

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall, Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
Tuesday, October 3, 2006
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michaeline Day, Michael Russert, Glenn Christiansen, Kathleen Burns and Alex Tiahnybok. Rita Christiansen and William Mills 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. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2006 PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

Michaeline Day:

In your packets you were given the September 6, 2006 Park Commission meeting minutes. Were there any corrections or additions in the minutes? If not, can I have a motion to accept?

Michael Russert:

I make a motion to accept the meeting minutes.

Glenn Christiansen:

I'll second.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Minutes accepted.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS.

Michaeline Day:

If anyone would like to make any comments, we only ask that when you come up to the podium you give us your name and your address. Anyone for comments at all?

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion of Highpoint Neighborhood Park with Patrick Finnemore, P.E., Facilities Director for Kenosha Unified School District.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening everyone. I guess I'll just start out with a little bit of an intro here. Last month we started working on the Highpoint Neighborhood Park. One of our goals is to, as these neighborhood plans are being developed with Community Development, that we work to design to define what the boundaries are and what the amenities are going to be in some of these neighborhoods. But in this case it's Highpoint Park Community Park. We showed some of the detail last month that we had, and the Commission had a couple of questions. This is a site that is a community park to the north but it's a middle school site also, so some of it conjoins having a park and a school site together. It does offer a lot of benefits where we can use some of the park and the school, but then the school can use some of our active recreation to keep costs down on both sides. It's a really good idea and a pretty good plan.

Myself and Jean Werbie, the Community Development Director, had a chance to sit down and meet with Mr. Pat Finnemore from the Kenosha Unified School District a couple of weeks ago and ask him some of the questions, and he was available to be here tonight. So he can answer any questions that you might have. With that I'll have Pat come up to the podium and maybe any questions the Commission might have for him on the park.

You can see up on the screen where the mouse is the Highpoint Park is right up here. This is 95th Street and Green Bay Road and 93rd Street. So it's just a little bit southeast of that area. It has 25 acres of woods, about 40 acres of active recreation, and then the middle school site. I'm not sure exactly how many acres the middle school site is. It's probably around 25 or 30 acres for the school site.

Pat Finnemore:

It's a little undefined at this point. We were working off of anywhere between 25 and 40 acres. It just kind of depended on what was defined as school park versus park site.

Mike Pollocoff:

I might add, too, just as background information this as well as any other preliminary neighborhood planning, this plan is going to evolve. We'll have the plan in place, the goal, and we'll take that park plan and take it another step farther, and then as the development proposals come forward before the Commission and before the Plan Commission and before the Board, we as well as Kenosha Unified School District will implement this park plan in the pieces as it comes. So I don't want anybody to think that this Commission is going to take an action on this or as this goes through the Plan Commission that means that next year we'll be out there with scrapers building a park and condemning land and doing all that stuff.

This sets the ground rules for developers as they develop so we know what to tell them they need to convey to the Village. It gives us some guidelines since we don't have the impact fees anymore to know what we have to come up with or what we're going to have to ask the developer to try to come up with that's within the law. So we're truly at the ground floor getting this plan done. Given what we've gone through in other parks where there's already urban development around them, you can see the advantage of getting this plan in place before the development comes so as people buy their properties and use them that plan is in place and they know what's going to happen.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And one of the things that we're trying to accomplish is part of the Park and Open Space Plan is developing some sort of a trail system that ties the Kenosha County Bike Trail that's highlighted in orange through the Village Green Park, through the Highpoint Park, and somehow making a connection to Lake Andrea. So this is a blow up detail of where we are today so far at the Highpoint Park. We're looking at four softball fields, a parking area, a tot lot and playground area, a couple of soccer fields for practice, some playing field, tennis courts and then the school site on the southern portion of the park site. I guess I'll open it up to any questions for the Commission.

Michael Russert:

On the drawing from last month wasn't there a football stadium?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The football stadium I believe is shown right in this area here. I don't believe it's a

football stadium.

Pat Finnemore:

Good evening. I've not been to your Commission before, but appreciate the chance to speak with you. It would not be from our perspective like a football stadium. I don't know if you're familiar with what we have at Mahone Middle School, but it's a middle school football/soccer field and we are showing a track typically at our middle schools that we would like to have. It would not necessarily be a competitive track like at Mahone with eight lanes of track. As Mike alluded to this is really for us something that's well down the road. But at the same time I think it's great that we're talking now about this project and this park development as opposed to all of a sudden the time has come and the Village is looking to develop a park and we want a school and nobody has talked yet. I think this is the perfect time to at least start to talk about the development of the site.

Then, also, one of the things that John and Jean and I talked a lot about was who would maybe develop what and who would be responsible for what. Then if the school district was using part of the parkland for athletics, what would we compensate the Village for or maybe what would we maintain on that park because we're the primary user of it or whatever. Those are all things if we can talk about them now and over the next year or so that's beneficial. And maybe even get to some point where there's agreement that's developed. That's somewhat the City has done with us. We've bought land or looked at buying land and the City will get us into a developer's agreement and we kind of hash out a lot of things years in advance of actually doing it. Then the school district likes that because we can put a number on it. We can tell the school board and the public we're going to have to put a road in here or we're going to have to pay for this improvement if the school gets built here and then they know that. It's not a big surprise that we have to do some sort of site improvements that are maybe more related to the municipality than the school district.

