

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee
Wednesday, October 26, 2011
(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on October 26, 2011 by Chairman Thomas McGreevy.

Roll Call: Trustee McGreevy, Joel Bikowski, Rick Pappas, Ed Snyder, Bob Chanson

Committee Members Absent: Steve Beers, Lee Eakright

Also Present: Village Clerk Dennis Martin, John Palmer, Eddie Snyder, Tom Whowell

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Approval of Minutes for Meeting Held September 28, 2011

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the September 28, 2011 minutes as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Fontana Triathlon Proposal

A local group has been planning to start a new triathlon event to be staged in Fontana, with the proposed swimming portion in Fontana Bay and the transition area on the Fontana beach. The bicycle and running routes for the event have not yet been planned. The Lakefront and Harbor Committee has jurisdiction over the lakefront up to the high-water mark; and the Park Commission has jurisdiction of the beach area above the high-water mark and of the Reid Park parkland that will be used for the event. McGreevy stated that Frank Dobbs decided to take his annual Lake Geneva Triathlon event to Williams Bay last year, and some local residents have been discussing the establishment of a new event to be held in Fontana. Lifelong resident John Palmer stated that he has been working with Tom Whowell and other local triathlon participants to plan a first-class triathlon event that will attract people to the village. Palmer stated that many triathlon enthusiasts have disposable incomes and a well organized triathlon event will bring those people to the Village for the annual event, as well as for training throughout the year. Palmer stated that the previous event that used to be staged in the Village of Fontana was not well organized for the participants and it discouraged a lot of the serious triathlon competitors from coming back. Palmer stated that the local group has been meeting and they will continue to plan the event to ensure it is well run and that all the hassles and lack of communication is eliminated. Palmer stated that the decision made by the Lake Geneva Triathlon organizers to move out of the Village of Fontana has provided a great opportunity for the local group of event planners, who personally care about the community, to take over planning and running a triathlon event. Palmer stated that the proposal is to just offer two events, to make it more organized for the participants and to eliminate all the issues with room availability at the Abbey Resort, traffic and parking, and race organization in the water and transition areas. Palmer distributed a preliminary layout plan for the transition area at the lakefront. Palmer stated that the proposal is for a "Sprint" event and for a traditional Olympic Triathlon. Palmer stated that a designated spectator area will be set up for public viewing of the swimming portion of the event, and pedestrians will not be allowed in the transition area. Palmer stated that event workers also will handle parking, with 10 to 20 people directing participants on the morning of the event to help them find available parking stalls. Palmer stated that the participants also will be assigned a specific transition area stall, which will be numbered to alleviate confusion and congestion before and during the two races.

Palmer stated that the Sprint participants will have their transition stalls on one side of the swim pier, and the Triathlon participants will have their transition area on the other side of the pier; and there will be two different colored swim caps worn by the participants. Palmer stated that they considered all the possible dates to hold the event, and the best option is the second Saturday of September, when the Lake Geneva Triathlon used to be held in the village. Palmer stated that he talked to Williams Bay Village President John Marra to make sure he was informed of the proposal and that the Village of Fontana was interested in organizing a new event to again be held in Fontana. Tom Howell stated that it is important that the Village of Williams Bay officials realize that the Fontana Triathlon organizers are not proposing the new event to compete with them, they just want a triathlon back in Fontana, as long as it is better run than the Lake Geneva Triathlon. The committee members stated that Palmer also will have to present the proposal to the Park Commission and Protection Committee for a recommendation to the Village Board. Palmer stated that the planners also have talked about coordinating the Fontana Triathlon with the Park Commission's annual Pig in the Park fund-raising event. Bikowski stated that Palmer should be sure to point out to the other committee and Village Board members that he is proposing a new triathlon event, not the Lake Geneva Triathlon event that is operated by Frank Dobbs. Snyder/Pappas 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the proposed Fontana Lakefront Triathlon event to be held on the Fontana beach Saturday, September 8, 2012, and to recommend that the Village fully supports the event planners to help ensure its success. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Abbey Harbor Engineering Study Recommendation

The Village Board approved a motion at its October 3, 2011 monthly meeting to form a subcommittee consisting of Director of Public Works Craig Workman, Trustee McGreevy, Trustee Bill Gage and President Arvid Petersen to meet with representatives of the Abbey Harbor Condominium Association and Country Club Estates Association to make a recommendation on the sand dredging and erosion issues at the Abbey Harbor channel and on a proposed cost-sharing agreement on a \$17,650 engineering study submitted to the Abbey Harbor Condominium Association by Wills Burke Kelsey Associates, St. Charles, IL. McGreevy stated that he requested all the Lakefront and Harbor Committee members to take a look at the channel and note the sand build up on both sides of the channel that extend about 4 to 6 feet out from the shoreline. McGreevy stated that it is apparent that sand is being pushed by the wake from the mouth of the bridge and it looks like beach heads are being formed. Ed Snyder stated that since the October 3, 2011 Village Board meeting, the Abbey Harbor Condominium Association has decided to fund the initial engineering study on its own. Ed Snyder stated that the study will culminate with a proposed project to address the sand dredging and erosion problems. Ed Snyder stated that the proposed project will have to be something that is approvable by the Wisconsin DNR and if a project is pursued, it will have to be through the Village of Fontana since it owns the land on both sides of the channel and it will have to apply for and obtain the required DNR permits. Eddie Snyder stated that the Abbey Harbor engineering firm has determined that the sand build-up is not coming from boats leaving the harbor. Chanson stated that the Abbey Harbor engineer should be sure to first run a proposed project past the DNR to make sure it is approvable. Chanson stated that he is also concerned that if the Village is only putting 150 cubic yards of sand on the municipal beach for the season, and the Abbey has stated it is removing 1,200 cubic yards of sand from the harbor each year, that the sand and silt must be coming from someplace else. Chanson stated that the engineering study needs to identify all the sources of the sand and silt, and that maybe much of it is coming from between the pilings in the Abbey Harbor. Tom Howell stated that in addition to sand coming from the municipal beach area, a lot is also coming from other places in the bay. Ed Snyder stated that the engineering study is looking into the source of the sand and silt as well as coming up with a plan to address the situation and the cost of a proposed

project. Ed Snyder stated that the engineering study and proposed project will be presented to the Lakefront and Harbor Committee at a future meeting.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, November 30, 2011, beginning at 4:30 pm if there is any business to consider. There will be no meeting scheduled in December 2011. The first meeting of 2012 will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at 4:30 pm if there is any business to consider.

Adjournment

Chanson/Bikowski 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis L. Martin, 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: 11/30/11