach revenue, park fees and the boat launch was \$424,496. The total profit was \$228,142. Chanson stated the total tax revenue collected by the Village in 2016 was \$3,500,000, making the lakefront revenue negligible compared to what Village residents and property owners pay in taxes.

2018 Beach Rates Recommendation & Fourth of July Revenue Ideas

Chanson stated that the Village needs to start worrying more about the property-tax-paying home owners and residents rather than about providing beach and park opportunities for non-residents. Chanson stated that all the lakefront parking stalls are filled by out of town visitors and residents have to fight to enjoy the beach or get to their boat slips and ramps at the Reid Park lakefront in the summer. Chanson stated that most property owners would gladly pay more taxes to make up for the insignificant amount of revenue generated from the Village launch, parking and beach operations. In order to encourage the visitors to find recreational opportunities in their own municipalities or somewhere other than Fontana, Chanson suggested raising daily beach rates and season beach pass rates for non-residents. The beach is staffed and open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. The current daily rates are \$4 per day for children ages 6 to 11, \$8 per day for ages 12 and older, and free children age five and younger. A season pass for a non-resident is \$80 and for a season pass for a Big Foot High School resident it is \$40. When asked why there is a discount for Big Foot High School District residents when they do not pay property taxes to Fontana, Martin said that's the way it has always been because Fontana and it is part of the joint high school district as well as the Big Foot Recreation District. Martin stated that Big Foot Recreation summer swim lessons are held at the beach and often times the children and parents want to stay after the swim lessons. Martin said that historically the season pass rates at the beach and the launch ramp have been 10 times the daily rates. Residents and property owners can purchase up to 12 beach tags per tax parcel that are valid for the entire season; the first six beach tags are \$4 each and the additional six beach tags are \$8 each. The committee agreed to recommend raising the resident season beach tag rate to \$5 each for the first six and \$10 each for up to an additional six beach tags. Children five years old and younger remain free of charge. For non-residents, the committee recommended the season pass rate be increased to \$100 each for children and adults regardless of residency in the Big Foot High School District. The daily admission rate was proposed to increase to \$5 per day for a child age 6-11 and \$10 per day for ages 12 and older.

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval to increase the season beach pass resident rate to \$5 for the first six passes and \$10 for the next six passes; increase the non-resident season beach pass rate for adults and children to \$100 each and eliminate the rate for the Big Foot High School residents; and increase the daily beach admission rate to \$5 for a child age 6-11 and \$10 per day for an adult age 12 and older, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Parking and F Sticker Rates

Chanson stated that every weekend in Fontana the streets near the lakefront are lined with vehicles like it is the 4th of July and asked whether the Village is catering to its residents and taxpayers or visitors from out of town. He presented revenues earned from Village taxes versus what is earned from parking and beach facilities, which only equates to 6 percent of total revenue. He stated he would rather pay additional taxes to the Village than fight with out of town visitors to get a decent parking spot. It was reported that Lake Geneva recently raised its hourly parking rate from \$1 to \$2 and it does not seem to have affected the amount of tourism or visitors in that area. There was discussion on whether to raise parking rates and by how much, whether resident F-sticker rates should be raised, and if there should be metered parking stalls re-designated for F-sticker only parking. Pappas stated that if hourly parking rates are raised, the committee should also consider raising the F-sticker rates to be consistent. The committee members discussed raising the parking rates anywhere from \$1 an hour up to \$2- to \$5-per-hour depending on whether it was a weekend or holiday, but decided against recommending an increase for the F-sticker rates at this time. Pappas stated he is concerned that drastically raising the lakefront parking lot rates will encourage more parking on side streets. Chanson insisted that additional F-sticker only parking spots should be added

near the lakefront in the main lot. Snyder suggested designating the smaller lot on the west side of Fontana Boulevard adjacent to the Abbey Harbor for F-sticker parking only as anyone with an F sticker can already park in any of the other lots or numbered street stalls. Committee members discussed which lot and how many spots should be designated as F-Sticker parking only and ultimately decided it should be the spots closest to the lakefront in the main lot.

Chanson/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval to designate 50 parking stalls in the main lakefront lot for F-Sticker only parking, commencing with the furthest east front row stalls located adjacent to the Lake Geneva Marina parking area, with the rest of the 50 stalls designated from the second row, and the MOTION carried on a 5-1 vote with Holst opposed and Eakright not yet at the meeting.

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval to raise parking rates to \$2 per hour on Monday through Thursday, and \$5 per hour Friday through Sunday and on Holidays from April 15 to October 15, and to recommend that the Protection Committee review the parking citation fines, and the MOTION carried on a 5-1 vote with Trustee Pappas opposed and Eakright not yet at the meeting.

2018 Mooring Lease Letters Update

As directed last year, staff has the 2018 mooring lease renewal letters ready to be mailed out on September 1st with a \$500 deposit due by October 15th. The full payment will be due by January 31st. If either of the payments are not made, the lease renewal will be revoked and the slip will be filled from the waiting list. If people on the waiting list do not take the slip when their name comes up, they will be removed from the list.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2017 beginning at 4:00 pm

Adjournment

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Theresa Loomer, Village Clerk

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

APPROVED: 10/25/17