

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall, Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
Wednesday, April 6, 2005
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Michaeline Day, Glenn Christiansen, Rita Christiansen, Kathleen Burns, Michael Russert, William Mills, and Dino Laurenzi. William O'Toole and Carl Mortens were excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; Katie Zeeck; and Judith Baternik, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. MINUTES - MARCH 1, 2005**

Mike Pollocoff:

Are there any motions?

Michaeline Day:

I make a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

--:

Second.

Mike Pollocoff:

Motion and a second. All those in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Mike Pollocoff:

Minutes are approved.

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Election of Park Commission Officers

Mike Pollocoff:

We need election of a Chairman, a Vice Chair and a Secretary. So I'll accept nominations for the first position to be elected, the Chair. After the appointment of the Chair, then the Chair would follow up with the rest of the agenda.

Rita Christiansen:

I make a nomination that Michaeline Day be Chair.

Mike Pollocoff:

A motion for Michaeline Day.

Glen Christiansen:

I'll second it.

Mike Pollocoff:

And a second. Any other nominations. All those in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Mike Pollocoff:

All those opposed? So Micky is the Chair. We need a Vice Chair and a Secretary now.

Michaeline Day:

I make a motion for Rita to be Vice Chair.

Bill Mills:

Second.

Michaeline Day:

We have a motion and a second. Any comments? All in favor then?

Voices:

Opposed?

Michaeline Day:

Rita, you're now in charge of Vice. And we need a Secretary. Any nominations for Secretary.

Mike Pollocoff:

The Secretary, just as a point of information, is not the Recording Secretary. The Secretary for the Park Commission basically is going to sign resolutions, co-sign grant applications, post a notice if the Park Commission holds a hearing or some appeal of some type, and that's really the duties of the Secretary.

Rita Christiansen:

And that has to be a member of this Board to do that function?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes, it has to be a member of the Board.

Rita Christiansen:

I guess my question would be what kind of background or knowledge would they have to have for the function?

Mike Pollocoff:

Honesty and attendance. That's really all that's needed. The Secretary attests the Chairman's signature. The Secretary confirms on a resolution that the resolution was heard in open session and signs to what the resolution would be. It's somewhat administering, but the key things for the Secretary is to say, yeah, this all happened and I was there.

Rita Christiansen:

And it has to be somebody other than the Chair and the Vice Chair?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right, because they'll be attesting one of their signatures.

Rita Christiansen:

The new people get to step up to the plate, or an old person. It's an opportunity here.

Michaeline Day:

Yes, we've never had this position before. Is Glen or anybody else interested in holding that position?

Glen Christiansen:

I would be happy to let somebody else do it just because I've been her almost as long as dirt like you.

Rita Christiansen:

Dino is leaving so that leaves the three new Board members. Has anybody expressed an interest? It's an opportunity to do something for the community, a step above sitting here. I think it's a great avenue for someone to take. Don't be afraid. I nominate Mike Russert. Are you okay with that, Mike?

Mike Russert:

Yes.

Bill Mills:

I second the nomination.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Opposed? Congratulations, Mike.

Rita Christiansen:

Now how long is that for, Mike?

Mike Pollocoff:

Until next May. I have to get you your new ordinance. The old ordinance didn't include these, the Secretary and some of the other offices, but every year and next year it will be May 18th. Every year new officers are elected or remain.

Rita Christiansen:

So we can all watch and learn from Mike and then next year we'll know if we want it.

B. Establish Meeting Date for Future Meetings

Michaeline Day:

We've always had our meetings on the first Tuesday of every month, now we've moved it Wednesday because it was election. Monday's and Wednesdays are bad for staff because they have other meetings, and it's always seemed to work Tuesdays are very good especially if they have something on Wednesday if the Board needs to do anything we've already met. So it would be my preference to leave it on the first Tuesday unless someone has some problems with that. First Tuesday okay with you, Rita?

--:

Are they always at six o'clock?

Michaeline Day:

Yes. We can change it earlier or later, what anyone thinks. Normally the meetings do not last terribly long. We will for a while be meeting and it could take some time as later we'll be discussing our master park plan that we have to do. I know some of you work down in Illinois, so moving it too much sooner might be a problem for you. Is six o'clock good?

Rita Christiansen:

My preference is to keep it where it is the first Tuesday at six p.m.

Bill Mills:

With me as well.

Michaeline Day:

So okay with you guys? Our meetings will be the first Tuesday of every month.

Rita Christiansen:

Do we need a motion?

Michaeline Day:

I don't think this is a motion thing, do you?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes.

Rita Christiansen:

I make a motion that we keep the meetings the first Tuesday of every month at six p.m.

--:

Second.

