

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee
Wednesday, October 28, 2009
(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on October 28, 2009 by Chairperson Micki O'Connell.

Roll Call: Trustee Micki O'Connell, Steve Beers, Robert Chanson, Ed Snyder, Rick Pappas, Joel Bikowski

Absent: Lee Eakright

Also Present: Jim Frost, Village Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Eddie Snyder, Tom Whowell

Visitors Heard

Fontana resident Jim Frost asked the Lakefront and Harbor Committee if the Village would consider establishing a senior citizen discount for the season boat launch pass fees. Frost stated that the launch fees are reportedly related to the State Park fees, and senior citizens receive discounts at State Parks. Chanson asked if the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources allows senior citizen discounts for boat launch fees. Pappas stated that he will check with the DNR and report back to the committee at its next meeting. O'Connell stated that she will keep Frost informed on the response from the DNR and the Village's final decision on his request.

General Business

Approval of Minutes – September 30, 2009

Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the September 30, 2009 minutes as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Proposal for Flashing Light Channel Markers

Tom Whowell presented two proposals Gordy's Lakefront Marine, Inc. obtained for lighted channel markers, as directed by the committee. O'Connell stated that she would recommend starting with only two of the lighted channel markers as a trial if the committee decides to pursue the proposal. Chanson asked where the lighted channel markers would be installed and why the Village is considering the proposal. O'Connell stated that the proposal was put on the agenda two months ago when one of the commercial boat operators suggested it at a committee meeting. Chanson stated that the lighted channel markers are not necessary and will just cause light pollution at night. Whowell stated that he can see some safety benefits to the lighted channel markers, which do not produce a lot of extra light. Following a discussion on whether the Village needs the lighted channel markers or not, the committee members were in consensus that they are not needed at this time.

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to deny the proposal and to not pursue the flashing light channel markers, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

2010 Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol Lifeguard Services Contract

O'Connell stated that the Lifeguard Services Contract for 2010 is at the same rate as the 2009 contract. The total contract cost including insurance, uniforms and supplies expenses is \$37,870. Snyder/Chanson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol 2010 Lifeguard Services Contract as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

2010 Fees for Slips, Ramps, Buoys, Parking, Launch Commercial, Launch Residential & Beach

Hayden distributed spreadsheets on mooring fee comparisons, lakefront operations profit and loss figures, season boat launch commercial and residential figures, and beach pass and admission figures. Pappas and Chanson suggested that the item be tabled to give the committee members time to review the documents distributed at the meeting. O'Connell stated that the new rates had to be acted on by the Village Board at its next meeting so that the annual budget can be set. Chanson stated that he would then recommend that all the rates remain the same as last year because of the tough economic times. Hayden stated that the preliminary budget approved by the Finance Committee and Village Board calls for increased revenue from the fees collected for mooring leases, parking, boat launch passes and beach passes and admission fees. Pappas stated that he understands the tough economic times and he will support not increasing the rates this year; however, there is a long waiting list for the Village moorings, and demand dictates that the fees should be increased. Pappas stated that property owners who do not have mooring leases are not getting the benefit of the extra revenue that could be generated with more expensive mooring lease rates. Beers stated that the cost of living is down, so if the rates remain the same as last year, they are in essence actually increasing.

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the Village Board keep the 2010 fees for slips, ramps, buoys, residential launch rates and beach fees the same as the 2009 rates. The MOTION carried on a 5-1 vote, with Trustee O'Connell opposed and Lee Eakright absent.

O'Connell stated that the Finance Committee and Village Board recommended raising the fee for parking from 50 cents to \$1 an hour. Pappas stated that if the Village raises the parking meter fee, the cost for "F" stickers for Fontana residents and property owners also should be increased.

O'Connell stated that the Finance Committee and Village Board recommended raising the fee for "F" parking stickers by a couple dollars from the current rate of \$10.

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the Village Board keep the parking meter rate and cost for the "F" parking stickers the same as 2009. The MOTION carried on a 5-1 vote, with Trustee O'Connell opposed and Lee Eakright absent.

Chanson stated that the commercial launch rates also should be kept the same as last year because of the tough economic conditions. O'Connell stated that she would support the motion if the commercial launchers use the honor box when the launch is not manned during the season.