Michaeline Day:

When we met last month, because it's all very conceptual and nothing is really in stone, Kathleen brought up a very good point where we were just wanting to make note we were talking about a trail system going through from one to the other and that we don't have an issue with the bus routes or how the bus is going to come in and out to let students off or parents dropping kids in and out so that we don't have an issue there. So that was just one question that we had that we would address that early on about traffic pattern and paths. I think another issue that was brought up would be if we're using the soccer fields and things in the evening that perhaps we'd have to worry about some kind of lighting and how that would affect the neighborhood and stuff like that.

Pat Finnemore:

We talked a lot about the trail. There's certainly potentially for a school the trail may be a huge benefit in there may be some neighborhoods that that trail connects the neighborhood to a school. It may be an opportunity where there's some number of students that could actually walk or bike to the school as opposed to having to be bussed. But we did talk a lot about flows, and certainly whenever we build a new school we have a separate bus drop off and a parent drop off, and certainly the location of those versus that bike trail or that walking path would be important. That there's not some sort of safety issue related to where that walking path or bike trail is, maybe tying into sidewalk and wanting to keep that separate from our entrances or egresses from the site. So that is something we did talk about. We had our ideas, John had his.

I think as we start to lay out a better idea of what this might look like I think that was one of the things that right now it's not really shown on here. But we talked about possible ways. Mike actually came into the meeting and threw his two cents in, too, as far as what we might envision for that use of that trail. From our end maybe the more angles that that trail goes out the better, and that it could be again looking at this proposed neighborhood plan there may be two or three developments that could actually walk to that school site. The second question?

Michaeline Day:

It was just about the lighting.

Pat Finnemore:

That's something that we typically don't for a middle school need lighting of fields too much other than in the fall sometimes for middle school football. But most middle school athletics, and I don't know if you're all current or former middle school parents, but those things happen early after school hours so there's not a lot of evening activities. But certainly potential benefit both ways. That's one of the things I think depending on what's needed lighting could be put in on certain fields and then it would just be depending on what side of that line whether it's the school district's side of the property or the Village part of the property if one uses the other's property then they would pay for the lighting of that event.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

But it definitely is something that we're looking at having, at least the three large soccer fields, the tennis courts and the four baseball diamonds being lit and using that as kind of a program site for the Lakeview RecPlex or games and programs and some of the new programs that they have going on there.

Michaeline Day:

Patrick, do they have any idea when you're contemplating this new school?

Pat Finnemore:

That's a good question. I don't know if you're aware, but the school district does own land on 39th Avenue just east of 39th Avenue and a little bit south of I think it's 108th. We own 70 acres. And that property currently has been designated by the school district as the next middle school site. We call it the Stahl property. We bought the land from the Stahl family going on about 10 or 11 years ago. And so that site is identified right now as the next middle school site. My guess is a middle school probably won't be needed for about eight years. It's hard to say when the next middle school might be needed.

What we've done is the school district, and Jean represents the Village, we have a number of people who represent different organizations on our long-range facilities planning committee, but we've looked at what the school district might look like 100 years from now if all of the land that's designated as residential in the Village and the City and the Town of Somers would develop, the best guesses that the three municipalities have, and we've kind of looked at how many schools might we need in that time frame. And we're looking in that time frame needing four more middle schools. We've talked about at least two of them being in the Village of Pleasant Prairie, probably one in the City of Kenosha and then one in the Town of Somers, and we've identified potential sites for all of those. The Stahl is the only one we currently own. With Jean and Mike's help we identified this Highpoint site as being the other middle school site in the Village.

So I would say you're probably talking 20 years, maybe less, maybe more. I guess it really depends on how things develop. I think one of the things that we'll see certainly over the next maybe three to five years is where that next middle school actually goes will probably driven as much by the Village and what they see the greater need being. Say this site became designated as the middle school site and the School Board went ahead and either purchased or acquired that land somehow. When that time came for that next middle school it would certainly be a decision we would make I think with a lot of input to the Village as to what's the better of those two sites. But right now since we own one of them and it seems to be from our perspective in a good location, most likely Stahl would be the next property.

Michaeline Day:

Anyone else have any questions?

Alex Tiahnybok:

I wasn't here at the Park Commission meeting last month but I scanned the minutes. And one of the questions was just answered. Ownership of that property currently, Kenosha Unified does not own that yet?

Pat Finnemore:

No, we don't.

Alex Tiahnybok:

Okay. Does the Village own it?

Mike Pollocoff:

No.

Alex Tiahnybok:

So it's private right now.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right.

Alex Tiahnybok:

And Kenosha Unified does own the property on 39th?

Pat Finnemore:

The school district does, correct. And one thing on that property on 39th, I think it's about five acres of the 70 has been identified as what I think you would call a Village Park. Is that right?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's a neighborhood park site in conjunction with the schools.

Pat Finnemore:

That's one of the things I like about this is we're talking about something that is long-

term out. When I started with the school district six years ago we owned that land and there was some agreement between the School Board and the Village when that land was acquired that there would be a park on that site, but there wasn't a lot of discussion. There was no drawing. There was no who's going to do what, and we kind of did that after the fact. I sat down with, at the time I think it was Mike and Jean and I, we sat down and started to talk about how big is that park going to be, where would it be on that site, and we started to lay a conceptual drawing like this. So I liked the fact that we would be doing this before anybody starts to buy land.

