

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall, Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
Tuesday, August 2, 2005
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Michaeline Day, Kathleen Burns, Michael Russert and William Mills. Rita Christiansen, Glen Christiansen and Alex Tiahnybok were excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Superintendent of Parks; and Judith Baternik, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. MINUTES - JULY 5, 2005**

Michaeline Day:

We had minutes e-mailed to everyone, and if there's no additions or corrections or no discussion, can I have a motion to accept those minutes?

Michael Russert:

I make a motion to accept last month's minutes.

Michaeline Day:

Can I have a second?

Kathleen Burns:

I second.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Motion passes.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

5. NEW BUSINESS

Michaeline Day:

John is on his way so they should be here in a few minutes, so we'll table our meeting here until they arrive. There's no other business before the Board so we'll go off the record.

(Off The Record)

Michaeline Day:

We can go back on record now.

- a. Discuss Master Park Plan project scope and the roles of the various involved parties.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Today we have with us representatives from Vandewalle & Associates. They're the people that we chose to do our Master Park Plan. We have Megan MacGlashan and Mark Roffers. We spent the last three hours driving through all of the Village parks, all of the new proposed sites, LakeView RecPlex, IcePlex just to kind of show them or get them oriented into the scope of where we are now and give them somewhat of a hands on vision of where we'd like to be in the future. I believe that they have something prepared for us today to walk us through these four items we have on the agenda tonight. Mark, whenever you're ready.

Mark Roffers:

I'll just start by thanking you for selecting us to work with you on the park and open space plan. I was mentioning to John earlier it's the most fun projects that we get to work on. We're usually involved in land use battles over what land gets developed and for what purpose, so this is a nice refreshing type of project to work on, particularly for a community that, as we've learned today, and over the course of the last couple months really has its act together in terms of park and recreational facilities. We saw the Rec Center and were blown away by that. A lot of opportunities elsewhere given the lakefront and other assets and the growth opportunities you have and the ability to link your park system to community growth, Village Center, and what have you. So it's an exciting project for us and we're happy to be here.

Really what we'd like to spend this first meeting doing is sharing a little bit about what the scope of the project is, talking about that, answering any questions so you have a sense for what you're getting from us. Talk a little bit about some of the background information we've collected. Just in talking with John this afternoon we realize we have

some gaps and some work to do to clean up some of the information that I think you've got a copy of, but we'd like to walk through that a little bit. Then talk about first meeting where we hope to get the members of the public in addition to you folks and come in to give an opportunity to share what their vision is for the park system in the future in addition to using your comprehensive plan, impact fee results, and some of the other efforts that you've already undertaken to put together your park plan. So that's sort of the purpose and, as John mentioned, those four agenda items kind of dance around that purpose.

I'm going to talk a little bit about the scope of the project and what the roles are of the various players at least as we understand them in completing the scope. The product is a five year park and open space plan. We call it a five year plan because it's being prepared under basically a State rule that the DNR sets up. It says that in order to get grant dollars from the State Stewardship Fund, which I think is funded at maybe \$40 or \$50 million a year now, and from federal Land and Water Conservation funds, which are funneled through the State, you need to have a five year park plan in place. And you need to identify what you want to get a grant for in that five year park plan in order to make you just minimally eligible to get in the front door on those types of grants.

So that's not to say that the plan won't look beyond five years, but it says it needs to have a fairly detailed program for what you think you might be doing within your park system for the next five years, both acquisition of lands and development of facilities. I'm using parks as a shorthand for parks, public open spaces, trails, your potential additions to your Rec Center, other recreational facilities that you have in your community and lands for recreation purposes, with recreation meaning from playing soccer to bird watching.

So here's the plan document, and we're going to talk a little bit later about what's in that, but that's the ultimate goal of this project is to prepare that. And I explained the primary benefit potentially to you of doing that. You can get the money you're paying for the park plan many times over by actually doing that. The other good news on that subject is that you now, as I understand it maybe today or yesterday, have your park impact fees in place. These State grants usually require a 50 percent local match, and you can use those impact fees to provide for a local match. So there is potentially a real great benefit of acquiring parklands and developing park facilities not only with using just half of your impact fees but obviously not tapping into the local property tax.

The other thing we hope to do through this process is bring together a lot of the recommendations that you've already kind of talked about and have in formal and informal plan documents. So you had to do quite a bit of analysis in your impact fee study. We'll bring that information here. As part of that and as a separate effort you've prepared a trail map. That will be brought together and linked with future park recommendations. The comprehensive plan, obviously, deals with recommendation for future parks. We'll bring forward and advance some of those ideas through your park plan. So it's a little bit of an umbrella to bring together some of the things you've already talking about in one relatively concise document.

But it's also a change to explore some new ideas, some things that maybe are in your head as to what you'd like to see in the next 5 years or 20 years but haven't had a chance

to--it's a chance to get your foot in the door on crazy ideas, and ultimately those crazy ideas can lead to great things. It might 15 or 20 years from now, but if we can introduce some new concepts that people can at least start to get their arms around this really is a vehicle to do that. We really view the park plans and park planning as an opportunity to think big as to how park planning might interact with overall community development.

