

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE  
PARK COMMISSION  
Village Hall, Auditorium  
9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158  
Wednesday, November 8, 2006  
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michaeline Day, Michael Russert, Glenn Christiansen and William Mills. Rita Christiansen, Alex Tiahnybok and Kathleen Burns 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 OCTOBER 3, 2006 PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

Michaeline Day:

In your packet you have your October 3, 2006 Park Commission meeting minutes. If there's no additions or corrections I'll entertain a motion to accept those minutes.

Michael Russert:

I make a motion to accept those minutes.

William Mills:

Second.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Thank you.

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Review and Discuss Chiwaukee Prairie Two-Year Management Plan - Marty Johnson - DNR**

Michaeline Day:

In the audience tonight we have Marty Johnson who is with the DNR. Marty, would you want to come up and present what you have for us?

Marty Johnson:

Yes, thank you. For some of you who don't know me my name is Marty Johnson. I'm the wildlife biologist for Racine and Kenosha County and also the property manager for Chiwaukee Prairie. I've been working with the Village the last few years in developing a management plan every two years so that the Village knows where we're going to be working and what we're going to be doing in case there are calls or if there are any problems that do occur during our activities.

Before you what I provided was just a map showing the locations of the tree park areas that we're proposing to manage. Basically in our two year management plan we outline what we're going to do in terms of brush clearing and then also control burning. Control burning has been an issue the last couple years, and I think we've got it rectified and we hope to have that back in process this upcoming spring.

Brushing management basically involves doing chainsawing as well as using a brush machine. You have a picture of one of those. It's a track vehicle that has a six foot mower deck that's able to take brush anywhere from twigs up to about four or five inches in diameter in terms of trees. Our management down in Chiwaukee, our goal, is to get it back to a lowland prairie, which for the most part is herbaceous vegetation, things like big blue stem, little blue stem, a number of forbes. There's a picture there that shows an area TNC with some flowers. We do allow some trees down there, mainly oaks, sometimes hickories.

Chiwaukee when it was at its presettlement time it basically was just a grassland area with some scattered trees. Over time because fire has not been allowed to persist, we've had woody vegetation take over. A lot of invasives that we're dealing with, things like buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife. We have crews down there

that basically work on the prairie just about year round dealing with those. In past we have done some work in the parkland areas. We haven't in recent times. We have been working with Mike Pollocoff and Jean Werbie about the tree removal. We know that the Village is sensitive to that as well as the citizens down there. If and when we get to the point where we're doing some heavy tree work, we will consult with you guys before we do that.

On our properties we have been removing trees. When we do do a lot of tree cutting we bring in the chipper to remove a lot of the downed material. And then at times we've been able to get people or citizens to come in and remove the trees as part of a firewood sale. So we don't leave anything behind to cause clutter. Also, I know that the Fire Chief has some concerns with bigger debris when we're burning and causing smoke problems and things of that nature.

I guess my intent in coming tonight was to let you know what we're doing and see if there's any questions on what we are proposing. This fall and winter we are looking at doing some work in the parklands in Unit 4. One of them is along the railroad tracks and the other one is right along Lakeshore Drive. About three years ago we did work on the Lakeshore Drive area. We were in there with our mowers and basically lowered everything in that area to stubble and allowed things to grow up. Our goal usually is to mow an area that's heavily brushed and then the following year to burn it to knock back the brush so we're getting more herbaceous vegetation to come in.

The area along the railroad tracks we burned a number of years ago, and we've kind of let it go. It's mainly just dogwood and willows and things like that, a lot of shrubs versus trees. And so our goal would be to go in there and mow it this year, and then next year on the calendar to burn it in the spring of 2008.

As far as the parkland in Unit 5 which is on the north part, just south of 90<sup>th</sup> Street, that is a mixture of shrubs, wetlands, marshy areas and then a treed area. A lot of nice oaks in there. We think that at one point it was probably a savannah that's just grown up with other undesirable trees. That will take a lot more work and I guess it's kind of a pipe dream a little bit at this point. What we try to do when we schedule our management activities is to put more than we can do on the schedule so that if we get to that point that's great. If we don't we push it off to the next year. I think that we'll have to do a little more coordination with the Village and the Commission about that because there will be more tree removal in that spot, and obviously being parkland you guys have to agree with our management activities than us just going out and just doing it. But that isn't scheduled until the winter of 2007/2008 so it's still a ways off. And we'll be able to get a feeling for how far we get this year if that's something we'll be able to address.

I guess at this point if there are any questions on our activities or plans?

Michael Russert:

Marty, you had mentioned at the end that there was issues with burning in the past and hopefully resolve them in the spring. What were those issues?

Marty Johnson:

Part of the issues is we've been working with the Fire Chief. He's had some concerns with smoke. We've developed a burning plan and taken into consideration homes and the smoke patterns and wind directions and things like that. There was another issue with a fee that we've gotten clarified hopefully from our standpoint. It was our attorneys that were working with the Village on that.

Michael Russert:

Thank you.

Michaeline Day:

Anyone else have any questions?

William Mills:

Yes, have there been any citizens' issues in terms with the burning down in that area?

Marty Johnson:

We had a gentleman a couple years ago that had some major concerns. We worked with the Village and him to kind of get things under control I guess. We do have a number of people down there that still have some health concerns. What we do at this point is prior to our burning season we hand out fliers to all our neighbors around the spots where we're planning on burning and that we get response from. Then at least a week prior to the burn we also go around and hang up door hangers which give advice on keeping your windows closed, not hanging out laundry and also making people aware of it so that when the day comes they can make their changes or plans so that they're not impacted.