I think in this case the fact that you're looking at a larger park that would have a lot of the facilities that you could see us installing as well, I think it's great to talk now because it may be where that line gets slid one way or the other depending on what people think and who is going to do what. I mean I think in the end it's going to be who is going to be the bigger user probably is the one. So it may be where you guys say, well, some of those softball diamonds may be used more by the school district than the Village. This is the perfect timing to start to talk about that.

The development of a field is not very expensive, but the long-term maintenance is, so I think both organizations should probably look at that and talk about it. Who is going to be the bigger user of that particular area. Maybe one area makes more sense, but I think that's why we thought the track football because obviously it would be heavily used by the school and it probably made sense to be on the school site. But you may after you start to look at it say, well, why is this on the Village piece and we would talk about that.

To counter that, it made perfect sense on the Village site because we wouldn't put tennis courts at a middle school. I mean some things were easy to talk about and some things it's probably 50/50 and it just depends on the opinions and ideas of people.

Michaeline Day:

But then again during phys ed during the day sometime if there was a tennis court available they might want to use it during a segment.

Pat Finnemore:

That's exactly right. I think when you have facilities available then you say how can we best use them. And then if the school district would use them I think that's why you have an agreement in advance to say, okay, well what is the school district going to pay to use them or what percentage of the maintenance costs because the tennis courts you have to resurface them about every seven to eight years or something along those lines, and what percentage of that cost would the school district pay or whatever. I think those are the things we'd want to hash out.

Alex Tiahnybok:

The next question I have, can you go back to the more area map. If you look at Highpoint Park and you look at Village Green Park which is an active plan, I can't think of another area in Pleasant Prairie where we have two parks that close to each other, especially when Highpoint would be relatively close to Lake Andrea and all the improvements we have there. The site on 39th Avenue I would suggest probably is in a lot more need of a park. If we're going to be spending Village tax dollars, I would think the site on 39th Avenue is in lot more need of a park and perhaps a school. That would be the first site, right, likely?

Pat Finnemore:

Right.

Alex Tiahnybok:

Naturally if another middle school is necessary there at some time in the future ten years out, I think anything is doable and considerable. But at this point I'm kind of surprised that we're designing a park next to a park just a little bit east of Lake Andrea when Kenosha Unified already owns land on 39th Avenue. To me this seems backwards.

Mike Pollocoff:

I think the disconnection, Mr. Tiahnybok, and you have to look at the Village's Master Land Use Plan and you have to compare that with the Park Plan. There is probably the likelihood for development of land east of the bike path adjacent to the Stahl property is a lot more problematic than development of the land surround the Highpoint and Village Green. The Village Green Park Plan that the Commission approved doesn't include the ball fields. You have no pickup game field. It's mostly a trail, a couple of tennis courts, a tot playground and that's really the focus of the Village Green Park really the trail component. This here is more of a regional park. I think that even though the school district owns the Stahl site, and they bought that I think in '91-

Pat Finnemore:

The early '90s.

Mike Pollocoff:

At that point they had the opportunity to purchase a really nice piece of land at what at that time was a good price. Today it would be a great price. I don't think that's a bad investment. But at the end of the day I'm not sure that when you look at the demographic

expansion of the Village that's not where it's occurring. We have close to 1,000 lots that are in some phase of conceptual plan, design, final plat, preliminary plat in between 93rd Street, Old Green Bay Road, 39th Avenue and 165. That's probably right now the most desirable place for developers to develop. With that intensity in population, that's where you get a park that's going to have ball fields and things like that.

Right now at Prairie Springs Park we're maxed out on ball field space. The only way we can get more room is to put lights up. We have more teams than we have time of the day for kids to play. And then if you add in another 1,000 homes over the next ten years this is the next logical progression. I think the school district may look at it differently and they may not but the problem we have is we need to be able to have a solid plan in place because the Board and the Village at some point the developer is going to come to Highpoint and want to develop, and we need to be able to tell that developer we need this amount of land set aside for a future park and school site, and we can't afford to pay for it. If you want to develop, for us to be able to approve your plat, we're going to need a contribution from you. We can't make you do it. We can't get an impact fee for it anymore for the school or the park, so our only way to secure any private contribution is to have the plan in place. So at that point we've signed on to what we want to do as far as the area and how it looks and that gives us a legal basis to say yes or no.

Now, if the developers decide they don't want to participate in that, they don't want to make a contribution, they've got the choice. But the Village being under levy limits and not having any ability to charge an impact fee, schools can't charge an impact fee and they're under caps, there's only one place to go. And if we don't have the plan in place to say that to somebody we don't have any legal standings to ask for anything.

So I don't know. I mean if the schools don't want the land, we've got to look at the long haul. We have to take the long view in this. I'll be gone and maybe Patrick will be gone, but the school district is still going to have to come up with the money to buy that land if we don't get it secured through that process. It might be 20 years from now or it might be 10 years from now.

Michaeline Day:

And I do remember when our children were young Kenosha Unified did have some property that they had gotten years and years ago and they actually sold it and made a profit and built a school someplace else where they actually needed the school. So you own the property, but like he said you never know. And you had suggested even the fact that if the demographics show it has to go someplace else.

Pat Finnemore:

Yes, two things. One is I think on the park to try to answer your question as well, this scale and the type of park is very different. That's what John is saying. The park that

would be at the Stahl site would be a five acre basically, almost like a-

Mike Pollocoff:

Neighborhood park.