John was sharing an idea, which I assume you've talked about, of bringing a trail system connecting the Rec Center and the park to the waterfront, to the lakefront. So this is an opportunity to kind of capture some of those big ideas and try to put some realism to them.

Then, finally, and this is a good opportunity that relates to this five year planning, is to prepare master plans for certain parks and park facilities. And we'll talk about what those facilities are. The member of our team that you don't see here, Jim Schaefer, is an expert landscape architect/park planner. And once we get to that stage in the process where we identify I think we have five parks that you want that kind of treatment for he'll get people involved with you, touring the sites, cutting his way with machetes through the thickets and the woods and trying to work with you and any members of the public at interest to develop at least a concept plan for those parks so you can begin and the Village can begin to program funds and allocate fees and seek grants to actually get those developed.

I know for a fact, because I've been through this before, when a community has its act together enough to not only have a five year park plan but to have a fairly detailed concept plan for what it wants to see in a park laid out and nicely illustrated, your chances of getting a grant shoot way up. So that's going to be a real benefit and something that we don't always include in these five year park and open space plans but certainly have a lot of value.

Michaeline Day:

Any questions?

Mark Roffers:

I wanted to talk a little bit about the roles of the various parties. Let me first just talk a little bit more about the work program. A few months ago when members of our team came to present our proposal we had a work program or an idea for how we'd carry that out and working in conjunction with Crispell-Snyder, an engineering firm who brought us into this project and we're very appreciative of. I'll just summarize what we're planning to do. I think you might even have a little schedule of how we would propose to work with you over that to carry this out.

We're assembling as much background information about the community as possible right now. We're really learning. We are by far the dumbest people in the room right now so it's our job to really gather as much information and correct information as possible from John and from you folks and from looking at maps and plans and things like that. Megan is really leading that effort. The vision workshop I mentioned a little

bit earlier. That's something we hope to do in early September and work with you to publicize it and get the word out. Your Rec Center is an awesome place to do that, but other ways through the local media and things to truly try to get as many people out as possible to talk about their future vision for the park system and help us identify priority parks for planning and things like that.

We'll come back with what we call an opportunities analysis and talk about these big picture ideas before we zoom in and talk about where a new jungle gym should go in a particular park. Think about how you want your park system to work. Think about the population we're trying to serve with it, both now and 20 years from now. And think about these big ideas, connection from the lake to the Rec Center and other big things that we haven't quite uncovered, but learning a little bit about what's not only going on within the Village but beyond the Village limits that affects you. We drove around Anderson Park and Tremper, certainly not in the Village, but certainly a facility that relates to the Village and the Village residents' use.

We'll finish writing the background chapters. Megan got a little start on that already which you have a copy of, and then we'll start diving in on these concept site plans for the five parks that we will have selected by that time through meetings with you. And Jim will come to a couple meetings to talk about those and share some ideas, and we'll work through that process with you.

Then we have a process to wrap things up once we prepare that. Prepare the draft park and open space plan document itself, to have a public hearing, basically the second major public event on the park plan. Here's what you told us back in September and here's what we have to present to you and what do you think. And then we'll finalize the plan and work it through the Village adoption process. We generally recommend in addition to the Park Commission adopting the plan that the Plan Commission adopt it and the Village Board adopt it so everyone is on the same page as to what the park recommendations are. So sometime in this period it would be valuable to bring a draft plan to those two bodies and get some of their input before it's finalized.

To complete these, the scope has six or seven meetings with your folks similar to this. We'll be talking about different things at each meeting. Over the course of about seven to nine months we're scheduled to finish in the wintertime. As I mentioned earlier, two bigger public meetings where we will try to get the word out and try to get people to come to those meetings.

So working hand-in-hand closely with you is critical. We have our team back at the office that's going to be working closely. It's kind of a tight team. It's me, Megan, Jim Schaefer, and our GIS mapping specialist, Andy Curtis, who are going to be the four that will be working on this project. I'll be managing the project from out end, but a lot of the day-to-day communications as they happen will be between Megan and John about data collection and things like that. So we'll certainly rely on John and work with John throughout the process and then look to you folks for policy advice and direction. It's really up to you to guide us and up to us to try to lay out how to achieve some of our vision and dreams for future of the park system. I'd be happy to entertain any questions or comments.

Michaeline Day:

Any questions? Okay, keep going.

Mark Roffers:

I'm going to talk a little bit about the format of the park plan, and then I'm going to turn it over to Meg who is going to just walk through some of the information that you already have. Before I do that I just wanted to mention I think you have in your packets or you had kind of a tentative schedule of what we hope to accomplish at each one of the seven or eight meetings with the Park Commission. Is that accurate? Okay. That just kind of puts down in words a little bit about what we hope to accomplish to carry out that scope over the course of the next several meetings. I'm sure that will evolve and change over time, but it gives you a general blueprint.