Michaeline Day:
All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Opposed? Carries. Our agenda is listing the next item would be our master park plan proposal, but I would like to move up Item d and Item e before c so we'll save the best to last, sorry Katie, or get you out sooner or whatever. So we might as well start with Katie if that's alright. Katie handed out a farmer's market focus group analysis, and maybe she would like to discuss this with us now.

e. Farmer's Market Focus Group Analysis (Katie Zeeck)

Katie Zeeck:

Hi everyone. My name is Katie Zeeck. I'm the Special Events Coordinator for the Village. I was before you two months ago with a proposal for a farmer's market to be held out in Prairie Springs Park. I was asked to hold a focus group to find out if this is what we wanted and what I really needed to know to run a farmer's market and I learned a lot. I had four people there who told me almost everything. They tried to tell me everything I needed to know, and it was a very good learning experience for me to learn what they had to say.

Everyone was very excited about the idea of the farmer's market. Their only concern is what they have with every other market that is starting up is that there are a lack of growers. Everybody wants to hold a market but there's only so many local growers in the area supply produce for five different markets. So that was one thing that they had said. Another thing they said was that it would be hard to start a full-time summer market for this year because most farmer's commit to a market by January 1 of the year so they can buy seed and everything that they need for that year. You can see on the sheet it just goes over what they talked about.

Then I kind of revised my proposal for you on the back of the sheet. It would be to hold a one-time mid summer market this summer, and that would be the weekend of August 13 and 14, and that is the weekend between Prairie Family Days and the Pleasant Prairie Triathlon. This is the time of the year where most growers have a surplus of produce where by just going to their normal markets during the week they can't get rid of everything they have, so they said that a lot of people would be interested in coming to a

market at this time to be able to sell some of their produce that they have. So you can see on the proposal the market would be Saturday and Sunday morning from eight until two p.m. These can change, this is just a proposal. I propose that it would be locally grown plants and produce as opposed to reselling which is when people go to other markets maybe down in Chicago and buy things that aren't exactly in season and sell them. That's how you can get watermelons out of season. People go down south and buy them and come and bring them up here to sell them at farmer's markets. But by allowing only locally grown growers you have very fresh product.

Michaeline Day:

Locally grown, Katie, you're talking about Kenosha County, or would you—

Katie Zeeck:

Probably, Kenosha, Racine, Walworth within a certain radius just so they can get it here and it's not bought from another market and resold, that they're the actual growers of the produce. The growers would be able to sell off their trucks. Many of the concerns that growers have is when the markets try to be too fancy and they have to sell from booths. It's very hard for them to do that, so that was one request. And then that the costs stay down. many people just want to be able to pay their \$15. When they were telling me the story of the City market at Columbus Park and you can pay \$10 for the entire season because they don't employ a market manager and that's what raises the cost. Since we don't have a market manager we can keep the cost down and it would just be advertising.

Rita Christiansen:

I have a couple questions, Katie, actually two things. Do we already have an idea of the commitment of this. Have you had people come in and say, yes, I'm interested, sign me up?

Katie Zeeck:

The two farmers that were at my focus group were interested in it. They're the only ones, though, that I have talked to.

Rita Christiansen:

So is there a number at one point we're going to say we don't have enough commitment for this so, therefore, we're not going to do it?

Katie Zeeck:

I don't think so. I think a minimum of six I would hope which was in my original proposal was for six.

Rita Christiansen:

I'm sure we could sell out with two. My other item is you say at the top of this back page two smaller local markets without a market manager charge \$15 for the entire season. We're going to charge \$15 for one time for two days?

Katie Zeeck:

Yes.

Rita Christiansen:

Was that discussed among your focus group?

Katie Zeeck:

My theory on that was our competition is the Harbor Marketplace downtown and they charge \$28 to \$25 a week, so for a weekend for two days.

Rita Christiansen:

They felt that was a fair price?

Katie Zeeck:

Yes.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay. I was just wondering because if it's for the whole season in other areas \$15 for two days they might think that's too much. I don't.

Katie Zeeck:

And we can lower it, too.

Rita Christiansen:

And you're going to allow them just to back the trucks in or whatever it is?

Katie Zeeck:

Yes.

Michaeline Day:

Where at Prairie Springs are you thinking of putting this?

Rita Christiansen:

It says the parking lot next to the Common Grounds.

Katie Zeeck:

The far end of the parking lot because youth soccer is still going on, so they utilize the ball field pavilion and the ball field parking.

Rita Christiansen:

So we're talking where the gravel parking lot is? Is that the one we're talking about?

Katie Zeeck:

No.

Mike Pollocoff:

It's the parking lot and you drive to the far west end of the RecPlex parking lot.

Katie Zeeck:

Looking at the lake. There's that little square area of the parking lot right by Common Grounds and by the bike path, at that end. I was told that that would be a good place to have it because of parking and not a lot of people use the RecPlex parking lot during the summer, so we could utilize that far end of the parking lot and not bother members by taking up the parking lot.

Rita Christiansen:

I'm very happy to see this. I think this will be a great addition and hopefully it will grow.

Katie Zeeck:

The goal is for next year, as I said, to work for a full-time market, but we just didn't start early enough this year.