Pat Finnemore:

-picnic type place and maybe there would be-because the Stahl site is proposed as a middle school and an elementary school site with that small park. That would be kind of more the wooded picnic area. That was kind of that fit. Where Village Green I look at it as an outdoors person park, it's a nature trail and that type of thing. And this is, like Mike says, more of that to kind of supplement what is I think fairly heavily used right now at Prairie Springs. I know my kids play sports there and it's packed.

But with respect to the school I think you guys are kind of saying the same thing in that it is an unknown. When you're talking about maybe the next middle school for us being needed eight years from now or maybe nine years from now, I think a lot of things are going to happen in that eight or nine years. That's why I said what I did early on. I see us working very closely with the Village over the next few years in making that decision. Right now we say the Stahl site would be the next middle school site because that's the only one we own. But if another site was acquired and we said there's 400 middle school kids within a one mile radius of this site and there's only 200 within this site, I think you start to look at bussing costs and other things like that and you build the school where the kids are.

So I think in a lot of cases the school district has in the past bought property mainly based on a deal that came to them. So all of a sudden some land was out there and somebody knew somebody and it was this is a good deal so let's buy that land without really thinking what are we going to built on that property. We started six years ago and that's what I was alluding to with Jean and the City involved and the Town of Somers, we started to look at we have to have a plan. For example, I think the Mahone Middle School was built in the wrong location. That was a decision they made prior to my arrival. It was built there because they own land. That was the basic reason that the land was owned. Well, is that really the only reason you build a school at a site? Location wise it's probably not the best place to build that school. The Stahl property would probably have been a better location at that time. But they did that.

So we don't want to repeat mistakes made in the past by others. It's like let's have a plan. Let's not only identify where these schools are going to go but then start to put kind of a pecking order. That's where I think people like your Village Board and Mike and Jean and also the City and the Town are going to help. I think they're going to be a big help with the School Board and they have. Jean and Bill Morris from the Town and Jeff Lebantz from the City have been on the committee for years and we've taken nothing

and created something. Now we're at the point where we've identified the number of schools, the approximate locations, and now we're getting the specific locations.

I think, like Mike said, the more specific that you guys can be the better in our benefit because you do have that opportunity or the potential to say, okay, there's four or five developers that are looking at developing in the Highpoint neighborhood, so what might the Village and the school district get from those developers when they develop. Maybe it's some portion of land that could go towards this project and we save the taxpayers something up front as opposed to having to buy all that land.

It's really nice that we're looking at this, and there's some others that we've talked to Jean and Mike about, too, other future sites for elementary and high schools. I think as though those neighborhood plan develop you'll be probably talking about parks and we'll be talking about schools. Potential there, too.

Alex Tiahnybok:

That helps me a lot. I'm totally in favor of strategic planning and this kind of work. It makes absolute sense. I was under the impression, though, and I must have misunderstood what you said, that the 39th Avenue site would get developed first and then this one seemed like—so that's not necessarily the case?

Pat Finnemore:

That is our current plan. Other than myself and John and Mike and Jean and yourselves not too many people know about the Highpoint plan yet. We've shared it with our long-range planning committee that there's a potential site. Well, when they meet next, which is in November, they're going to see this particular proposal. As they start to lay out their plans it may change. They may say Stahl was our recommendation because that's all you owned, but if there's other sites that are out there then they can start to revisit.

A good example would be high school. We've talked a lot about where the next high schools are going to go with that committee. And it was based on the knowledge that we had at the time that we've been working quite a bit with Jean to identify a high school site in the Village. We've probably looked at a dozen and that committee probably saw three or four of them. Now I think we've gotten a lot further along on that. I think Jean has got a lot better idea where she envisions maybe a high school being built and so we'll be bringing that back to that committee, too, so they'll start to see.

I think decisions change as people get more knowledge and more understanding and there is time. I think there's the benefit of time. It's not as if we will be building a middle school in the next three to five years. That I can pretty much assure you.

Alex Tiahnybok:

One last question. Are there other examples in Kenosha Unified where there's a municipality owned park right next to a KUSD site? Is Anderson an example of that?

Pat Finnemore:

Anderson Park is one. Lincoln Park and Lincoln Schools are another. We have a couple of potential other sites that we've looked at with the City, and we've also got a couple of sites with the Town of Somers. The Town of Somers is obviously quite a bit behind you guys in land use planning, but they're in that process right now. We've been working with their consultant. They work with a consultant to help develop their land use and neighborhood plans. We're doing that same thing, talking about how do we do more with less. And I think those combined sites are one way to do it.

Anderson is a good example, and that's an example where recently there's been a flip flop. Some of the land that was owned and operated by the City is now not owned but leased and operated by the school district. That's the football stadium. We were the 85 percent user of that facility, and the City as they started to look at the costs that it was taking to operate that facility, which is about \$50,000 a year, for us basically. So that was something that there was an exchange of services and properties and we've taken over maintenance responsibility and that made sense. It made sense to both of us in that we are the bigger user. Why is the City spending \$50,000 a year to basically maintain a field for Tremper High School.

So now we're using it from Tremper football which is always was, but now for Tremper soccer and Bradford soccer and we're using it for all kinds of other things. But now we're responsible for maintaining it but we're using it way more than it ever was. I could see that happening in any of these types of situations where you start to say who is going to be the bigger user and who should maintain that particular piece of the property.