The format of the plan is determined, in part, by what you want to see, but also in part by what the State wants to see in these plans. You said you want a five year park plan, yes, but they also say we want this park plan to include a statistical analysis of your park needs compared to national standards. They want you to lay out a series of goals, and they want see what the regional context is in the overall vision for your park system, really before you get into specifics about what you want to see in this park versus that park. And I think it's a good approach, frankly, but we really need to follow that approach in carrying out this park plan.

There's several sections. It's not too much different than any other plan in process, but the document starts with an introduction of what it is and some definitions of terms. Background information, demographics, natural resources, your existing park system, existing plans that have already been prepared. Standards, you've already dealt with some of those standards in preparing your impact fee, so we'll be basically pulling a lot of those over into the park plan. And then based on those standards and based on projections for future growth and where that growth is happening the plan will identify needs. We need X number of neighborhood parks, and they should be generally in these locations. So that will be the needs assessments.

And then recommendations, both recommendations for new acquisition of lands for park and trails, open space, geographically and by type of facility, whether it's community park or trail or neighborhood park or a natural area. And recommendations for your existing park system, the lands the Village already owns and what should be done with that, and that's where the five park master plans kind of fit in.

Then, finally, the one thing that I know you really want to see is how do you get from these beautiful pictures of what future parks might look like to actually getting them built. So the plan will include an implementation program for how you carry these out, identify grant opportunities, and a bit of a phasing program and other things to really carry out the vision of those plans.

That's basically the layout. The documents, and I'm sorry I forgot it at the office because

I wanted to bring an example, but the documents basically run 40 or 50 pages. We use a lot of photographs and graphics and there will be six or seven maps in the document to spice it up. We take an approach of producing the introduction or a one page summary for the people that want the cliff notes version of the plan and what are the key points and what are the things I need to draw. So we really try to make the documents visually interesting and user friendly within the general confines of that layout.

William Mills:

. . . I noticed just looking at what you provided us before you mentioned that you'll provide preliminary cost estimates. At what part I guess in this overall format will those cost estimates be and how detailed will those cost estimates be so that--I guess what I'm looking for is with the impact fees and as those impact fees are collected we'll have money at different stages of the five years, and how detailed will the cost estimates be so that as we acquire some of this money out of the impact fees that we'll know that this portion of the park is within reason based off the money that we have?

Mark Roffers:

I think it's important to get a general sense of what a reasonable budget might be for a park before we get too carried away with actually preparing a lavish design that includes roller coasters or whatever it happens to be. So just getting a general sense early on will be important from you, and then what we'll be doing is work within each of those five selected parks preparing a conceptual master plan. Along with that giving a general sort of ballpark sense as to how much that might cost as a whole, kind of a thumbnail . . . Jim will work for an hour rough cost estimate based on his experience in designing parks before.

So the concept plan will be shared with that rough cost estimate. Again, it will go through a check with you folks to see if that's within the realm of acceptability both in terms of what you want to see in the park and then what you might be willing to spend. And then there will be another level of refinement both in terms of the park design and in terms of the cost estimates. What Jim will do is basically itemize the expenses associated with each portion of the park from grading to designing a ball field to restoring the native prairie or oak savannah or to other more concrete facilities within the park.

William Mills:

So if I understand correctly you're going to start with a more broad cost estimate, and then as we go forward in the process by the final plan we'll have a much more itemized list of what the costs are for each section of the park?

Mark Roffers:

Right. And what we say is it's suitable for budgeting. So if you're deciding what to put in a Village budget for 2007 it would be a darn good place holder for that. It will be suitable for submitting a grant and what the State expects in those grant applications which is an itemized cost. And it should be suitable for at least preparing bid documents

whether the Village will be doing those improvements or whether they will be contracting them out, at least giving a sense for what those bids should come in and what you should compare them against.

We might have told you about this, but he did a lot of the park design for the harbor project in Kenosha. He's basically spends all his time doing park and open space detailed planning, so you've got one of the best guys doing that work for you, and we feel really confident about what he's going to be able to accomplish for you, both in terms of creativity and realism in terms of how much these things might cost.

Michaeline Day:

Anyone else have any questions for Mark? Thank you.

Mark Roffers:

Sure. I'm going to turn it over to Meg, and she's going to talk a little bit about the information that we've put together so far, and just get some initial comments from you or reactions. This information will come back to you again, but what we're really wanting to learn right now is where are the gaps, where are the significant missing pieces, where are the bigger errors. We'll take care of typos. We'll take care of smaller things with John, and we already observed in looking and driving around the community this afternoon that our maps need some work. So we'll be working with John to get those maps cleaned up and brought back to you at a later date.

b. Discuss the proposed format of the Master Park Plan and any additional data needs.

Megan MacGlashan:

Does everybody have a copy of this document because I have extras if you don't. Oh, none of you do.

John Steinbrink, Jr.

I don't believe we got that one. The only one that I got was this.

Megan MacGlashan:

That was the first e-mail I sent you.

Mark Roffers:

Let's just rethink our strategy a little bit here, because I think we just have three or four of these.

Mike Pollocoff:

We can make some more, no problem.