O'Connell stated that if a commercial launcher is caught not using the honor box when launching before or after hours during the season, they should no longer be eligible for the commercial rate. Chanson and Snyder stated that they would add O'Connell's suggested condition to their motion on the floor. Pappas stated that eventually the commercial rate for launching should be brought in line with the same rates that residents have to pay to launch their boats.

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the Village Board keep the commercial boat launch rates the same as in 2009, with the condition that if a commercial launch operator is caught not using the honor box when the launch is not manned during the season, the company is no longer eligible for the commercial rate. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

2010 Mooring Lease Language Amendments

O'Connell stated that the proposed language amendments to the mooring lease agreement include adding a notice that states all ramp spaces are 8-feet long by 4-feet wide, and the water craft that occupies a ramp space cannot be any wider than 4 feet. If a water craft is wider than 4 feet, the Village has the right to remove the craft at the owner's expense. O'Connell stated that the committee also wanted to add language concerning ramp and slip storage boxes, and that they have to be white in color and confined to the boundaries of the ramp or slip space. Following discussion, the committee members were in consensus that the two items should be added as

informational boxes on the cover page of the Mooring Lease Agreement, and as item numbers 15 and 16 under the Terms of Agreement.

Snyder/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of Mooring Lease Agreement language amendments creating Terms of Agreement Item No. 15 that states all ramp spaces are 8-feet long by 4-feet wide, the water craft that occupies a ramp space cannot be any wider than 4 feet, and if a water craft is wider than 4 feet, the Village has the right to remove the craft at the owner's expense; Terms of Agreement Item No. 16 that states all ramp and pier slip storage boxes or containers must be white in color and must be confined within the boundaries of the ramp or slip; and two informational notes for Items No. 15 and 16 to be placed in boxes on the cover page of the agreement. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Senior Citizen Request for Discount on Boat Launch Season Pass

Pappas stated that he will contact the Wisconsin DNR to inquire if senior citizen discounts can be considered for boat launch season pass rates.

Pappas/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to table the item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Review 24-Hour Launch Time Limit for In and Out

Following discussion, the committee members were in consensus that some kind of receipt or certificate should be given to residents who launch their water craft at the beginning of the season so that they can take the water craft out at the end of the season at no additional charge. If a person loses their receipt or certificate during the season, they would have to pay another launch fee to take the water craft out at the end of the season. Chanson made a motion to recommend the adoption of the new policy, and it was seconded by Snyder; however, Hayden stated that the committee should consult the boat launch employees before acting on the motion. Chanson and Snyder then rescinded the motion and second on the floor.

Snyder/Beers 2nd made a MOTION to table the item until the next committee meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

DMA Reviews – Buena Vista & Glenwood Springs

The last approval date in the Village files for the Buena Vista mooring area is dated 1988 and it states the association has 1,200 feet of lake frontage. Chanson presented a 1995 plan that is currently being followed at Buena Vista that shows the association has 43 buoys, 48 slips/lifts, 20 ramp spaces, 32 ramp spaces on piers and 8 PWC lifts. Chanson stated the Buena Vista has the most lake frontage of all the Fontana associations. Hayden asked how the committee members can determine that the mooring area plan presented by Chanson was approved by the Village. Pappas stated that the committee cannot determine what was approved between now and the time that some of the associations had designated mooring areas approved by the DNR and Village, and others did not. Pappas stated that the committee will have the same problem determining what has been added over the years in the Glenwood Springs mooring area because it also was never codified with the DNR and Village as a Designated Mooring Area. Bikowski stated the Glenwood Springs has not made any changes to its mooring area since 1979. Bikowski stated that the Glenwood Springs Association Board of Directors monitors the mooring area and it is in compliance with the 1979 approval. Pappas stated that because of the lack of approval information, it would be best to take the current maps for the Buena Vista and Glenwood Springs associations and codify them with the current mooring area layouts. Bikowski stated that he can obtain the current counts on buoys, slips, lifts, ramps and PWC lifts at Glenwood Springs and bring a diagram to the next meeting. The committee also will review the Belvidere Park and Harvard Club mooring areas at the next meeting.

Pappas/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to codify the Buena Vista Association mooring area as containing 43 buoys, 48 slips/lifts, 20 ramp spaces, 32 ramps on piers and 8 PWC lifts, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Pappas/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to table the DMA review of the Glenwood Springs Association mooring area until the next meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 4:30 pm.

Adjournment

Chanson/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 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: 1/20/2010