Michaeline Day:

Anyone else? Patrick, I really appreciate you coming and speaking with us. I look forward to working with you again. I think that the vision that the Village and Unified has to work together and plan for future instead of just hodgepodge and change orders at the end and also the issue of some problems. I think this works out really well. I'm very proud of the Village and Unified for—a lot of times you don't see a lot of municipalities and government bodies working together, and it's nice to see that happen.

Pat Finnemore:

Thank you. I really appreciate the opportunity.

Michaeline Day:

Thank you very much.

b. Discuss Plans for Phil Sander's Memorial

Michaeline Day:

I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Steinbrink or Mr. Christiansen. Glenn has a great deal of information about Phil, knew him personally. Go ahead.

Glenn Christiansen:

Where did we leave off the last time we discussed this, John, or did we really get into it other than in private?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think one of the things we had talked about is just the need and desire of the Park Commission to do something for Phil Sanders because of everything he has done in the past. The Village definitely feels that it's important to recognize someone that has done so much in his field. We had some original concept plans of doing something along that 165 corridor actually just south of where the Prairie Springs south baseball diamonds are and erecting some sort of a small memorial on that south side of 165. Try to find some donated funds and erect something at a reasonable cost and really pay tribute to a man that was able to do a lot.

Glenn Christiansen:

I think at the time we discussed perhaps a sign on something of the order of like the Nature Conservancy sign that's west of the river on the south side of the road if possible and in that location by the pond. I'm just trying to remember because we had a few different conversations and some of them were private conversations exploring the possibilities. I just wanted to try to remember.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And I don't believe that we ever actually came up with the exact type or structure of a sign, whether it's a metal sign or wood sign or about the size and some of the details. So maybe something we can talk about is what type of sign and about the size and we could come back in the next meeting with a couple of concept drawings as we work on those as we move forward on it potentially.

Mike Pollocoff:

Didn't we talk about placing the memorial or the landing for the sign for lack of a better description across from Terwall Terrace where you come in off 165?

Michaeline Day:

I thought that's what we talked about.

Mike Pollocoff:

At least that's the one cutoff where people if they're going west could turn there and have an opening. But the downside is we don't have a lot of upland to work with there.

Glenn Christiansen:

I know one of the thoughts that some people had, and I talked with a few private individuals, and one thought that came up was the fact that those wetlands south of 165 was probably about as near and dear to Phil's heart as anyplace in the community. Obviously Chiwaukee Prairie occupied many years, several decades, of his life and attention. One of his favorite places to hunt and explore and study was that whole area along the Des Plaines River literally from Highway C down to the State Line. He spent a lot of time at the Halter Wildlife area and what used to be the Girl Scout camp on the west side. And from that area you see all of it. Maybe most people don't realize the significance of that area in his life, but the people who knew Phil well and felt that that was—

Mike Pollocoff:

That was dear to him, I agree. I saw a park or really a dedication of a lake and some trails in a range and this was in South Dakota and it was pretty vast. It wasn't just a spot. But there was a road and you pulled off the road to the right side and everything was to the left side and they had a parking area and a monument there, and the sign had a panel on it that identified the areas that you were looking at across the road where you could see it. Maybe that might be another thing we want to look at. It might take a little bit more cash or something to put something like that together, but if there's a place somewhere inside Prairie Springs Park where people could stop there. We could put a sign out. I think Sander's Slew is what I heard or whatever we end up calling it put that sign there. But if we really want to have a monument or something where people can stop and read it, we can put it across from that area and then visually describe it on the sign the areas that are there and whatever we'd want to say.

At the end of the day I don't think we want people stopping on 165 to climb out of their cars and look at something. But on the other side there's a lot of people who use the park and have no idea what happened across the road.

Glenn Christiansen:

That is a very good point actually. If you could put a little more on the sign that tells a little bit about the area and take safety into consideration actually those are very good points.

Michaeline Day:

I like your idea, Mike.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Maybe what staff can do is for the next meeting in November we can go through and identify an area at Prairie Springs Park, maybe something just to the west of Terwall Terrace but yet south of Park Drive, identify an area where cars can safely maneuver and turn around in there, map that out and then make some sort of a mockup sign that's similar to what we have down by the Des Plaines.

Mike Pollocoff:

Glen, could you meet with John and take a look and help him find a spot that would be good where we could get the most out of it?

Glenn Christiansen:

Yes, go over there some afternoon and take a good look at it and see. Sometimes looking at it in a different way you see things you didn't think of before. I never really thought about it but actually what you're saying may make a lot more sense because you can incorporate a little bit more into it perhaps.

Michaeline Day:

Not going by at 60 miles an hour.

Mike Pollocoff:

And let me know when you do it. I'd like to go along with you, too.

Glenn Christiansen:

I know one of the comments that was made was some people were concerned with how do you put something up that is tasteful and how will it be maintained and the surroundings and so forth. Yet, what is it that you're trying to look at? So accommodating those things.

Kathleen Burns:

I appreciate receiving the article, too. I didn't know Mr. Sander, but it at least gave me a little snapshot. He sounded like a really special person just from the little information we got. At least it helps me.