Mark Roffers:

Maybe if we could do that then we could jump ahead on the agenda and talk a little bit about the planning.

Michaeline Day:

Either that, or we can take two up here and we could share and they could share. I don't know if we need our own copy if that would make it easier for you.

Mark Roffers:

We have five. I think we just want to walk through it right now. We don't expect a close reading at this point in time

Megan MacGlashan:

So, as Mark said, this is just a preliminary draft of the background chapters for the plan. I'll walk you through some of the main points that we have here. The first three pages or so cover just a natural resource inventory of the area. And basically this provides a good framework for the park planning process. We've identified just a few key points based upon this inventory. The fact that you all will need four season recreation needs, you have a lot of high quality farmland and soil in the Village, and that you have some really significant natural resources that you can market and use to your advantage.

Then starting on page 3 we start with more demographic information. Again, this lays out an important framework. It helps us decide on the kinds of park facilities that will be needed in the future, as well as how much growth we can anticipate. So based on the Department of Administration population projections that I have at this point, we should expect about a 12 percent growth over the next ten years. Also, other important points that we identified is the fact that you have a very young population. A high proportion of your population is young which is great for recreation and parks. But also in the next 10 to 15 years you will be having a considerable portion of your population moving into the 65 and older age bracket.

Then if we move on we have all of our demographic information, and that runs until about page 7. Then we have an inventory of existing plans. We have a few plans at this point that we are missing that I'm currently working with the County and with SEWRPC to get copies of those. But for the most part we have a good review of all of the pertinent existing plans, everything that relates to park planning that can help us provide you with a better plan.

Then starting on page 10 we have an inventory of your existing facilities. Based upon SEWRPC standards for park and recreation facilities we divided your parks into four different categories. We have regional park, multi-community parks, community parks and neighborhood parks as defined by the comprehensive plan. So then in this section

we're going to include descriptions of each of the various parks that fit into those categories. As you can see, some of them at this point already have descriptions. Some of them are still waiting for descriptions, and I'm going to work with John to make sure that I have accurate descriptions of all of the amenities and facilities at each separate park. Then we also include a list of other recreations facilities in the Village including schools, and we do have your fabulous RecPlex and IcePlex in there which we had an opportunity to see this afternoon.

Then, finally, the last section that we've worked on is the section where we talk about standards and how those standards are going to be applied to the rest of the plan and to the recommendations we provide in the plan. So you can see the descriptions of regional parks, multi-community parks, community parks and neighborhood parks and how SEWRPC has defined the standards for those. So that is what we are working on at this point. I know you've only had a moment to look at the document, but if you have any major comments or questions I'd be happy to take then now. Otherwise please feel free to contact me with any comments. We would really appreciate it. Or, talk to John and he will be in constant contact with me so we can take care of those things with you.

Michaeline Day:

Did you have a comment, Mike?

Mike Pollocoff:

Megan, one of the plans you may want to look at, and I breezed over it but didn't see it, was the Des Plaines Watershed Study, the management study.

Megan MacGlashan:

That is in there, number 7. The did a really good inventory of the resources in that whole basin, SEWRPC, and that will help us with our storm water management plan that Bonestroo is working on right now. I think that the other concepts or questions I have is maybe to the extent that RecPlex somewhere along the line you want to take a look at their program and how that interacts with the parks. Things that come to mind specifically, or just the outdoor programs like softball and football and those things, but the bigger impact programs they have are triathlons that, even though we have a lot of land, we're squeezing 10,000 people into a small bag and looking at how that can fit. I think RecPlex has a program for those. I wouldn't say it's a plan as much as it is a program, but we probably could use some help if you could check out how the regional park is going to do. Take a look at us having two or three triathlons a year that are regional in nature and how those would work.

Mark Roffers:

We met Cathi, your Rec Director, this afternoon, and we also talked about coming a little early every time we have a meeting scheduled. And Cathi is interested in sharing her vision and ideas, too. So one of the things we can commit to is sitting down and speaking with Cathi and seeing how the RecPlex program fits into the needs. We saw a

video of the triathlon. John showed us your parking areas, so we kind of understand the needs related to special events and that kind of ongoing operations and opportunities associated with that.

William Mills:

Even with the youth baseball programs and stuff like that when you look at the 12 percent growth, my sons are involved in that sort of stuff and it looks like the fields are rather heavily utilized I guess, and if you look at the population growth there might even need to be some growth in those areas as well.

Mike Pollocoff:

You'd almost think it would be crazy to say we need another regional park, but actually I think that one of those big chunks of land down 39th Avenue where we'd be joining up with the School District is an ideal place for multi use fields for softball, baseball or soccer or someplace else based upon the land use plan that we have.