Rita Christiansen:

Good job, Katie.

Michaeline Day:

We can start small and see what's going on, too.

Katie Zeeck:

Yes, a first step.

--:

Did you mention that this also the days for the triathlon?

Katie Zeeck:

It's between Prairie Family Days and the Pleasant Prairie Triathlon. It's that weekend.

Rita Christiansen:

We could never do it with the triathlon.

Michaeline Day:

We need a motion to approve the market day, to have the market weekend.

Rita Christiansen:

I'd like to make a motion to propose that we have the Pleasant Prairie Farmer's Market the weekend of the 13th and 14th of August, 2005.

Michaeline Day:

Any second?

Bill Mills:

I second the motion.

Michaeline Day:

Any further discussion? I just thought of one question, Katie. If it rains what do we--are we having a rain date or are we just going to have it anyway in the rain?

Katie Zeeck:

I believe we would have it anyway in the rain.

Dino Laurenzi:

Katie, how will we market this? Do you have a sense of how we'll do this? Will we advertise it?

Katie Zeeck:

I believe there will be advertising. I didn't really think that far, but there's still time to get it in the fall Play by Play. The fall Play by Play will be out before that. We can do a press release in the paper.

Rita Christiansen:

Also, too, just a suggestion. We have lots of people who come to Prairie Family Days and that would be an excellent opportunity. And our web page, too, would be another area or the Kenosha web page. So there's lots of places that we can put the information. Good question, Dino.

Michaeline Day:

Any other questions or comments? We have a motion and second on the floor. All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you, Katie.

d. Update Information Session - What the Village is doing for Earth Day 2005 (John Steinbrink, Jr.)

Michaeline Day:

And the stand in for John, Jr., can you give us a little information or update on what the Village is doing for Earth Day 2005?

Mike Pollocoff:

From last year this even has really grown. In fact it's almost tripled in size. And we have a lot more people that are going to be involved with us. Last year I think we had 60 students and now we're up to 190. So John has put together some learning stations based on the age of the students and what's going to be interesting for them. If you look at the back of your map you can see we're doing tree planting stations where they're going to plant some trees, some landscaping, the lake history and discussion on fish health, youth fishing, a recycling station that the Village is going to be operating and a compost station. That's for the morning. The afternoon schedule the landscaping station drops off. So they'll be having lunch out there. We have 190 of the younger kids, 200 fourth and fifth graders, so it should be a pretty good event.

Michaeline Day:

What day of the week is this? Is it a Friday?

Mike Pollocoff:

April 22nd is a Friday.

Michaeline Day:

With that many students if you need any extra help, if it's not a Thursday, since it's a Friday I can help if he needs any help with the kids and rounding them up.

Mike Pollocoff:

Keeping them herded in the right direction. I'm sure he can use the help. So if you need me let me know and I'll help.

Rita Christiansen:

Mike, how many more groups do we have involved this year on this? Because it looks like we've expanded our menu like the Ducks Unlimited. Is that new?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right, Ducks Unlimited wasn't involved last year. Kenosha Grounds Care was last year. I think Kenosha/Racine Land Trust I don't believe that were involved last year. Timberland was last year. Last year Pleasant Prairie Elementary wasn't involved, it was just Whittier.

Michaeline Day:

Was Prairie Lane? No?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, they weren't either.

Rita Christiansen:

One thing that I remember very clearly from last year after this happened John brought a video or a slide to the Board to present and show, and they did a fantastic job with this. I've never seen so many children with dirty hands and smiley faces. I think they really learned from it and that's what we want them to take away from it. So I hope it is as successful if not more this year.

Mike Pollocoff:

We're going to video the event. We have an audiovisual person at IcePlex who is going to come out and video it. And one of the things that we've done with Time Warner since we have that agreement with them now is what you see on TV right now is Channel 25 for the City station is going to turn over to the Village station. So some of these events are going to start popping up on there as far as Earth Day events. Basically it's going to be our menu of what we want to put on there. We'll be putting on a lot of basic Village information about meetings and agendas and what's going on and things like this, the Earth Day. John is talking about doing something for Prairie Family Days on the setup and the same thing with the triathlons.

Rita Christiansen:

It would be nice if you're going down that line of thought to package something if we could in different events throughout the year and the present that when we're trying to bring new venues in. That would be a great marketing tool for us to use to bring the people.

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes, seeing is believing.

Michaeline Day:

I think the Village should be commended on working hard on getting this all together and tell John thank you very much.

Mike Pollocoff:

He did a good job.

Michaeline Day:

He did.

c. Discuss Master Park Plan Proposals from Crispell-Snyder, Inc. and Bonestroo.