Glenn Christiansen:

He was a very unique person and surprisingly even the little bit in here only begins to touch the surface. I was fortunate enough to know him personally for about the past 30 years. You want to talk about somebody that you could go over on a Saturday afternoon and spend hours talking about different things, then all of a sudden everybody realizes we've been talking for a few hours and it's time to go. And come back a few weeks or a month later and pick up the conversation. It was amazing to just watch him light up every time somebody asked about Chiwaukee Prairie or the Des Plaines River. These articles talk about his dedication to things like the trail that goes through Momper's Woods, the original Green Bay Road, the mammoth bones, Indian artifacts. There's kind of an old saying about Phil that's there's probably not a footprint on the entire County or a square foot that didn't have his footprint on it.

He used to be able to tell you where there were some of the old Indian marker trees where the Indians would take saplings and bend them over to disfigure the trees to mark the trees. He had this all written down, but he had spent so much time. He could tell you what the Des Plaines River looked like back about 1915 because he was that old. He could remember things about the community that few people living knew. But he spent the time exploring. It was one of his greatest passions.

Michaeline Day:

So then, Glen, you'll meet up with John and work something out?

Glenn Christiansen:

Yes. We'll have to take a look at that and see. If I'm going by there sometime in the next few days I'll have to stop by and take a quick look.

Mike Pollocoff:

I had mentioned to Tom O'Connell a while back that I was going to ask for some free services for some sign design and layout. He committed he'd do that for us. He can help us. Like you say, you want to get the right thing. You want it well done and represent what his view or vision would have been.

Glenn Christiansen:

One thing that's kind of ironic is a couple of years ago a few of us had gotten together and tried to talk Phil into something like this and he said absolutely not. Go spend your money on something else. He designed the memorial up at Wyalusing for the passenger pigeons. He designed the memorial for Aldo Leopold. Some of us may know that Aldo Leopold was the person who wrote Sand County Almanac. A great conservationist. The first person who led the Wisconsin then called the Conservation Department but then became the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He was a friend of Aldo Leopold. That's how far back this gentleman went, and the circles of people that he traveled with and knew. He was a real piece of living history. A very appropriate thing to try and accomplish over the next year if we can. And possibly like we had talked about earlier this year try and have it ready for Prairie Family Days for a dedication. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to plan this out and really make it worth the effort.

Kathleen Burns:

I appreciate your passion in bringing it back to this group to do that. I really do. Not knowing him it just gives us a chance to honor someone who obviously looks like they made quite a contribution. Thank you.

Glenn Christiansen:

I'll just say this. There's probably more things about him that the community has forgotten.

Michaeline Day:

Thank you.

c. Review and Discuss Summer Rental of Lake Andrea Public Survey Results

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Over the course of the summer, I believe we started in the spring, the staff went through and put out a very simple six question survey. Had it available on the website, at the Village office, at the Prange, at the Lakeview RecPlex. There were articles written in the

Kenosha News and the *Sun Times*. So we tried to get it out there as much as we could.

We received just over 50 responses to the survey that we had. I'll go through each of the questions and the results that were given. The first question was how often do you use Lake Andrea between June 1st and August 31st which is pretty much prime time when the kids are out of school. And it looks like about half of the people really weren't using the lake that often, and a few more were going a little bit more often.

Do you fish in Lake Andrea? A majority of the people did not fish that answered the survey. 30 percent of the people were fisherman using the lake. Do you utilize the beach? That was almost split 50/50. Do you attend special events such as our Danskin Triathlon, Prairie Family Days and Pleasant Prairie Triathlon? The majority of these people, 70 percent, did attend these events on a regular basis per the survey.

Then surprisingly enough when we asked would you like to see more special events at Lake Andrea, it looks like that same 70 percent that attend these special events said that's enough. 30 percent would like to see a couple more.

Some of the comments we had on that question was if you did want to see more events, what kind of events would you like to see? It was windsurfing events, music festivals around the Lake Andrea and ski shows and some small boat races were some of the comments that were brought up.

And the last question was how many weekends would you like Lake Andrea to be closed to the public during June, July and August for special events? The majority, just under 80 percent, said three to five weekends. Where we're at right now is we close one weekend in early June for a wakeboard and jet ski race. We close one weekend in July for the Danskin Triathlon. We have three weekends in August that we close for, one weekend for Prairie Family Days, a weekend for the Pleasant Prairie Triathlon, and one weekend for the wakeboard nationals, which that would be five weekends is where we're at right now with the events that we have.

Then at the end of September we host a WPBA. It's like a powerboat racing which is held on Lake Andrea on September 23rd I believe. And it really doesn't have as much impact because it's really after the prime time, but it's still enough event that we did host over the summer. So it looks like we're pretty set based on the recommendation of the Plan Commission for how many new events or how many events do we bring on. So maybe if something comes up where if we lose an event we would gain another one. But we do have requests on a regular basis for iron man triathlons or ski shows or all these things that some people want.

I guess it was the staff's goal to survey to kind of get some guidance from the Park Commission to see how many more weekends do we close the lake off over the course of the summer. Like I say, we do have requests on a regular basis. One of the positive sides

about hosting events over the summer is that it is a revenue source for the Village. We do bring in revenue at a lot of our special events. So by turning that away you are turning away some revenue, but then you're kind of abiding by some of those people that answered the survey.