Mark Roffers:

In the next part of our meeting tonight we want to get your initial first blush reactions to things like that, what initial ideas or priorities do you have that we can get down just to get a sense of where your heads are at before we go to that public visioning session. So we might be able to test some ideas there as well.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the other things that the Village has applied for and we're kind of working towards is a conservation plan for that western area west of Lake Andrea and just east of the Interstate. There's 400 and some odd acres there. We recently applied for a grant from the DNR, and we kind of heard through the grapevine that we were going to be receiving that, and the amount was going to be based on how the Governor's budget panned out and how monies went. But maybe somehow at least taking a look at that conservation plan and what you can do with that, whether you make a fire break in the walking trails, or walking trails that you can use for a 10K run or for part of a . . . kind of incorporating as many of those thoughts to all work together as one.

(Inaudible)

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe they had planned on starting it this fall and be done in the spring, so I believe there would be a lot of similarities between the two.

Michaeline Day:

I know you just got this and it's kind of quick, but did anyone have any other questions? Later on if you do, I'm sure you can get hold of Mike or John and they would either be

able to answer it or get a question to them and get back to you.

Mike Pollocoff:

One other thing I guess that's maybe conceptual as you get ready for your visioning process, but if you look at the Village, our land use plan is structured to really separate the industrial uses and create an industrial corridor and a residential corridor. That industrial corridor roughly is Highway 31 to the Interstate. Or, even since the Village has grown beyond the Interstate, to about a mile west of the Interstate, with an exception on Highway 50 and then another exception down on the State line, so about from ML to the State line on the south end and roughly C up to Highway 50 on the north end. We'll let residential growth go in those areas, but we're really trying to keep that other area industrial. Then between Sheridan Road or the Lake and Highway 31 that's our residential corridor.

Of course, right in the middle of that you have Prairie Springs Park and the Rec Center, and the Rec Center is just driving recreation programs like mad, so you have this influx of people coming from the residential areas. Their families are coming in there. We have people coming from work, before work, after work, whatever their schedule is in there. The trail system or some kind of intermodal connection is critical.

Right now we're working with a developer on the west side of the Interstate that is looking to move their offices to the Village. It's roughly 10,000 employees. It's a billion and a half dollar development. And they really like the Des Plaines Conservancy area, they like the RecPlex, and they'd like to be able to get over there easier than just putting their people in cars and having them go over there. We don't have that. We can show you a TIF District plan that might give you a good indication of where the improvements are going to be and how that's going to go. We'll include that in there as well and a redevelopment plan where we've taken those bookstores out. We're taking them out, we're not done there yet, but all that area is getting scraped out, and having a way for that different kind of use which would be that daytime corporate office use and before work and after work and have access into Prairie Springs Park or to RecPlex. Or, even if people end up buying homes in the Village they have a trail to get to work.

To be honest with you we knew it was a nice synergy to have those together. One of the things that really sold this developer on this project was that that amenity was available and their view to the west was a Conservancy only blighted by a couple smokestacks where the power plant is, but they seem to be getting over that. I think that's one thing that I'm not able to bring to the table yet who it is but we know it's coming. If we can roll this thing out as part of that plan we'd like to do that. Really to be able to get people from the business and the industrial site into the parks as much as the residential end of it.

--:

Can you suggest some opportunities for where that might happen, in the TIF plan?

Mike Pollocoff:

There's a couple of documents that will help us lay out the improvements. There would be the Tax Increment District plan. The other one would be the Development Authorities Redevelopment Plan. Then the other plan that would be helpful is the CH2M Hill-I94 Corridor Plan and we can get you a copy of that. That darn plan is only five years old and they're already redoing it to accommodate the added lanes on I-94. So no one really has that laid out yet. But that will change. That's some additional documents we can get to you. Probably by the time you guys get to your October meeting we'll be able to disclose who it is and maybe even meet with them, because they're going to be a really big player.

--:

. . . lands on the west side of the Interstate?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. By the time that all develops between the one big corporation that's going to be moving in and the other ones, we could be looking at a daytime population over there of well over 20,000 people. No residential. Some commercial, not a lot, and I've been kind of looking at some other areas like how Middleton is addressed along 12 there where they have that area there and if they have any amenities for it. One I've seen was in Colorado. In Inverness just outside of Boulder they have a big corporate park area there and they've managed to attach that to some recreational amenities for both indoor and outdoor. That's one of the things that's out of the box a little bit for us with those plans and you guys taking a look at it. You guys take a look down the road and see what we can do to ensure that value of that area stays high for those businesses.

I can't think of any other plans that might bring the thing together. You talked about the neighborhood plan level. The master plan is broken down to a neighborhood level planning, streets. That should speed up your analysis quite a bit.

Michaeline Day:

Did anyone have anything else to add? Thank you, Megan.

c. Document priorities.

Mark Roffers:

And I think Michael helped us kind of transition into what we hope to do next with this meeting, and that is just get from you what some of your priorities might be for what you want this plan to do for you. You made great segue to see how corporate park development can contribute to recreational facility development and vice versa to make everything healthier and stronger, and we're certainly excited to share some ideas with you on that as we move on. But are there other what I'll call priorities, big or small, that you hope to get out of this process that you'd like to share this evening? Things that you'd like to test with the public as we move on?

Michaeline Day:

I think we'd probably like to reserve our right to ask you at a later moment.

Mike Pollocoff:

Any ideas that just pop out of your heads that you've thought about.