Michaeline Day:

In your packets you'll find two proposals, one for the master park plan, one from Bonestroo and the other from Crispell-Snyder.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. We submitted or we sent out RFPs to I believe seven different firms to do the work. The scope of work that we want is fairly extensive. The amount of money we said we'd be willing to pay is rather low so that kind of culled out some of the participants, so two proposals aren't bad. Crispell-Snyder, of course, has done a lot of engineering work in the Village. They're teaming up with Vanderwald and Associates to do their proposal. I'm still not sure why they teamed up, to be honest with you, because Vanderwald could probably do it themselves, but they're going to rely on Crispell to deal with some of the civil issues as it relates to trails. But they've done quite a bit of work.

Bonestroo is a larger engineering firm than Crispell-Snyder. In fact, it's just about national. They've done some design work for the Village. They did the interior ice equipment and design at the IcePlex, and they do a lot of architectural work and they do planning work. I think that one of the things I'm going to propose, and we didn't give

you guys a lot of time to review it, but one of the things I'd like to cover tonight is kind of coming up with some criteria that we want to evaluate the different vendors on, and I think probably if we look at the scope of services that would be the best thing and evaluate who we want to use. My proposal would be at the next Park Commission meeting to bring them back and have them make a presentation to the Commission and interview them. The staff can prepare some recommendations for both these firms as to our experience with them. We're going to get their references and make sure they have good references or if the references are comparable so we know that the studies are comparable to what we're looking at. So you'll have that information along with the two firms to see who you're comfortable with.

Some of the things we want to--pretty much price. One firm is a couple thousand bucks less, but by the time you start dealing with deliverables they're going to be up there. I think what we want to do is find somebody who is going to address some of the issues that we're concerned about and what their approach is to it. If you look at the Crispell-Snyder form--

Michaeline Day:

Could I interrupt you just for a quick second. We have three new members on the Board and maybe give them a little background on why we're doing this. I'll let you explain it.

Mike Pollocoff:

The master park plan, the Village is in the process of getting ready for--the generic form of it is Smart Growth. And Smart Growth is where a community takes a look at all aspects of their comprehensive planning, whether it be transportation, water and sewer, storm water, housing, park and open space, zoning, land use, and all those components get put together and they make one document. And then once that Smart Growth plan is done, what happens is--right now in Pleasant Prairie if you want to do something on a piece of land, whether it's residential or manufacturing or whatever, typically the Village is what we call a down zone community where everything is in its lowest zoning classification so that you can't do very much without going through the approval process so the neighbors know what's going to happen. If you take a look at ag land around here, a farmer if he sells his land to somebody, has to go through the zoning process so people know what's going to happen. And once he gets that zoning or whoever buys the land from him gets the zoning can do what they want to do, or if a developer wants to put in a subdivision they can do what they want to do.

Smart Growth is the exact opposite of that. So you have a long hearing process with citizens and neighbors and they take a look through that hearing process what's the impact of this development, transportation, sewer and water, park planning and all that stuff. Well, what Smart Growth is that gets turned backwards. So all the master plans are updated to what the optimum development of the Village would be. The optimum development of the Village is about 45,000 people.

Michaeline Day:

And currently we have?

Mike Pollocoff:

19,000. 45,000 people, so what you do is you define what all--right now you take--what the comprehensive land use plan shows now is we go over by where Micky lives, that land in the comprehensive land use plan is identified for 2020 light residential.

Michaeline Day:

I live on ML, a half mile east of I-94 and a half mile north of State Line Road.

Mike Pollocoff:

Dino lives over by Prairie Ridge. That area there is slated in the comprehensive land use plan for commercial, highway business commercial, multifamily, condos and things like that. What Smart Growth does is it turns all that around so the developers don't get zoning anymore. The land is rezoned, so all the hearings happen up front as we go through this process to develop the park plan, the sewer and water plan, transportation, housing and all those things. As you go through those hearing processes and you adopt these plans, every Board and Commission is taking a look at their niche and saying here's what under the maximum development scenarios this is what we want and these are the things we want to have. We'll have public hearings on it and there will be citizen input, because by 2010 or before that, once that day comes and Smart Growth becomes effective, at that point there are no more public hearings. It stops, and if someone wants to develop land they've got their approval and they go and there isn't a hearing process anymore.

Michaeline Day:

So what if they want to change it?

Mike Pollocoff:

You have to undo the whole system.

Michaeline Day:

So, for yucks and grins, mine is going to be light, light family homes, and somebody comes in and let's just say like a WisPark wants to come in and say you've got 55 acres here so let's put in two small factories. Not that they would but I'm just saying.

Mike Pollocoff:

You'd have to convince the Village and all the Commissions that had some part of the planning component to unwind the entire Smart Growth plan and start the whole process over again to make that change.

Michaeline Day:

They'd have to start it all over? They couldn't just say--

Mike Pollocoff:

No.

Michaeline Day:

--okay, your little 55 acres can change?

Mike Pollocoff:

It takes the land use plan and all the components of it, park and all that stuff, and the zoning map and it compresses them into one. So there's a ton of citizen input that comes in at the front, but then once it's done there's no more citizen input. Everything is done. It's going to be a difficult thing because people leave, people move, people come and they say wait a minute I didn't sign onto this.