Michaeline Day:

On the public survey comments, quite a few of the comments were they were very much in support of no motorized vehicles on the lake. It does not seem like they were in favor of any more boating things or shows or whatever. It is disruptive if you're going to be walking the trails or whatever reason. That seemed one of the issues that I think kind of stood out in the comments.

I guess I'm a little disappointed that there were only 50 comments. It's very hard to—I mean by far that is a very small sampling. Mike, how many people do we figure use the park? We had a number. A lot.

Mike Pollocoff:

In RecPlex demographics she's got 1.1 million visits a year. So a lot of those were repetitive.

Michaeline Day:

And how many residents do we have in the Village?

Mike Pollocoff:

We're just shy of 20,000 right now.

Michaeline Day:

So to have 50 people is not a very—I guess what I would say is while it's not a good show of a survey, it probably is people that are passionate about what they're doing that they filled them out and sent them in. We sat here and kind of thought ourselves when we had talked before that you had discussed whether or not we should close it more weekends and stuff, and at least you get kind of an idea that the people who did respond did not want to see that happen any more. What did you all think of the survey?

Kathleen Burns:

I agree it's a very poor response. It's hard to really plan something on the response of 50 passionate people that may or may not represent the community at all. I think if other events want to come in that maybe that should be something we think about. If it's one

more. Obviously, of 50 a lot didn't want too many weekends closed, but I just wish there was a different venue to get feedback. If it was something everybody got in the mail and just said, hey, we're considering another event or two.

Michael Russert:

I think we should value. I think we can look back at the Carol Beach park proposal. We had a strong showing, different opinions, and I don't think we got the feedback of really the population that lives down there. Obviously, the people that wanted to support the use of Lake Andrea voiced their opinion and I think we should take that to heart. Obviously, their view is it is being over utilized and interrupting their opportunity to use trails, the beach, not being fair to the residents that they can't use motorized vehicles on the lake but outside residents are able to come and use their speedboats. It is obviously a revenue for the Village, but I think we should value what we have found here.

Alex Tiahnybok:

I appreciate you bringing up the effort in Carol Beach Unit W. But of the 200 residences that I attempted to survey to get unbiased feedback, I got about 50 so about 25 percent and I thought that was embarrassing to have 25 percent turnout. This is obviously a much bigger potential sampling size and we still got 50. So I agree that those 50 their opinions shouldn't be discounted. But in a similar fashion to what happened in Carol Beach the 25 percent that had an opinion obviously voiced it and I think psychology would leave you to believe that the people that are motivated to answer have an opinion. The people that don't have as strong of an opinion are less likely to answer. So the true result is probably softer than the results you get, because the results you get are people with a passion. Those are the very same people that came to comment on the Carol Beach Park. They were very polarized. There were a lot of people in the middle. So the truth is probably somewhere more neutral than some of these results show.

I agree you need to take it for what it's worth. Some of these comments are interesting. There appears to be a fairly strong sentiment in regards to out of State usage in terms of one person said out of State usage is forcing residents out of the park. The flip side was permits are outrageous, that we charge out of staters higher fees. But, I'll tell you this, you go down to Lake Forest or Highland Park and try to use one of their beaches and if you're not a resident you're going to get whacked, too. So it's a two-way street.

Glenn Christiansen:

I think it's been said before that we the taxpayers are . . . footing some of the bills for this as opposed to people from Illinois are not footing some of the bill to put this all into place. I do agree the problem is with 50 people how much sense can you make of this. On the other hand, I think if you read some of this carefully you probably can get some

indication of the direction and the feelings.

Perhaps something useful would be to look in the direction of when the park isn't being utilized, like perhaps music festivals. I don't know if anybody here has ever been to Ravinia when they do some of their music programs in the evening. My God, that place is packed. There is not a square foot of lawn left over and a lot of those are done in the evening. How much stuff could we be doing like that out there at Lake Andrea and have no real impact on these concerns? Maybe going in an area that the park is currently underutilized might be a direction that could be very advantageous for us.

Michaeline Day:

I'm sure that the Rec. Commission has seen this. They're the ones that actually put on these events. Their opinion I think is valued here as they do a lot of the programming and special events programming and utilizing the park, RecPlex in particular. How did they view this survey, do you know?

Mike Pollocoff:

They haven't seen it. But under their mission they would go every weekend if you'd let them. On the other hand, I say that but events are hard on staff. And the events that we have as a practical matter really taxes the staff to their limit. I don't know of a family that doesn't like to take their vacations in the summertime and RecPlex is no different. Their summers are taken up with events so it's really difficult. Lake Andrea is an amenity for RecPlex users, too, to be able to go out and windsurf or head to the beach.

I think we're kind of in this schizophrenic squeeze between people saying don't raise my taxes, find other sources of revenue but don't take away anything I have. So we could raise more money and get more revenue out there by renting that park out and going, but you irritate people. I really don't think we have the capacity at RecPlex from a staffing standpoint to do a lot more than we do now. Any rentals that have to be kind of like the wakeboard tournament, self-contained, they get a piece of the park and they do their stuff and we don't have to do anything. But some of the bigger events, and a music event would be great, but John's parks department would be cleaning it up. The more stuff you're doing like that the less mowing and grounds keeping they're doing.

We're not staff up to be able to do a lot more than this. In some respects I don't want to say it's a moot point because it's good to know what the people want to do, but we don't have the personal wherewithal to handle a lot more events than we handle now. It would have to be those events that are really self-contained and stand alone.

