

**VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**(Official Minutes)**

**Park Commission Monthly Meeting**

September 21, 2016

The Park Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Whowell at 5:04 pm on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

**Members Present:** Trustee Whowell, Gail Hibbard (arrived at 5:52 pm), Trustee Livingston, Mary Green, Sarah Lobdell

**Member absent:** Sandra Hibbard

**Also Present:** Clerk Theresa Loomer, Mike Mackey, Sandy Mackey, Administrator Dennis Martin, DPW Manager Brett McCollum

**Approval of Minutes May 19, 2016**

Lobdell/Trustee Livingston 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted for the July 20, 2016 meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

None

**Announcements**

None

**General Business**

**Park House Use**

The Park House was used two times in July and August, 2016.

**Treasurer's Report**

Lobdell reported there is currently \$25,618.53 in the Park Commission Fund.

**Public Works Report**

The retaining wall next to the library has been resurfaced. McCollum said that Headwaters Park was cleaned out on the west side and mowed on the east side. There was discussion regarding the walking paths and Bill Turner's idea to have a local map that show paths and distances of the trails and walking paths. Lobdell stated the idea was previously discussed with the Fontana Elementary School to connect the loop from Headwaters Park to the path that currently goes through Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, but the idea was turned down because the previous school administration did not want the path to go through school property; however, there is new administration and she stated she was willing to discuss the idea with school staff again.

**Old Business & Pet Projects**

**Natural Area Grounds Management Plan and Manager Proposal**

Turner suggested creating a natural area grounds management plan and hiring a manager for the plan at last month's Park Commission meeting. Whowell said that what is needed is someone to take responsibility for the areas and between the DPW employees and Blackstone, they have found the time to stay on top of the natural areas. Martin stated he had a conversation with Judge Jensen who is willing to issue a community service sentence to minor cases instead of a financial penalty and those hours could be used to pull garlic mustard or other required maintenance duties as directed by McCollum, or Tom Vanderpoel or Roy Diblik.

**Update on Signage Proposal for Mohr Road Park & South Lakeshore Drive**

Martin said that because of a residential construction project on the Michael O'Halleran property, road construction work has been delayed to next spring. He said he does not want to reconstruct the road this fall only to have it damaged by large trucks, but the new directional sign on South Lakeshore Drive will be part of the overall plan to commence in spring 2017.

### **Shabbona Pedestrian Path Split-Fence Proposal Update**

The split-fence on Shabbona Drive has been completed. Commissioners stated the fence looks nice and calls attention to the area letting people know there is a path there.

### **Commemorative Recognition Ideas to Honor Village Volunteers**

A large rock has been picked as the base of a recognition plaque and is currently at Porter Court Plaza. Lobdell and Gail Hibbard have been working on a plaque to go on the rock dedicated to Roy Diblik. Gail Hibbard stated she has been in contact with Brushfire regarding the plaque and just needs to decide on the size and wording. Martin suggested continuing plans to have a recognition wall in Sam's Garden behind the library to honor other volunteers.

Trustee Whowell/Trustee Livingston 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the creation and purchase of a plaque for the rock in Porter Court Plaza to recognize Roy Diblik, at Gail Hibbard's discretion, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Any Other Comments/Concerns**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Josh Skolnick Invoice**

The invoice from Josh Skolnick has been paid. Whowell stated he saw Tallgrass Restoration Outfitter located near Edgerton which also works on natural areas which could be considered for possible service in the future. Martin said services at the Fen are in the budget for budgeted service items. Park Commission member Sandra Hibbard was unable to make the meeting but sent an email earlier in the day asking whether the demonstration beds should be kept or taken out at the Fen. Martin suggested renovating the demonstration areas into spots for the placement of picnic tables.

#### **Reid Park Backstop and Sideline Fence Proposal**

A \$4,700 proposal was received from B&M Fence to install 40-linear feet of new 9-gauge galvanized meshing on existing 12-foot high backstop and existing overhang at the Reid Park ball diamond. The quote includes existing posts and rails to be dug up and straightened out and sideline fencing to be straightened and cleaned. There was discussion on whether the fence could be rehabbed and whether it should remain grey or be painted. The committee suggested reusing as much of the existing material as possible.