Michaeline Day:

Now, this is also being generated by the State? This is not something that the Village has just decided?

Mike Pollocoff:

It's a State mandate.

Michaeline Day:

This is State mandated so you know that the Village just didn't decide we're going to do this.

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village does have the option not to do it, but if we don't do it in 2010 we lose all zoning and become an unzoned community so it would be anything goes. So it's the devil you know and the devil you don't know. So it's pretty rigorous. The Village is in the process of finishing the transportation plan. The sewer and water plan is basically done. The park and open space isn't done. We need a comprehensive recreation plan, so we've got all these components we've got to put together. To be honest with you, we have a new Board now so they might have a different idea, but the current Board or last Board was hoping that this doesn't come to fruition completely, because we think that you've got to have good solid plans to base your decisions on, but when you adopt them in such a way that you quit making--you don't review any future changes, it really is taking as hot that what you're getting is going to be what you want. So that's why on these plans we're really going to be--assuming that doesn't happen and it stays that way, we want to make sure we cover every base we can cover, because once that happens they won't see a development proposed for approval. The development will just happen. The

Plan Commission will basically be defunct. There basically won't be any more Plan Commission because zoning approvals aren't needed and it just happens. So it's really critical that everything gets tied out and we take a good, thorough look at it. So that's one of the reasons we're doing it.

The second reason is that there is a greater availability for some grant funds for construction of park and open space improvements if you have a park plan. We have one but it's pretty dated. It's back in the '80s so we need to make that current. So as you go through this planning process, that's what you need to keep in the back of your mind is that as we come to a conclusion on this we'll never get another kick at it. Once we adopt this, this is it.

Michaeline Day:

So when they start throwing rotten tomatoes--

Mike Pollocoff:

And there will be a certain amount of--the down side to this is that Micky's neighbor, and I don't know who it is, but somebody say it's part of the Village that right now is really rural and we say we want a trail through there that's going to connect to the river and we want lower density housing in that area if that's what it is, and that person says, no, I really think I'm within a half mile of the Interstate and I think I want commercial development, they're going to be anxious about it because we're going to be impacting their perceived value of their property because they're not going to be able to do what they want to do. If you've been following the papers, Twin Lakes and Randall recently went through this and it's contentious because a lot of the landowners are saying you're messing with my property rights.

Michaeline Day:

My retirement.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. So that's why there really is a lot of due diligence that needs to occur in that process. I can't say it's good planning. And the Smart Growth law went through the Legislature without a hearing. It was basically prompted by the home building and real estate industry, because what it does is it fast tracks development proposals. Once the plan is done there's no more uncertainty and everything happens and there's no way to stop it.

Michaeline Day:

The only thing that's certain, though, is that things are going to change. So some communities are starting to go through it. And even though there was a lot of special interest money that made this happen in the Legislature, now Legislators are having to hear from people saying you're messing with my property rights. I don't see it the way

the community saw it and I'm stuck because that's what it is.

Michaeline Day:

I know I'm just asking your opinion, but do you think this might go the way of the metric system like we're all going to be talking in liters and centimeters?

Mike Pollocoff:

The push right now is pretty strong to get it. And I think the real thing is the way the Village needs to approach it on this specific one how the Commission should approach it is that it will happen. And if it doesn't, at the end of the day we'll have a really good park plan that still is going to serve us well, but you have to look at it in that context that I'll never get another kick at this again.

Michaeline Day:

And as we are developing this is a good thing because we're going to be discussing trails and bike trails, possibly horse trails, possibly walking trails, running trails, small neighborhood parks, what is a neighborhood park, do we need a community park, how we're going to hook them all together and how we're going to fund them? Are there grants available? How are we going to use our impact fees? So it gives you an outline to follow so that you're not just throwing one here and one there and they duplicate services too close or something. So this is a good thing.

Mike Pollocoff:

So I think as we look at how we want to talk with these two consulting firms, one of the things I think the Commission really wants to evaluate is what's your approach to facilitating public involvement, getting good information from that involvement that you get and turning that into a plan that's understandable, that people can sign off and have some certainty on. What's your approach to doing some alternatives analysis based on those public hearings. I think we should have more than one public hearing, but we'll have diverse interests. You'll have people who want to have horse trails, you'll have people who will want motorcycle trails, jogging trails, you'll have people who don't want any trails by their houses because they don't want strangers going through their neighborhoods. You'll have some people that will want decentralized parks. Right now we're really a centralized park community. So we're going to have divergent issues and needs, and we need to know that the consultant is going to help us kind of sift through those and find a way to rank them and set up some way to evaluate those and give us some alternatives on what's going to work.

