

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the PARK COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Chairperson Cindy Wilson called the meeting of the Park Commission to order at 6:01 pm in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Park Commissioners present: Trustee Wilson, Laura Coates, Sharon O'Brien, Gail Hibbard, Sandra Hibbard

Park Commissioners absent: Sarah Lobdell

Also present: Mary Green, Library Director Nancy Krei, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Micki O'Connell, Director of Public Works Craig Workman

Approval of Minutes

O'Brien/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes for the meeting held September 21, 2011, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

Nancy Krei stated that the library staff would be interested in working with the Park Commission on the local program for the Bird City Wisconsin International Migratory Bird Day.

General Business

Park House Use

The Park House was not used in September 2011 because of the utility room roof and related problems.

Treasurer's Report

The updated treasurer's report as of September 30, 2011 was presented. Following the meeting Martin checked with Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden who confirmed the new total due to the Village General Fund for the Little Foot Playground equipment purchase should be reduced by this year's \$3,000 appropriation. The current balance due to the General Fund is \$26,547 -- \$10,000 committed by the Lions Club, and \$16,547 from the Park Commission.

Plan Commission Report

There will be a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit application filed by Mark Walsh at the next monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 beginning at 5:30 PM. The Chapters 17 and 18 rewriting project is moving along, and the first draft of the new zoning map will be discussed by staff at an October 20, 2011 meeting.

Public Works Report

Workman stated that the Public Works crew has been pruning trees, fertilizing and cleaning up the parks for fall. Workman stated that the holiday season lights will be tested in the first week of November and turned on for the season at a ceremony to be held Friday, November 25, 2011.

TID Maintenance – Items/Update

Wilson stated that she would like the Village to get expert advice on trimming the new trees on the beach, which are growing out of control. Wilson stated that since it is the first time the trees will be trimmed since being planted at the beach area, Roy Diblik recommended that Epping from Madison be contracted to make sure the trees are pruned properly. Workman stated that he will obtain the contact information from Diblik and solicit a bid. Coates stated that Workman should solicit a multi-year proposal for a possible cost savings. Wilson/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to direct Workman to contact Epping for a proposal to trim the trees in the village beach areas, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Gail Hibbard stated that Workman should check with Tom Vanderpoel to make sure the fall spraying is completed on the garlic mustard problem areas at the Duck Pond, Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and

Fontana Fen. Following discussion, the Park Commission also requested that staff contact Walworth County and determine if there are Huber Dorm inmates who need community service hours that could be assigned to help pull the garlic mustard plants in early spring.

Old Business

Appointment to Fill Open Position

Wilson stated that Mary Green offered to fill the position on the commission that was held by her husband, Daniel Green, who died in a tragic accident on September 12, 2011. Wilson stated that in order to expedite the appointment process, the Village Board approved a motion at its last monthly meeting to appoint Mary Green to the open position with the condition that the appointment is approved by the Park Commission. Wilson/Gail Hibbard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the appointment of Mary Green to the Park Commission to fill the open position, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Wilson thanked Mary Green for her interest in serving and asked her to take her position. The other Park Commission members introduced themselves and welcomed Mary Green to the commission.

Porter Court Plaza Improvement Plan – Subcommittee Update

O'Brien stated that she and Gail Hibbard met with Roy Diblik and members of the Fontana Garden Club to discuss the Porter Court Plaza area. O'Brien stated that the consensus of the subcommittee members was that the Porter Court Plaza should be slowly transformed into a park that provides shelter from the sun and a warm atmosphere with some areas left slightly open for special events such as the annual Garden Club plant sale and farmer's markets. O'Brien stated that Diblik suggested planting Red Maple trees and transforming the plant beds to create the feeling of a maple grove, instead of the current dry, desert feeling. O'Brien stated that the initial color of the stone path material and the cypress mulch really created a brown, desert-looking area, and Diblik is recommending changing to leaf-based compost and rearranging the planting beds. O'Brien stated that the subcommittee is recommending using the credit for the 20 dead oak trees under warranty with Prairie Tree Landscape, Inc., to purchase the new Red Maple trees to be planted at Porter Court Plaza this fall if time permits, or next spring. Gail Hibbard stated that she also found a beautiful water fountain in a landscaped area at a resort in Wisconsin Dells, and the subcommittee will bring forward a proposal to enhance the Porter Court water fountain to make it more attractive and inviting to visitors. Gail Hibbard stated that the fountain in Wisconsin Dells uses a large vase or vessel that the water flows into before it falls down into the fountain base. O'Brien stated that a nursery in Rockford, IL also has a water fountain that features multiple vase-like vessels in which the water flows from vase to vase before landing in the fountain. O'Brien stated that local mason Tom Cook also will be providing a cost estimate for transforming the current red granite stone path to a cobblestone path. A sketch of the proposed fountain renovations will be presented at a future meeting.

