

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

**(Final Minutes)**

**Park Commission Monthly Meeting**

April 19, 2023

The Park Commission meeting was called to order by Village Clerk Lussow at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at the Fontana Village Hall.

**Members Present:** Sarah Lobdell, Mary Green, Susan Olson, Robin Nuzzo

**Members Absent:** Zina O'Callaghan, Cathy Somers, Trustee Chairman Livingston

**Also Present:** Maryanne Bruss, Kevin Day, Theresa Loomer, Scott Lowell, Drew Lussow, Dan Picha, Kiera Theys, Margaret Reuland, Tom Whowell

**Elect Chairperson Pro-Tem**

Due to the absence of Trustee Livingston a chairperson pro-tem was needed to be appointed for the meeting. Village Clerk Lussow asked for one of the Commissioners to make a motion to appoint a chairperson pro-tem.

Commissioner Green/Commissioner Olson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to appoint Commissioner Lobdell as Chairperson Pro-Tem for the meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Approval of Minutes: March 15, 2023**

Commissioner Green/Commissioner Olson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted for the March 15, 2023 meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Visitors Heard**

Kiera Theys from the Geneva Lake Conservancy was present to ask the Park Commission for consideration of a "workday" with help from the Public Works or Parks Departments as well as potentially including students from the Fontana School District. Ms. Theys stated that they haven't officially penciled in a date but are looking to do it on a weekday and mainly look to clean up some of the damage from the recent ice storm as well as brush pickup which can then potentially be burned or disposed of at Duck Pond. Public Works Director Day nor the Park Commission had any issues with what is being suggested and believed it was a good idea. Public Works Director Day instructed Ms. Theys to contact the Village Hall once more concrete plans were in place so that the Public Works Department could adequately prepare for the event once it's ready. Ms. Theys also brought up potentially spraying the GLC property and the property line that the Village owns as well to help prevent Bishop Weed, which is an invasive species, spreading to their property and would take care of the cost and maintenance for the spray. The Commission had no objection to this either. The Commission thanked Ms. Theys for her time and would follow up with her regarding her requests.

**Announcements**

None.

**General Business**

**Treasurer's Report**

Lobdell reported that there is currently \$72,991.00 in the Park Commission Funds.

**Public Works Report**

Public Works Director Day explained that there is not much to report other than the bathrooms now being open at the parks. Commissioner Lobdell asked about striping up at Duck Pond and Public Works Director Day stated that somebody would be out soon to correct it and have the lot stripped appropriately for future events that are taking place up there.

## **Old Business**

### **Further Discussion or Action on Fontana Garden Club Reseeding Plan for the Prairie**

Administrator Loomer stated she had reached out to Linda McLean from the Fontana Garden Club. Ms. McLean informed Administrator Loomer that currently at this time due to the upcoming events the Fontana Garden Club has scheduled that they do not have time to put together a plan or meet to discuss the reseeded of the prairie. However potentially later this summer after the events have passed, they would like to meet then and potentially discuss an opportunity to do the reseeded then. Administrator Loomer had no issues with this and mentioned we will follow up with them again later this summer.

## **New Business**

### **Discussion or Action on Request Filed by Abbey Provident to Remove Four Trees on Fontana Boulevard in Road Right-of-Way**

Administrator Loomer gave a brief background of the request. She stated that the four trees are currently located in the Village right-of-way along Fontana Boulevard. Their request is to remove these trees to go in conjunction with their plans for the Abbey Town Homes being built near the site. Attorney Scott Lowell was present to address any questions and concerns regarding the request. He mentioned that they are looking to remove the trees and replace them with up to 10 new trees, 7 along Fontana Boulevard and 3 along Third Street. Scott Lowell also mentioned that the trees they plan on using include a cypress, an oak swamp, and elm and pictures were provided to the Commission members. Scott Lowell also reiterated that they will only remove and replace the trees if their pending public development application is approved by the Village and if approved, they will seek the proper channels such as a tree removal permit at that time. Public Works Director Day also contributed that at least two of the four trees are in rough shape and probably would be better off being removed and having something new planted. Commissioner Olson asked who would maintain the trees if the request were granted/approved as presented. Scott Lowell mentioned the Abbey would maintain and take care of the trees if approved.

