

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN

(Final Minutes)

Park Commission Monthly Meeting

August 28, 2024

The Park Commission meeting was called to order by Trustee Chair Scott Vilona at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at the Fontana Village Hall.

Members Present: Trustee Chair Scott Vilona, Susan Olson, and Mary Green, Sarah Lobdell

Members Absent: Stan Livingston, Zina O'Callaghan, Robin Nuzzo

Also Present: Kevin Day, Intern, Theresa Loomer

Approval of Minutes: June 19, 2024

Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Olson 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted for the June 19, 2024, meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

Announcements

None

General Business

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Lobdell reported that there is currently \$80,147.88 in the Park Commission Funds.

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Day stated he would cover the information in the items below.

Old Business

None

New Business

Update on Mill Street Home Appraisal Request from Geneva Lake Conservancy

Karen Yancey from the Geneva Lake Conservancy submitted a letter with an update on the parcel located at 500 S. Main Street and owned by Walter Kaminsky. The family would like to sell the property to the Conservancy or the Village to add to the Hildebrand Conservancy and possibly have a small interpretive/educational sign there about the creek and its ecological importance and/or native trees and plants. There are two parcels that he believes are worth \$350,000 to \$500,000. Kaminsky has given until the end of September for the Conservancy and/or Village to let him know if they are interested in purchasing before it goes to market. The parcels do not qualify for any of the Conservancy's grant programs for land purchases due to their small size. Because of the proximity to the creek any new home construction would negatively impact the creek, especially the restoration work the DNR just completed. There was discussion amongst the committee members about how this property is an outlier and would make the Hildebrand complete, but the question is cost and how the land purchase would be funded. Loomer stated she reached out to Jon Cameron and there are different avenues the Village could use to finance the property purchase, but the appraisal must be completed first and then the price negotiated.

Discussion or Action on Fontana Boulevard Memorial Tree Request from Barb Boudart

Barb Boudart submitted an application for a Memorial Tree for Mary Boudart. There are two Memorial Trees available on Fontana Boulevard.

Commissioner Green/Commissioner Lobdell 2nd made a MOTION to recommend the Village Board approve the Memorial Tree application filed by Barb Boudart for the tree along Fontana Boulevard, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Discussion or Action on Request from Bill Rollett to Replace Damaged Memorial Brick by Reid Park Gazebo

The Memorial Brick for Kay Rollett has been cracked in half, and Bill Rollett has requested to replace the brick. The Commissioners discussed whether the Village should pay the replacement cost or the sponsor. After discussion, the Commissioners decided that the Village would sponsor one replacement brick at the cost not to exceed \$30 per brick if it is damaged. Any additional replacements would be the responsibility of the sponsor or person requesting replacement. Commissioner Lobdell/Commissioner Green 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval to replace the damage memorial brick for Kay Rollett, as requested by Bill Rollett, and to recommend the Village Board approve a policy that offers replacement of one damaged Memorial Brick and any additional replacements to be paid for by the sponsor or person requesting the replacement, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Discussion or Action on Tree Replacement at Fontana Beach

Public Works Director Day shared photos of two dying trees at the beach. He recommended replacement of one, but the other is near the parking meter and the soil is substandard. The commission recommended budgeting for tree replacement for next year. Loomer was directed to investigate if there is enough money in the tree reforestation fund.

GTS Field Requests for 2025

Michael Gonzalez from GTS has requested to add two baseball diamonds on the north side of the current fields. GTS would pay for the new fields. Lobdell expressed concerns about the condition of that area because it is usually filled with water. Additionally, any expansion of the soccer fields would need to utilize that area. There was discussion about whether there is adequate parking as the lot is already overfilled when there are both baseball/softball and soccer games, and vehicles end up parking alongside Wild Duck Road. Loomer stated she has received complaints from residents that visit Duck Pond to utilize the dog walking trail and there is nowhere to park. Gonzalez will appear at a future meeting to present his plan.

2025 Budget Requests

Public Works Director Day presented the following ideas to the commission for the 2025 budget: asphalt the walking path at Pioneer Park for \$13,243, extend fence at Duck Pond for ball fields for \$9,500, and install two additional sets of bleachers at Duck Pond ball fields for \$6,299 each. The commissioners did not have any further requests for the 2025 budget.

Adjournment

Commissioner Olson/Commissioner Lobdell 2nd made a Motion to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 5:27 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Theresa Loomer, Village Administrator
Approved: 11/20/24