Michael Russert:

I think one is keeping natural areas. We talked about trails, viewing wildlife, keeping wetlands, making sure there are trails and that there are viewing opportunities that's not just an area to go play ball, but sort of secluded so someone can go and get your workday off your mind and see the natural settings.

Michaeline Day:

Would we also have to, when we're talking about secluded trails, perhaps have some impact with our fire and police department as far as accessibility if someone has some problems in a secluded area so we can get to them, or protection so that if I'm walking down some secluded trail there's not some guy with a bag over his head jumping me at the next turn. So I think some of that should be safety and health issues as well.

Mark Roffers:

I've done some things like that in other communities, both in terms of park facility design and small parks. It's important to think about environmental design and safety, real and perceived. Trail system planning is important there. I worked a little bit on helping the City of Fitchburg plan the Capital City Trail which is through a nature area, one of the best ones in Dane County, and we did simple things like not mile markers but quarter mile markers so if people were in trouble and you're in the middle how do you explain where you are? At least there will be some points of reference there. So there's things like that that you can do to deal with issues of safety. Then a lot of the stuff, things that you're talking about, has to do with some details that in most cases we're not going to get to in this plan like where you route a particular trail. Do you route it through the woods or put it along side the woods or in the open field? That's some of the more detailed design work that Crispell-Snyder would work with you when you're actually ready to start laying the path down.

Kathleen Burns:

I think following up a little bit on what Mike said, when I think of quality of life as a resident living in Pleasant Prairie, as excited as I am at the great corporate park and that that's bringing income into the community, that's not why I live here. I understand the economic impact of that, but when I think of the public coming here for visioning, people move to communities I believe because of schools and the recreation and the parks and the beauty of the area so that I think it's so important what Mike said, that mix between what the corporate brings here and we want good business here, but we want those

families to live here, too. And we want to keep our educated kids that leave in droves when they graduate college they run from Wisconsin and they're finding jobs in other places because we can't attract that. We just don't have what it takes to keep them here sometimes. So I guess having kids a little older that are through with the recreation park, it's like how do we keep that quality of life so we maintain the reputation for being such a great place to live and a refuge from some of those larger cities but so accessible to all the benefits of big cities.

Mark Roffers:

That is a big challenge, you're right, throughout Wisconsin. You wouldn't think of it as a big challenge in Madison that the high school students are leaving or when they get out of school they're leaving for Chicago and New York City and wherever. It's a huge issue. Frankly, the amenities you have here compared to other communities similar to yours are significantly better. The Rec Center is out of this world in terms of what you see up and down 94. So you have stuff to build on. That's good. We're not starting from zero here, and you do have a beautiful natural environment. You have the Lake which is an asset that many communities don't have. So we're not working from a blank canvas and trying to keep people here, keep people here right after school and bring them back quickly.

Mike Pollocoff:

One of the things not that we've fallen down on because you only have so much money, but we've managed to be able to parlay some gifts and donations to create a really nice regional park, but one of the things I hear from people is I like going to RecPlex, it's nice, I like going to Prairie Springs Park, but I want to know that my kids, if I don't have to drive them someplace, if there's a park or someplace close by where they can go. Look at the map and you can see it's woefully inadequate. And it's really finding that balance of not having a regional park in someone's neighborhood where we're going to keep them up until eleven o'clock at night with softball or baseball games, but people can use those smaller parks just for light recreation or whatever rather than right now everybody runs to Prairie Springs Park.

It's kind of strange that we have such a nice park there, but people say they don't want to have to drive there. Sometimes they'd just rather have their kids close to home. I think that's one of the areas where we've beaten developers up to give us parkland, dedicate parkland and it's all just sitting there. We can't get the bucks up until now to improve it. Hopefully with impact fees that will help change. But I don't know if that's something that the Commission hears about the neighborhood level of parks isn't good.

And in those areas where we have passive open spaces, the Conservancy spaces, it seems to be a little haphazard. We haven't really in all places really taken advantage of those Conservancy spaces, and part of it is our fault the way we've allowed developers to just use up every bit of land that's been good and then we end up with all Conservancy. We need to keep some upland or more usable land and tie that in with the Conservancy so we've actually got a chance to see it other than driving by it.

Mark Roffers:

You hit on some points and we talked about that in the truck this afternoon in making sure that the parkland that you do acquire isn't left over land, that more of it is front and center. And if it is front and center it will be more heavily utilized. Peoples' concerns about safety will be less because a squad car will drive by or at least you'll have that opportunity. And people say, oh, there's a park there. We drove by a couple parks on your northeast edge that you could drive by them a few times and not even know they're there because they're too blended into the neighborhood environment. As I understand it you're doing some more of that thinking in the Village Center areas as to how do you create this park that is truly a gathering spot for the neighborhood and not a left over piece.

Mike Pollocoff:

There's another study or plan that you guys need to incorporate and it relates particularly to the Momper's Woods site, and then there's a second study that relates to the lands over in Carol Beach by Great Lakes Archeological Resource Center. In the Momper's Woods there's significant archeological sites that remain there. We haven't evaluated all of them, but that should be incorporated in. And we have the same thing on the Chezroe Study again done by Great Lakes Archeological. You won't find any drier reading in your whole life.