Michaeline Day:

Going through this, one of the big things that caught my eye and maybe it's nothing, but under Crispell-Snyder's they were discussing five major parks, and under Bonestroo they said three. Is that just their conception of what they're thinking? The reason I ask is because Crispell-Snyder said five parks making this grant accessible. Is there a number

there that we have to—

Mike Pollocoff:

There's an acreage number. And what happens is the bigger your park in some respects the more utilization you get and that gets more expensive to maintain. So the park people you hear them talk both ways. You've got a Prairie Springs Park where you can get a lot of different type uses in there and that's nice, but if we had to take care of three of those, taking care of one of them is a bear. Right now we have some neighborhood parks, Pleasant Prairie Park, Midwest Highlands, Carol Beach those aren't bad parks to take good care of. But I think one of the things we do is have them explain their view of why having more parks and less regional parks is better. I think that's something we have to come to grips with. I think intuitively some of us are thinking it would be nice to have a lot of parks in places, but when you're getting points on grants having a lot of parks doesn't get you anything. It's really having utilization parks that get you grant points.

Rita Christiansen:

They do go on to explain in their booklet here, and this is Crispell-Snyder, that five parks the variety would be a large, one or two small, a best park and I don't know what that is, and a large massive park looking at eleven future park plans. So when I read through this and I compared the two consultants, it's obvious that Crispell-Snyder has worked with the Village before because they have a lot of information that the other one doesn't. The other thing that I thought was critical after I went through everything and got to the back was my understanding was the time line for completion was January 2006. Crispell can't meet that time line, they're at eleven months. Where the other one can meet that time line at nine months if they start now. So to me that already indicated to me they can't meet what our criteria or our goal was as January. Is that to be extended or is that just a goal in the sand?

Mike Pollocoff:

I think that's what you see comparing a big firm to a smaller firm, and Crispell is not going to have the resources to draw upon to—

Rita Christiansen:

But the other thing is there's more comparisons if I can. Crispell talked about school district plans. They talked about all the copies of drafts that they're going to deliver where the other one didn't talk about that. So when you talk about costs things do tend to level off. At the end they said for the final review process all the committees, Park, Plan, Village Board will all meet and receive comment from the public and then vote on whether it's approved or not, and that wasn't how my vision was, not that that's not the vision as it should be. Whereas it sounds like the other firm wasn't going to have those multiple groups meeting at one time.

Mike Pollocoff:

When I looked at Crispell's I saw that, and I think it's not uncommon of some Wisconsin

governments to have--and we've done it between the Board and the Plan Commission a couple times where we have a joint meeting. The Plan Commission actually conducts the hearing, and the Board is in full session with them, not so much to act on or influence the hearing but to hear the hearing. A public hearing is not held before the Board for a plan. It's either held before the Park Commission or the Plan Commission. Well, the master park plan has to have a hearing before the Plan and the Park. So you could have sequential hearings which there's nothing wrong with that. But one of the concepts that Crispell does, and I think it's kind of that response of that tug of the Smart Growth, is that everybody hear everything. The Board is going to make that final decision and they need to hear all the comments rather than having the Board come to each meeting. So that's a concept. It's one consultant's way to do it.

The other thing, before I forget, you were talking about the deliverables and what do they bring to the table. The Bonestroo proposal was a little bit less expensive but it was light on the deliverables.

Michaeline Day:

Yes, very light on the deliverables.

Mike Pollocoff:

So when we talk to them that's the other thing I think we want to lay out. For us to be able to really do this what do we need for the deliverables so that you guys can look at all the plans, the staff can. The Plan Commission is going to need to have their kick at it when you're done with it and the same with the Board.

Michaeline Day:

Because if perhaps you tell them you want more because they're kind of light, is their a time frame now going to match Crispell-Snyder's because I noticed the time line, too. So if the time line is an extra three months, is that is going to be something that is--I mean we have an optimum time line that we would like to see. But if it's not doable, is it something that we drew a line in the sand and say it has to be done this day and if it's not you're out of the ballpark?

Mike Pollocoff:

I don't think so. We wanted to look at some things in the budget, but realistically the Village is in a tax freeze environment so we're not going to do anything anyway.

Michaeline Day:

So we tell them we want it done by this date and then try to get them to do it?

Mike Pollocoff:

You guys should push them to see how soon they can get it done, because they're going

to internalize whether they put another planner on to get it done sooner and get out of it sooner.

Rita Christiansen:

So if they come back and say, for instance, we had this discussion previously, Glen and I did at home about the comparisons of the parks, if they come back and say I can meet your nine month time line but I can only tell you three parks. I mean there's going to be a lot of jockeying here, and I want to make sure that we get what we want.

Mike Pollocoff:

The ground rules in the discussions has got to be not to compromise your proposal as far as what you're going to do, how much can you absorb in costs to get it done sooner.

Rita Christiansen:

What is their relationship with the Village, Crispell-Snyder? You said obviously they've worked with the staff before.

