

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

Final Minutes

Park Commission Monthly Meeting

April 16, 2025

The Park Commission meeting was called to order by Trustee Scott Vilona on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Fontana Village Hall.

Commissioners Present: Trustee Chair Scott Vilona, Commissioner Susan Olson, Commissioner Robin Nuzzo, Commissioner Sarah Lobdell, Commissioner Mary Green

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Stan Livingston, Commissioner Zina O'Callaghan

Also Present: Department Village Clerk Bonnie Liptak. Citizens Andy Pearce Citizen Daniel Pearce for the Triathlon and Linda from Fontana Garden Club

Approval of Minutes March 26, 2025

The minutes of March 26, 2025 were distributed.

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Nuzzo 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 26, 2025, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

General Business:

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Lobdell shared that the balance for the Parks Commission fund is \$87,369.19

Public Works Report

No report was provided.

Old Business

None

New Business

GTS request for a refund of their payment of January 8, 2025 in the amount of \$6250.00 to use the ball fields for their tournaments this summer for on 5/9-5/11, 5/24-5/26, 5/30-6/1, 6/20-6/22, 7/4-7/6, 7/18-20.

Chairman Trustee Vilona shared that the GTS organization has decided to take their practices and tournaments elsewhere and would like a refund for their tournaments, however the Village of Fontana does not have a refund policy in place. Typically, if events are cancelled, a refund is not issued. Commissioner Lobdell recommended offering a partial refund minus administrative costs.

Commissioner Lobdell/ Commissioner Olson 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval to refund GTS tournament payments minus a 5% administrative fee, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Request by the Fontana Garden Club for an increase in funding from \$550 in 2024 to \$650 in 2025 to subsidize the plants for the Memorial Gardens and the Porter Court planters.

Linda McLenan stated that typically they get their flowers from Jurg's and she believed that they anticipate the cost of flowers to have gone up since last year and they are hoping for an adjustment in what the Parks supplies. The Parks Commission asked if the Fontana Garden Club would consider any other areas that could be beautified by the Garden Club, and Linda McLenan offered to bring it back to their board.

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Green 2nd made a MOTION to approve the request by the Fontana Garden Club for an increase in funding from \$550 in 2024 to \$650 in 2025 to subsidize the plants for the Memorial Gardens and the Porter Court planters, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Request from the Lake Geneva Picnic Company to utilize the Fontana Public Beach for a June 21st 9:30am-1pm with paid beach admission.

Chairman Vilona reported that it is a private company looking to run their business on public property. Commissioner Lobdell expressed concern with utilizing public space as a private business and the concern that this idea could balloon into larger groups. Chairman Vilona expressed concern that there is not a policy on utilizing the beach. The concern was expressed to approve or not approve of something at this point and that there really isn't anything stopping someone from having a picnic at the public beach, but the question was raised whether the Park Commission have authority to stop anyone. Commissioner Lobdell expressed that she is not in favor of the idea. The decision was made to table this topic until staff has opportunity to research this issue more.

Park application for the Reid Park Pavilion by the Big Foot Lions Club for the Fontana Triathlon on September 13th 2025 from 7:00am-2:00pm.

Andy Pearce stated that the Lions Club provides food and this event serves as a good fund raiser for the group. Andy Pearce also stated that the Lions club would like to donate to any projects the Parks department would like to accomplish to enhance the parks in Fontana. Commissioner Lobdell referenced the baseball fields getting upgraded. Andy Pearce also mentioned a pickleball court for the residents.

Commissioner Lobdell/ Commissioner Green 2nd made a MOTION to recommend village board approval of the Park application for the Reid Park Pavilion by the Big Foot Lions Club for the Fontana Triathlon on September 13th, 2025, from 7:00am-2:00pm, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Request Care of the Prairie and Fen from Gail Hibbard.

Commissioner Green presented the idea that the prairie should not be burned all at once, rather there should be sections burned on a schedule to support the prairie and the habitats of small animals. Additionally, Commissioner Green presented the request that the boulevard plantings be treated differently, rather than cutting down the plant material at the end of the season, the plant material should remain for the winter as it provides food for and habitat for small animals. Mary Green also made the recommendation from Gail Hibbard to have the consultants, Tall Grass come out for a site visit to make sure the Village is doing everything we can to maintain and preserve the Prairie. Commissioner Lobdell restated the value of leaving the Boulevard. Commissioner Olson recommended that the Village provide education to the residents by posting information on the website about the Boulevard median not cut down in the fall to allow for the environmental factors. Trustee Commissioner Vilona recommended the Parks Commission consider the development of a plan to care for the prairie. Commissioner Green will talk with Gail Hibbard about the guidance provided by Roy Diblik to the Village and DPW about the care and keeping of the natural areas. Commissioner Lobdell will research to find past plans for the natural areas and the names of the vendors who submitted plans for the parks board to review. Trustee Commissioner Vilona presented that if a consultant for the natural areas is the direction decided upon then care must be taken in the selection of a consultant. Commissioner Lobdell stated that the parks could come up with guidelines for what DPW should and should not do with the natural areas.

Memorial Tree inquiry by Mary Boreman.

Trustee Commissioner recommended staff take an inventory of the trees available for the Memorial Program.

Update on Park Permits issued for the Duck Pond Pavilion by the Rurey family on June 7, 2025 from 2-6pm and for the Indian Hills Association on July 19, 2025 from 8am – 12pm.

Park Permits were issued by staff for the Duck Pond Pavilion by the Rurey family on June 7, 2025 from 2-6pm and for the Indian Hills Association on July 19, 2025 from 8am – 12pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Nuzzo / Commissioner Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION at 5:34pm to adjourn and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Bonnie Liptak, Village Clerk

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

Approved: 05/21/2025