Mark Roffers:

Momper's Woods is one that we talked about that would probably be one of those five park sites, so we definitely want to know of all known archeological sites before we start planning a jungle gym over the top of it or whatever the facility might be in Momper's Woods.

William Mills:

I think I can just stress what Mike has mentioned as well. In terms of the park plan I'm not looking for something that has a plan for every section in terms of ball fields or structural sort of things going on. I'm also looking for a part of our parks to be just kind of open space, a few trails almost. We don't have the land like Bong out to the west but kind of that sort of thought process in terms of open space that can be used for different groups or different events, etc.

Mark Roffers:

Very good. We'll have an opportunity to revisit these ideas and expand upon them at later meetings.

d. Plan for subsequent public meetings.

Mark Roffers:

The final thing we really hope to accomplish tonight is to set a date and to talk about what we want to accomplish at this visioning meeting where we invite the public to

attend and venue and things like that. Once again, the purpose of that meeting is to understand big picture vision. Do people want to see a trail system connecting from the lakefront to the Rec Center? And comparisons like do people value that over developing a neighborhood park system? What are some of the priorities people have? So we want to allow people to think big and dream and share their vision and we'll get them to sit down with little Post-It notes and other things to get their minds spinning a little bit. But then we'll also try to ask them some questions related to some priorities and what is truly important and get a sense for how important those things are with respect to the rec facilities and parks relative to other Village needs as well. Particularly when the Plan Commission and the Board look at the plan they can know it's not a dream of the park people but something that was a little bit tested against other priorities that people recognize.

We'd also like to get a sense from the folks as to what parks they would like us and you to focus on for those detailed plans that we have in our quiver over the next few months. And then potentially get some volunteers to work with us or talk with us as to how those parks might develop ideally, residents around those areas, so that we can get a bit of local buy in on those plans before they get incorporated into the larger park and open spaces of the plan.

The visioning meeting would probably last an hour and a half or so depending on how many people attended. When we've done these in the past for park systems we typically look at about 30 people that attend. That would be a good number. I've kind of been thinking that if we were to publicize it quite a bit through the Rec Center in particular, people who are already engaged in the park system, at the beach, we're here in summer, and other venues and media that you have and we can work with John on that we might get a little bit more. I would hope that we could. We could certainly meet here, but also meeting over there if we have a big enough room might be a nice opportunity as well.

William Mills:

I'm not sure when the next Village newsletter comes out, but is there any chance that we could actually publicize that in the newsletter prior to this meeting?

Mike Pollocoff:

We're working on that

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One thing I was thinking, Mike, is the *Waukegan Sun* paper gets advertised to every household in the Village weekly. I'm sure they would be more than happy to write up a feature article on that. We have our website and there's quite a few hits on there. We can do some advertising on the TV screens at RecPlex to hit that market. If there's any Play by Plays that go out have a blurb in there and definitely try to advertise that as much as possible to get as many people involved through paper, through TV advertising if our TV channel is up by then.

Mike Pollocoff:

It won't be. We're working on the newsletter right now so I think we can probably squeeze that in there.

Mark Roffers:

What we can do tomorrow or the next day is get a little flyer, something colorful that could be distributed and posted and then explained for information in the newsletter as to what exactly we're talking about here.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If you could send that over as a PDF then we can distribute it to whoever. One of the other projects we have going on, and I was talking to Mark a little bit about this before, was the Village Green Park and that whole concept area. I know that we've been having some meetings about the Village Green and concept plans, and that would be appropriate to have Vandewalle sit in on one of those meetings and talk about some of their visions and how they incorporate to the rest of the Village Green and as far as becoming out downtown center and pedestrian traffic coming from the shops and to the park and to the residential and how that all ties into place.

(Inaudible)

Michaeline Day:

I got the first notice, but I did not get any other one.

Mike Pollocoff:

They just came out today. It was supposed to be tomorrow, but it got moved to the 11th.

Michaeline Day:

Mike, are you thinking that this public visioning meeting will be at our next scheduled Park Commission meeting, or did you want to do it at a different date?

Mike Pollocoff:

When are we at APWA?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I want to say the 8th of September.

Michaeline Day:

It's the first Tuesday of the month.

Mark Roffers:

I would say normally that would be a good idea but it's the day after Labor day. We'll have a lot of people on vacation.

Mike Pollocoff:

How about the third Tuesday of September?

Michaeline Day:

Sure. Third Tuesday, does that sound okay with everybody?

Mark Roffers:

I just got information that Todd Weik from Crispell-Snyder apparently has some difficulties with Tuesdays and he would like to participate in that meeting, so I can throw out a couple alternatives, and I know I'm always opening a hornet's nest when I do this. But Wednesday, September 14th or Wednesday, September 28th, that's the second and the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Michaeline Day:

Is that going to conflict with other meetings? There are several commissions and they all meet at different times. The Parks is always on the first Tuesday of the month. So Tuesdays that's when we meet. If we're going to have to meet all the--my only question is we're going to have how many public meetings?