Commissioner Nuzzo/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend village board approval of the Abbey Provident request to remove four trees located in the Fontana Boulevard Road Right-of-Way contingent upon approval of the pending planned development application project, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Discussion or Action on Centennial Celebration Request**

Tom Whowell on behalf of the Centennial Committee, was present to bring his request to the Parks Commission. Mr. Whowell introduced an idea of co-operation between the Centennial Committee and the Parks Commission. He mainly was looking for a way to have the Parks Commission accept donations on behalf of the Centennial Committee so there would be no need for them to set up their own corporation. Mr. Whowell stated that they plan on using these donations to enhance existing events that already take place in the Village but to also potentially bring older events back such as the Party on the Ice event that is typically held in February weather permitting. The Commission asked if this would create any issues for the Village or the account and Administrator Loomer said she would further look into it but was on board with what was being presented.

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend village board approval in concept of allowing the Fontana Centennial Committee to use the Park Commission Account for donations and other use of funding for events, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Discussion or Action on Triangle Park Landscaping and Tree Replacement**

Public Works Director Day wasn't able to get someone from Harvard Tree Nursery out to look at the Park. However, Harvard Tree Nursery was still able to supply a quote which was included in the meeting packet along with two pictures of suggested trees. One of which was an Autumn Blaze and the other a Planetree. After some discussion regarding the viability of the Autumn Blaze the Commission decided to go with a few plantings of the Planetree.

Commissioner Olson/Commissioner Nuzzo 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend village board approval of up to two purchases of the Planetree in an amount not to exceed \$450.00 per tree, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Park Permit Application Filed by Lakeland Little Learners by Abby Adams for End of the School Year Field Trip Event at Duck Pond Pavilion and Duck Pond Recreation Area on Thursday, June 8, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM With Request for Fees to be Waived**

Commissioner Nuzzo/Commissioner Olson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend village board approval contingent on Lakeland Little Learners being a non for profit for the Park Permit Application Filed by Lakeland Little Learners by Abby Adams for End of the School Year Field Trip Event at Duck Pond Pavilion and Duck Pond Recreation Area on Thursday, June 8, 2023, From 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM with fees to be waived, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Park Permit Application Filed by Picha Family / Judith Picha for Celebration of Life Event at Duck Pond Pavilion and Duck Pond Recreation Area on Saturday, July 1, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM With Request for Beer/Wine Permit to be Issued For Event**

Commissioner Green/Commissioner Olson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend village board approval of the Park Permit Application Filed by the Picha Family/ Judith Picha for Celebration of Life Event at Duck Pond Pavilion and Duck Pond Recreation Area on Saturday, July 1, 2023, From 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM with request for Beer/Wine Permit to be issued, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Discussion or Action on Consideration to Donate Easter Bunny Costume to Big Foot Rec Department**

Administrator Loomer explained that the costume was purchased years ago and that Julie had been the Easter Bunny for years. Upon Julie retiring from the Easter Bunny role the Big Foot Rec Department has had one of their workers take up the mantle for the last 2 years. Administrator Loomer is looking to help this transition by donating the costume to Big Foot Rec so that it is their responsibility to have someone be the Easter Bunny

Commissioner Nuzzo/Commissioner Olson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend village board approval of the donation of the Easter Bunny costume to the Big Foot Rec Department, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Update on Big Foot Rec Yoga on the Beach**

Administrator Loomer stated that last year Big Foot Rec asked to hold Yoga on the beach due to not wanting to interfere with landscaping companies who were mowing the grass at the parks. It went over very well and they are again asking to do the same thing this year and Administrator Loomer had no issues with that request.