Mike Pollocoff:

They've got a significant history. I came here in 1985 and they'd been our consulting engineer for 15 years before that. And then they've done quite a bit of work. Over the last three years we've done less work with them over time, less and less. That's not to say they're bad, but we felt that some of the things that we were dealing with from design and engineering issues were handled by a little bit bigger firms in a better manner. But they're a good firm. They know the Village. They know the existing planning process that we use. They know the sewer and water plan backwards and forwards which means they know the comprehensive plan backwards and forwards. So they do have a knowledge base to work from that I think saves them a lot of time in getting up to speed and creating data to make some judgments on.

Rita Christiansen:

I guess what I would say when I look at this is they're both proposing five and three, and basically when you go through this it's pretty much all the way through the same. Anybody that's reviewed please jump in, but what makes one more outstanding than the other? Don't even think about the cost. But I mean what would make me say this is the one I want?

Mike Pollocoff:

My recommendation would be when we interview them measure their commitment to go through the public hearing process and deal with all the concerns and issues in a way that's not going to irritate the citizens, get good information, and then be able to manipulate that information and analyze it and give it to you. There's a lot of consultants putting out some really nice proposals and brochures, but it's sitting down and talking

with those guys and asking them about their experience, some other areas they've done. Have them describe some other communities and how they approach the plan. We're contacting their references right now, and before you meet with them we'll give you the written report of what the communities had to say about them.

Rita Christiansen:

I did want to ask you if you could contact them. If you're doing that and you can get the feedback that would be great.

Mike Pollocoff:

Yeah, we'll contact the references for you.

Michaeline Day:

I think the one thing I noticed, and again you read these and everybody sees different things, with Bonestroo they say their tasks, but then underneath they say I'm going to give one working meeting under task four, and under task five one working meeting, one meeting as planned. Well, a public information opportunity one meeting? So you know that it's almost impossible just to get the preliminaries done in one meeting unless we're planning on a 12 hour meeting you're just going to be adding on cost. I think that maybe their time line here, while they're making our time line because we gave them our time line, I don't know that their time line is realistic.

Rita Christiansen:

And, again, I agree, Micky, because when I look at this I saw that also in the fact that Crispell seems to have more open to the public meetings which we want to make sure we get the feedback we need to make a good decision and involve the community because this is going to be their plan.

Bill Mills:

In those previous projects that was done with the Village, was the public involvement, did they have meetings where they had to involve the public? Because I notice they've done quite a lot of work with the Village. In fact, I notice they have you, Mike, as their number one reference.

Mike Pollocoff:

Yeah, I really appreciate that. To me that's in poor taste professionally. They've been to a lot of meetings, but you've got to remember usually on a sewer and water issue the meeting involves assessing people, so it's a different kind of hearing that's usually more contentious. But Vanderwald I think is going to be the one that's carrying the water on this one. It won't be Crispell-Snyder as much. I think Crispell-Snyder is the source of the documents, the source of the information and they know how we run, and they're going to be working with Vanderwald to make it happen. I do know Vanderwald has had

some pretty good success in some contentious park plans in communities where you have people wanting different things. They were able to kind of walk through that mine field and build a consensus with the community. We're diverse. You've got the people in Carol Beach who have a whole different idea of parks than the people out west. Getting all these different areas together and making them work together is going to be a trick.

Michaeline Day:

Even here among ourselves in talking with even staff some of the Village employees and staff people have horses and they'd like to see the horse trail hook up to the Lake County, Illinois horse trail so you could go all the way from the north shore all the way up and that would be a nice ride. And there's other people saying, oh, my gosh, I don't want a horse running in the back of my back yard. So just even talking among ourselves there's a lot of different ideas and choices. So you're right the more public people you can get in sometimes you can get too much but it's good to get different viewpoints.

Kathleen Burns:

As far as time frame goes, having gotten this yesterday, and I did read through it but I didn't really get a chance in my opinion to look thoroughly enough to say here's the similarities or here's the differences. Rita, you guys were mentioning some flaws in there already that I really didn't have a chance to look at it that thoroughly. What is our time frame here? As new members do we have a chance to look at these real closely and come up with questions and then getting the information from the references I would think might lead us towards questions. People say it was fine until this point or I guess I'm not understanding where we're at in the process.

Mike Pollocoff:

I guess my recommendation on the process would be I wanted everybody to see the proposals and talk about the things they liked about them or didn't like about them. This next month either myself or John will be vetting the references to see how they are. We'll give you a report on that that we're not going to share with the consultants. What I'm thinking is the next Park Commission meeting is to bring them in, have them make a presentation one after another and come up with some questions that we want answered. After you look at these, write them down and send them to us and the staff will have some questions that we think should be answered and we'll give those to you to ask. It's really seeing how well they answer them, come up with an evaluation of how you feel about the people and their experience, and then make a recommendation hopefully at the end of the next meeting who we want to go with.

Kathleen Burns:

Now, do we correspond by e-mail in between meetings? So the questions then would go directly back to you, for example?