Mark Roffers:

There will be two large public meetings, and then the rest will be your regular meeting here.

Michaeline Day:

My only concern would be impeding on somebody else's meeting time.

Mark Roffers:

Absolutely, and if we can't make that work we will meet on Tuesday, no problem.

Michaeline Day:

They're checking the schedule now. Does anybody have trouble with Wednesdays? You're talking September what?

Mark Roffers:

The two dates that I know work are September 14th or September 28th that work on our end.

Mike Pollocoff:

The 14th doesn't work for us, but the 28th if we start at six. The Community Development Authority doesn't meet until 6:30, so if we had 6:00 on the 28th?

Michaeline Day:

The 28th then. We'll have our public meeting on the 28th of September at 6:00. John, since it's not going to be at our regular September meeting, we have so many new and potential Board members, and I haven't been on a field trip for a long time, would we be able to maybe do the same—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We could definitely acquire a large van and go on a field trip and see the parks. It takes about three hours to make the full rounds but I'm sure we could squeeze it a little bit shorter.

Michaeline Day:

Because we're looking at a flat one dimensional map and sometimes it's nice to be able to see what each of these—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, I think that's a great idea for next month's meeting.

Michaeline Day:

Would that be an issue to have it at that meeting that we won't have the public sitting here at a meeting?

Mike Pollocoff:

We just need to notice it as a tour, that you guys would be together for a tour and that's it. The press if they want to ride along with you they can ride along with you.

Michaeline Day:

So there would be no problem.

Mike Pollocoff:

So you're talking about doing that on the September 6th?

Michaeline Day:

Doing it at our September meeting. We'll just meet here at six o'clock in September when we have our next Park meeting, and then John can drive us.

Michael Russert:

Mark, one quick question. For the meeting with the public, will you be presenting or you'll have an agenda?

Mark Roffers:

Yes, we'll be choreographed pretty well but leaving opportunity for comment. It will be more structured than tonight's meeting, for example. And we'd like to meet in a place where we can have small like wedding tables ideally where we can seat eight people around a table and they would have an opportunity, if we have 40 or 50 people, to sit and talk in a small group and then share the results of the small group. So thinking about the venue if you have something that would fit the bill. Small cafeteria tables will work fine, too.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'll make the reservations to have it on September 28th at six to house around between 30 and 50 people at some small round tables. Whatever else you need I'll talk with Megan and we can work that out.

Michaeline Day:

Where are we going to meet?

Mike Pollocoff:

At RecPlex in the LakeView room. That would be big enough to accommodate that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And we'll send out a formal e-mail to everyone to confirm it.

Michaeline Day:

If that's not available what about the, because Cathi has a lot of meetings there and that's why we started meeting here, the pavilion, too, would be nice, too, if that's not available.

Mike Pollocoff:

Sure, if that's big enough. You can put 100 people in there if you pack them.

Michaeline Day:

But that's a nice facility to show off, too.

Kathleen Burns:

So will you be needing us to do anything for that meeting then, will there be any facilitation or do you need support for that?

Mark Roffers:

We will facilitate and we'll kind of maybe identify you as Park Commission members. There will be some open periods early and late in the meeting and we encourage you to mingle and listen and to the extent you feel comfortable answer questions or talk with people.

Mike Pollocoff:

It's really a good feedback session for you guys hearing what people want as you move forward.

Mark Roffers:

One of the issues related to that question is you can decide to either be active participants in these small groups and in the meeting or observers. That's your choice and you can talk about that tonight or maybe at your tour as to how you would like to participate in the meeting. You're certainly citizens and residents of the Village with equal standing of anyone else. But that's really your call.

Michaeline Day:

I think this group compliments itself well because some of us are talkers and some of us are excellent listeners, so I think we serve a dual purpose here. I think it works really well because we can also engage in conversation or sit back and listen, so I think that would be good.

Mark Roffers:

If we're for some reason we're 15 people that would be good for you to be active participants. The need to do small group sessions kind of breaks down when you only have 15 people in the room. We can play it by year. One of the things we may do, depending on how many people we have, there may be some interest in having facilitators for small groups, so it's possible that you all could help facilitating. I would sort of be the MC. It would be real easy, I promise, but then just keeping people on task and focused in the small group on what the specific assignment was.

William Mills:

How many people will you have there at this public meeting?

Mark Roffers:

Either two or three. Probably three if Todd is coming.

Michaeline Day:

Anybody else have any questions for Mark or Megan? Did you have anything for us?

Mark Roffers:

We don't have anything more this evening. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you. Again, it's going to be a fun project and something we really promise to do a good job for you on.

Michaeline Day:

We'll hold you to that.

Mark Roffers:

Alright, it's in the minutes.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Michaeline Day:

If there's no further business before this Commission, could I have a motion to adjourn.

William Mills:

I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Michael Russert:

Second the motion.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor aye.

Voices:

Aye.

Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.