#### **Consider New Park Commission Member**

Gail Hibbard recommended Jill Wegner who is retiring from her fulltime job this month. Gail Hibbard stated Wegner did not directly ask to be a Park Commission member but she did express interest in the position, which she formerly held.

Trustee Whowell/Trustee Livingston 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval to appoint Jill Wegner to the open Park Commission spot conditional to Wegner's approval, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Park Permit Application Filed by Julie Robers for MPC, Inc. Company Picnic on June 17, 2017**

Next year will be the 4<sup>th</sup> annual company picnic sponsored by MPC at the Duck Pond Recreation Area and Pavilion. There have been no concerns in the past and MPC has covered the additional expense for having a dumpster moved over by the pavilion for clean-up.

Trustee Livingston/Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Park Permit application filed by MPC, Inc., Walworth, for the Duck Pond Recreation

Area and Pavilion, with a beer and wine consumption permit, for Saturday, June 17, 2017. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Memorial Tree Donation Request – Sandy Mackey**

Two options for tree placement were offered, either by the surfer statute in the triangle area near the beach or in Pioneer Park. Mackey stated they were okay with either location and would like the option to pick a tree that has a good chance of survival for the area. Martin said he would consult with the village landscapers to find out which trees would be appropriate and would contact her with a list to choose from. The Mackey's stated they participated in the same program in Delavan but the tree is now deceased. They have the cemented plaque that was buried next to the Delavan tree and offered to bring it in to provide an idea of what could be used to identify the trees. Martin stated that the memorial trees used to have plaques located on rocks at the base of the tree, but most ended up lost or stolen. Mackey said her sister lives in Fontana and they would like to be contacted with the installation date so they can be present for the tree planting.

Trustee Livingston/Lobdell 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval for the Memorial Tree donation from Sandy Mackey in the triangle area near the beach, with the tree species to be determined by staff, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Memorial Tree Donation Request – Courtney Dudek**

An application was submitted by Courtney Dudek for a Red Maple memorial tree. No location was provided on the application and Martin said he would call to discuss the options.

Lobdell/Trustee Livingston 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to direct the village administrator to contact Courtney Dudek to provide a list of available locations, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**2017 Budget Planning**

There is \$20,000 currently in the 2015 budget for the Pioneer Park bathroom project. The sand volleyball court at Duck Pond for \$5,000 was pulled for last year's budget and the commissioners thought it should be included in this year's budget request as it would make a nice addition to the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Last year's budget for landscaping and green space maintenance was \$50,000 but after the dismissal Elite Lawn Care service which was the low bidder last year, Blackstone took over and their quote is \$59,495 for next year. The commissioners decided it is worth keeping Blackstone for at least another year since there is not much time to put out an RFP and Blackstone is familiar with the Village and how the system works. Roy Diblik from Northwind Perennial Farm submitted a quote last year for \$17,000 for maintenance of the medians and Blackstone submitted a quote for 2016 for the same work for \$10,000. Diblik used to purchase a large amount of ground leaf mulch from the Village which offset the high cost, but in 2016 he did not purchase mulch from the Village. There is still \$10,000 in this year's budget for tree replacement and \$6,000 for tree trimming. Installing fencing for the two softball fields at Duck Pond was added to the Long-Term & Potential Park Commission Budget Items list and also the idea of having scoreboard signs donated. Martin suggested starting a sinking fund for playground equipment in Reid Park because it will need to start being replaced in a few years. A donation for Movies Under the Stars should be included in the budget since it was not included in past years and the Big Foot Recreation District has requested a \$750 donation in past years. Since the money was not budgeted last year, Trustee Whowell and Trustee Livingston made donations as well as Dr. Jeremy Bria.

**Any Other Comments/Concerns**

Since the bathrooms at the beach are locked for the season after Labor Day weekend, it was suggested that a sign should be put up at the beach to inform the public that the bathrooms in Reid Park are open and available.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Whowell/Trustee Livingston 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 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 Park Commission, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: 10/19/16