**Request by Fontana Elementary School for Free Admission to the Beach for Last Day of School, June 2, 2023 Beginning at 11:00AM**

Administrator Loomer informed the Commission that she received a request from Fontana Elementary School for free admission to the beach for their last day of school. They allowed the event last year and the kids enjoyed it a lot and there were no issues.

Commissioner Olson/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend village board approval of the Request by Fontana Elementary School for Free Admission to the Beach for Last Day of School on June 2, 2023 Beginning at 11:00 AM, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Discussion or Action on Replacement Options for Location of Ash Trees Along the Channel at Small Beach**

Commissioner Lobdell explained to the Commission that she noticed that some of the trees along the channel at small beach had been removed and was wondering if something new should be

planted in their place since the trees offered a little bit of shade and cover for the area. After some discussion the Commission decided to have Public Works Director Day reach out to some of his tree contacts about what trees might be a good fit at the location and bring the topic back for further discussion next month.

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to direct Public Works Director Day to reach out to his contacts to further research what trees could be planted at this location, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on Cracked Sidewalk Repairs at Small Beach**

Commissioner Lobdell explained to the Commission that she noticed that the sidewalk down by the small beach was also cracked and in rough shape and provided pictures to the Commission. Public Works Director Day stated that it could have been from the dredging of the channel and that he could reach out to the contractor to see if this is something they would cover the cost of for the repairs.

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to direct Public Works Director Day to reach out to the contractor who completed the dredging of the channel to see if they would repair damages caused to the sidewalk at Small Beach, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on Trimming Trees in Reid Park**

Public Works Director Day stated that the trees in Reid Park need some work. He mentioned that some of the trees have grown too high and need to be trimmed while others were damaged in the recent ice storm and need some clean up work. Public Works Director Day brought a quote from Gifford Tree Service for the cost of trimming and clean up in the amount of \$3,300.00.

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the quote from Gifford Tree Service in the amount of \$3,300.00 for tree trimming and clean up of trees in Reid Park, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on Beach Parking Lot Median/Storm Water Drainage**

Public Works Director Day stated that the drainage / median area on the beach parking lot is deteriorating and would like to clean the area up and remove the rocks that are currently in the area. Public Works Director Day asked if anyone had any suggestions about what could be done with the area. The Park Commission agreed that they'd like to see some trees or maybe bushes in there and directed Public Works Director Day to reach out again to his contacts and see what could potentially work there and bring it back again next month for further discussion.

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to direct Public Works Director Day to reach out to his contacts to further research what trees could be planted at this location, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on Installation of Sail Shades at Coffee Mill**

Owner of the Coffee Mill, Maryanne Bruss was present to present her idea of installing sail shades from a company based in Minnesota down at the Coffee Mill. Maryanne brought some samples of the designs of the sail shades and distributed them amongst the Commission. She stated that this would be to replace the umbrellas the Coffee Mill currently has which can sometimes be a liability in strong windy weather and she worries about them coming loose and damaging property of others. With the sail shades they can be left up in the summer and brought down if needed. Also, she mentioned that in colder weather they could decorate it with lights to go with the Christmas Tree that is put in Porter Court Plaza. Mrs. Bruss also asked if the Public Works Department would assist her with installing the poles for the sail shades since they attached to the building and then to a post which is secured in the ground. These approximately 4-5 posts would encroach somewhat on the Village's property in Porter Court Park. Mrs. Bruss said she would be responsible for maintaining the posts. She also asked for Public Works Director Day assistance with installing the posts and Public Works Director Day mentioned that they were planning on putting some concrete in near that area so it shouldn't be an issue as long as the Village ok's the project.

Commissioner Nuzzo/Commissioner Olson 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to allow the posts to be placed on Village Property and for Maryanne Bruss to proceed with her project, as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Olson/Commissioner Green 2<sup>nd</sup> made a Motion to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 5:14 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Drew Lussow, Village Clerk

Approved: 05/17/2023