Mike Pollocoff:

You can send them to me or you can talk back and forth. The only thing as new members you should be aware of is open meeting law. You shouldn't have more than—

Kathleen Burns:

Quorum.

Glen Christiansen:

Two people but not three.

Michaeline Day:

Correct, you can't have a quorum.

Glen Christiansen:

If three of us get together outside the door here we can't talk about—

Michaeline Day:

Wait, we have seven members, right?

Mike Pollocoff:

Still, three constitutes a quorum.

Michaeline Day:

Okay, I was thinking a majority.

Mike Pollocoff:

Three constitutes a violation of the—

Glen Christiansen:

But three of us cannot sit down and discuss this outside of an open meeting.

Kathleen Burns:

But individually, for example?

Michaeline Day:

If you had a question, you can e-mail me and say you've been on the Board five million years and tell me what you know about this, yeah, you can do that.

Glen Christiansen:

On the far end of the question that was just asked, Mike, when do we plan on making a final decision and having somebody start moving forward with this?

Mike Pollocoff:

I would hope, based on you guys getting another month to review this and we go through the interview process, my recommendation would be we should be able to make a decision between the two at the end of the next meeting and then make an award and we're off on our way.

Michaeline Day:

So you will get the recommendations to us before the first Tuesday of next month. If we have questions we can e-mail each other.

Mike Pollocoff:

And if you have some questions you want asked e-mail them to me or to Judy. Everybody has Judy's e-mail and she'll put together a question list so we've got all the questions together. We'll add the staff questions to that, maybe go through and try to get the duplicates out and we'll go from there.

Rita Christiansen:

Would it be possible to have Jean Werbie here at our next meeting then?

Mike Pollocoff:

I'll ask her.

Rita Christiansen:

Can you ask since she's a little fireball.

Michaeline Day:

So then the questions you'll ask is we'll have a series of questions and we'll interview them and meet them and talk to them.

Mike Pollocoff:

We'll have them make a presentation and ask the questions.

Michaeline Day:

And then at the end of that meeting we'll tell them thank you very much and the one who gets the most votes we will recommend through you to the Village Board then to hire that one?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right.

Michaeline Day:

That would be the process. We wouldn't actually be doing the hiring. We would recommend to the Board who they would hire?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. I'm sure the Board's not going to have any problem whoever you want as long as the price doesn't escalate.

Rita Christiansen:

I don't have any further questions.

Mike Pollocoff:

Does that sound like a workable process?

Michaeline Day:

Yes. Is everybody comfortable with that? I have no problem, Judy, if you want to pass along my e-mail address to any of the Board members, and maybe you should get a consensus if everybody else wouldn't mind if in case somebody wants to get hold of us they could. So if the Village does not have your e-mail address and if you're not adverse to giving it to them if you'd give it to Judy after the meeting.

Dino Laurenzi:

Mike, just for clarification, if a question is sent to a member it would not be appropriate to copy others then at the same time?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, it can be. You can copy to other members. But the slippery slope is when you start instant messaging three or four people and somebody comes back and says you guys made a decision amongst yourselves together. There's all sorts of cases where Boards and Commissions have been cited because they've gotten on the phone together, or two people talked and another third one came in as a walking quorum. There's nothing wrong with e-mailing and copying everybody. It's just that ongoing discussion at the same time where a decision could be made off the record.

Michaeline Day:

For instance, Kathy might e-mail me a question that I don't know the answer to, but Rita does so I could forward the question to Rita.

Mike Pollocoff:

That's sequential. There's no problem with that.

Glen Christiansen:

It really cannot become a live commentary.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right, not chat rooms.

Michaeline Day:

So if I couldn't answer the question I could send it to somebody else that would be able to.

Glen Christiansen:

But we're saying can be done is sharing questions with one another and comments, just no live commentary.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. This is a possibility, too. If you guys really get into a situation where you've got a lot of questions you want to work through, then give us a call and we'll set up a meeting. We'll get everybody in here and have it happen in open. We're not totally constrained by a budget for the number of meetings you guys need. This is on anything that you're doing, whether it's this or somebody else, if you need to meet again then let us know and we'll schedule a meeting. We notified the press and you can see they're all here, but we just go through the process so everything is—

Rita Christiansen:

Mike would you prefer that we filter our questions through Judy and then they can come back to us when we sit down to meet with these people. Maybe the whole Board will each have the same questions.

Mike Pollocoff:

If you can get them to Judy, and if there is duplication, John and I and maybe Jean Werbie will sit down and get them crafted so we make the most use of our time and then we'll add some of the questions we have that we think should be asked. But Judy can be the clearing house for your e-mails or what have you.

Michaeline Day:

Does anyone else have any questions about the process? Okay, we have a plan, so we'll move onto the one that everybody looks forward to, Item 6, our adjournment.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Michaeline Day:

I need a motion.

Rita Christiansen:

I make a motion that we adjourn.

Bill Mills:

Second.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor, aye.

Voices:

Aye.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.