Kathleen Burns:

Maybe taking that into consideration, too, we could look at May or September to avoid

the times when the kids are out of school and that park is being used more by our own residents and families.

Michaeline Day:

Right, I agree. I think, though, it seems that the residents that did respond are saying, hey, we've got enough, we appreciate what you're doing, we've got enough and by the way don't add motorized vehicles and blah, blah, blah. But when we're discussing the events they want three to five and we gave them five. As Mike and John had alluded to if a special event comes in that makes sense, that doesn't detract or put too much of a strain on the Village then we can consider it. But we're probably at this point pretty much maxed out?

Mike Pollocoff:

We are.

Michaeline Day:

And that's kind of what these 50 people are saying.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And one of the things that Mike had alluded to was the amount of impact that a special event does have. If you take a race like the Danskin Triathlon, for example, where you're closing down two major State highways, police patrol at all the intersections, 200 plus volunteers to go there and actually manage this race event, that's a really large impact on staff and residents, volunteers and the citizens because now you're adding a lot of detours to the road. People are having a hard time traveling around.

The wakeboard nationals that we've hosted for two years now has been ultimately a zero impact. They come in, they do all the setup, they do all the cleanup, they take care of all the maintenance during their event. Really, it's a top notch group out of Florida that does this organization. I guess it would be nice if you could sway a lot of our stuff where when you are bringing in special events you are looking at the amount of impact that's adding onto the staff and the revenue generated.

Mike Pollocoff:

You look at Danskin, they pay for the park, they pay for the site, all the overtime, because everything is on overtime. That's on Sunday. We don't carry a normal staff that day that's that big. They pay for all of our expenses. So the money isn't the issue with what these events do. You get a lot of the employees working getting ready for it and some of it is Saturday and Sunday and it's a lot of employee time that goes in over and

above what we normally do. Even though we're making money on it and it's not costing us anything, at some point you're pushing a lot of people. You're pushing them at a time when most people want to be going on vacation and doing some other things.

Michaeline Day:

And even the residents. I don't mind twice a year not being able to leave my house all morning because I can't get out of my driveway for the hours that everybody is going, but I don't know that I want to do that every week being held hostage in my home. The police are there saying you can't turn that way or that way and you can go back in your driveway. Twice a year is fine.

Mike Pollocoff:

They're good causes and there's really a lot of Village residents that participate in those big ones. I do hear people say stop it, quit it, but I hear a lot more people saying I like being able to do it, I like to train for it all year. I think the money is going to a good cause.

Michaeline Day:

Oh, sure. That's why I said it's a wonderful cause.

Mike Pollocoff:

Twice a year.

Michaeline Day:

Yes, not every weekend, thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And I can't say that Danskin is a bad event. It drives a lot of programs at the RecPlex that causes a lot of people to use the pool to practice swimming, use the lake to swim. Bike run and work out and condition on a regular basis. I'm talking about the amount of impact that it has on staff and community.

Alex Tiahnybok:

The revenue, I think this is something I'd like to hear feedback on it and I think it may be beneficial for everyone. The revenue that's generated from these various events, the direct payments from Danskin, etc., this goes directly into the recreation enterprise's budget, yes or no?

Mike Pollocoff:

Some does. What RecPlex charges for their rooms goes to the RecPlex. Everything else, like John's budget, fire and police goes back to general fund.

Alex Tiahnybok:

But does it get allocated out of the RecPlex's budget to do that?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right.

Alex Tiahnybok:

It first goes there and then the expenses incurred by parks, police—

Mike Pollocoff:

No, it goes the opposite. We cover operations first and then RecPlex gets. We know what we're doing before we start. The only variable is how long will the race go. That's pretty small in the scope of it. So in both cases all the Village operational costs have to be covered first. But the Village isn't making a profit on these. The RecPlex makes the profit. Now, Danskin doesn't make the Village—we don't make money and neither does RecPlex. They're making a rental. The community has a whole it plows an incredible amount of money into the community. I think Mary Galligan says almost a million bucks into the community that we wouldn't get normally.

The Pleasant Prairie Triathlon is a lot smaller. Again, that triathlon has to cover all the Village operational expenses, but that one we charge \$80 a head to do that if you want to figure what that was, but I think this last year we netted out \$70,000. That money goes, again, after all operational costs are expended goes to the therapeutic rec program to help fund their programs for the year. So RecPlex doesn't make a profit on that. But Prairie Family Days is almost a break even. So our three biggest, we do make quite a bit of money on the Pleasant Prairie Triathlon but, again, that doesn't go into operations from anybody, that's for special needs. And the other rentals are the ones that end up in the RecPlex bottom line. I think their special events net is about \$45,000 a year when you take out the three big ones.

Alex Tiahnybok:

The point I was driving at is if there is any, and I know it's not profit, it's surplus over costs, we are the Park Commission, we're not the Recreation Commission, and I think our focus needs to be parks. And if we're giving up an asset like Lake Andrea for more events and it doesn't help the parks I think it's critical for us to look at it that way. The money, whatever surplus is left over, doesn't help the parks. It helps RecPlex. I'm not against that but I think it's important to realize that.

Michaeline Day:

Anyone else have any comments on this survey? It seems that we all seem to agree that in the direction that three to five.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Alex Tiahnybok:

Motion adjournment.

Glenn Christiansen:

I'll second.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Thank you very much.

Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.