Duck Pond Recreation Area 20 Dead Trees – Warranty Options

Workman stated that Prairie Tree Landscape, Inc., has indicated it will provide the Village with eight free Red Maple trees and transplant them at Porter Court Plaza in exchange for the 20 oak trees that have not been able to survive transplanting at the Duck Pond. The Red Maple trees will be more mature than the oaks, and they also will be planted by Prairie Tree. The Village Board directed the Park Commission to use the credit for purchasing new trees to be planted somewhere in the village instead of the Park Commission's initial recommendation to exchange the value of the dead oak trees for expert landscaping maintenance direction and services for the Duck Pond oak savannah and prairie restoration areas. The current trees at Porter Court Plaza will be transplanted in other landscaped areas along Highway 67 to make way for the Red Maple grove. Wilson/O'Brien 2nd made a MOTION to recommend the Village Board accept credit from Prairie Tree Landscape, Inc. to purchase and plant eight Red Maples trees to replace the trees at Porter Court Plaza. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Highway 67 and Fontana Fen Invasive Tree Abatement Course of Action Recommendation

Workman stated that they toured the area; however, Vanderpoel has not yet submitted a recommendation to abate the invasive trees.

Tree City USA Renewal Application

Martin stated that Sarah Lobdell has again indicated that she will file the annual recertification application this year. Martin stated that Lobdell is planning to prepare an outline on the renewal application process so that

staff can take care of filing the annual application in the future.

New Business

Park House Repair/Renovation Estimates – Tabled 9/21/11

Workman distributed proposals for the repair and renovation work submitted by Fairchild Residential Inc., Walworth, \$10,549, and from Big Foot Construction & Consulting, Inc., Fontana, \$9,420. There is \$10,000 in the preliminary 2012 budget for the project. During discussion on the bids, Workman stated that the electrical service to the Park House is not powerful enough to run an electric water heater as well as the electric heating unit, and a gas-powered water heater will have to vent outside the building. Micki O'Connell stated that she is purchasing a new hot water heater for her residence, and she was going to sell her current water heater; however, she would be willing to donate it to the Village for the Park House if it is suitable. O'Connell stated that the gas water heater she would be willing to donate has a vent that runs up, and it is only three years old. O'Connell stated that she also wanted to present an informal petition to the Village that requests that the Village Board make the necessary repairs to the Park House, because "there is no other place for people to gather." The petition was signed by 52 people with Fontana addresses and 12 people with Williams Bay, Walworth or township addresses. O'Connell stated that one of the people who signed the petition, John O'Neill, has also offered to have his company, O'Neill Builders, Inc., Fontana, complete the construction work for no charge to the village. Following discussion, the Park Commission directed Workman to determine if O'Connell's water heater can be installed and used at the Park House, and to solicit updated bids from Fairchild and Big Foot Construction & Consulting, as well as from John O'Neill, to complete the entire project with the water heater donation.

O'Brien/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to direct Workman to determine if the water heater to be donated by Micki O'Connell will be installable and useable at the Park House, and to solicit from Fairchild Residential, Inc., Big Foot Construction & Consulting, Inc., and O'Neill Builders, Inc., Fontana, new bids for the Park House repair and renovation project with the water heater donation considered. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Duck Pond Oak Savannah/Prairie Restoration Area Signage Proposal

O'Brien stated that a temporary sign similar to the sign the CDA erected during the pedestrian path and bridge construction project at the Duck Pond entrance should be pursued for the oak savannah and native prairie restoration areas. Martin stated that he will contact Wolfgang Nitsch to provide cost options for a sign that will state the areas are Oak Savannah and Native Prairie restoration areas in which no vehicles are allowed, and that volunteers are being sought to help with the projects as well as a contact number. Gail Hibbard announced that the fall seed planting event at the prairie restoration area has been scheduled with Tom Vanderpoel for Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 1:00 pm. Gail Hibbard stated that the volunteers will meet at the Village Hall to receive instructions and training and then walk over to the Duck Pond for the seeding event. Some of the seeds have been purchased with funds donated by the Fontana Garden Club and some of the seeds were donated by Barrington, IL.

Reid Park Request to Reserve Ball Field for Kickball Game – Saturday, May 26, 2012, Noon to 4:00 pm

Martin stated that Peter Ozols requested that the Park Commission consider allowing him to reserve the ball field in Reid Park on Saturday, May 26, 2012, from noon to 4:00 pm for a kickball game involving his wedding party. The wedding and reception are being held at the Abbey Resort. Following discussion on the request, the Park Commission members were in consensus that the ability to reserve designated areas in Reid Park was taken off the Park Permit application because it is too difficult to enforce and there is no way to guarantee that an area will not be occupied by other people using the park. Wilson stated that she can understand that Ozols would like to have a guarantee that the ball field will be available on Memorial Day weekend, there is just no way a village employee could be posted at the field to make sure it is saved for his wedding party. Martin stated that he explained to Ozols that he could reserve a ball field at the Duck Pond for no charge as a backup location if the Reid Park ball field is not available on May 26, 2012; however, there is a good chance if one of the wedding party members gets to the field in the morning, that it will be available for the event.

O'Brien/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to direct staff to write a letter to Peter Ozols explaining the Reid Park reservation situation and outlining his option to use the Duck Pond Recreation Area for the event, but informing him that there is no way to guarantee that the Village can save the ball field in Reid Park on May 26, 2012. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Any Other Comments/Concerns

Workman stated that the Memorial Trees for DJ Barr and Daniel Green that were approved last month should be delivered yet this week and a planting event will be scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2011.

Adjournment

O'Brien/Coates 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm, 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: 11/16/2011