But I do know there are probably two or three citizens right now that have asthma or other concerns that I wouldn't say they're happy with us burning. We try to give them notification, like I said, a week ahead of time so they're not in the area when that does occur. It's an issue that a departments and a lot of different agencies are trying to address. Because of a lot of problems that have happened nationally with fires getting away, there's a lot of attention on making sure that people who are burning are trained appropriately and that the plans are taken into all considerations, not just the natural resource. You're looking at traffic patterns, homes and things of that nature. So we're

getting more and more into that. But we do try to address the issue with the health concerns by notifying.

Mike Pollocoff:

I just might add in relation to your question, I think at one point a few years back that was a problem, but the DNR with the management plans we've been working with has been aggressive in getting the big brush down so that when they do burn they're burning the grass. We're not burning bushes and the bigger stuff that just keeps burning and smoldering. As they make progress in acquisition and doing that mechanical clearing first, it will end up being a burn like we have on Chiwaukee Prairie on the south side of 116<sup>th</sup>, and when you see those burns go it goes and the smoke is a lot less and it's fast. It just doesn't cause the grief that they do here on the DNR lands. They've got the tough part of the prairie because you've got the housing and there's been a lot of housing that's developed in that area.

A lot of people live to live by the prairie, but if you're going to live by the prairie this is one of the things that goes along with that is you've got to be ready for a burn. But I think as time goes on and they're able to get the land cleared off and get that bigger brush and things out, so all we're doing is burning the prairie and it's going to be easier for them and it's going to be a lot easier on the residents there so that burn time won't be going on forever. And we're already, compared to where we were a couple years ago, it's really been cleaned up quite a bit.

Marty Johnson:

The burns in the prairie, like Mike said, are very quick. The grass burns clean and quickly and just keeps moving along. So the fires usually when we burn a block it may take us a half an hour to an hour and with this grass it just moves right through. So it is much better than when we're dealing with the woods and heavy debris.

William Mills:

How many years has the DNR been doing this type of work in this area?

Marty Johnson:

The plan was developed in 1985. I think that the active management has gotten progressively more in recent years. There was a crew of one to two people for a number of years. I think the burning really probably started in earnest around 1987, and it's been kind of hit and miss over the years. A lot depends on weather and what we have in terms of availability for crew. But in the last four or five years we've had anywhere from three to four people down there basically working almost every day out of the year. So the efforts down here have increased.

(Inaudible)

Michaeline Day:

Anyone have anything else? Marty, thank you very much for coming in and talking to us and explaining the program. Thank you.

**B. Discuss Phil Sander's Memorial**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening everyone. Our last meeting we had talked about coming up with some sort of a site plan with a limited amount of detail for the Phil Sanders memorial. The first slide that I have up on the screen shows where we're looking at having the monument erected with the limited parking spaces, around four parking stalls. It would be the northwest corner of 165 and Terwall Terrace where the monument sign is and where Park Drive starts to circle around Lake Andrea to the west.

We want to have it somewhere where you would be available to stop and park your car safely without having to stop on 165. We felt that would be very dangerous and an area where you can actually view the monument in front of you and be looking forward at the actual slew and have a map of the area.

I guess it was staff's goal to come up with some sort of details to get Partners In Design Architects to start designing a little bit more of a formal plan for this so we're not just asking questions, to keep the cost down as much as we can. So I just spent a little bit of time with Park Commission member Mr. Christiansen. We met on site and we actually met a couple times on what some of the text is and how the monument would be laid out.

If you'd be facing 165, you would see what is on the bottom side where it says the Phil Sanders Memorial. A cross-section view is in the middle. It's kind of a three by three, almost like what this table is, and the top is like at a 70 degree angle so you can easily read it and view what's going on ahead of you. Then on the very top portion of it there would be some text that we'll go over a little bit, a portrait of Phil Sander himself and potentially a map of that area recounting a little bit of history so you can see what they're talking about. A couple of images of Mr. Sander pulled from a book that we put together was oak leaves and some other birds and native vegetation and the portrait of Phil Sander.

Glenn, if you would want to talk about the text portion of it? You had written up a little bit of text for that. I'm not sure if you want to address that since you were the one that wrote it.

Glenn Christiansen:

Does everybody have copies? Okay. I spent a little time thinking about this. I did a little studying and reading through some of Phil's books and so forth, a little bit of Phil's life. I don't believe this was in the packet.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I don't believe so. I believe that just the images were, but everyone should have the text now if we handed it out.

Glenn Christiansen:

At any rate everybody has a copy of both piece of the text that we put together on it. Rather than read it you can look at it. Before any of this stuff is actually decided to put onto it, I'd like to have it reviewed by a few people, possibly relatives, Phil's niece and possibly have some of it looked at by Dan Joyce down at the museum to make sure there isn't anything that could be added or corrected to it if anybody else feels that there's something significant.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And I don't believe at this time we're looking for the actual text to be put on the monument. This is more of a concept on how the monument is to be designed and then maybe in following meetings we can iron out exactly how the text is going to read. Just making sure that the family and the Commission and anyone else that needs to be involved has the time to review it. It's just our first draft of the text.

Glenn Christiansen:

It gives us an idea.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

An idea a couple months before we actually have it ironed out and exactly where we need it.

William Mills:

I got text sent to me with the meeting minutes and the agenda, so Glenn had you put together this version and this is maybe a second draft that was handed out tonight?

Glenn Christiansen:

The one that was handed out this evening was a missing portion of it . . . one of them talks more about Phil and one of them actually talks more about the river and the wetland areas. When you tie them together it kind of makes sense and why it's such a special place for Phil.

William Mills:

I thought both were very good, but when I had read the first portion here it seemed like something was missing. But put together it makes a lot of sense.

Glenn Christiansen:

I was reading it and though, gee, isn't there something else? Yes, it took me a few minutes and I thought, wait a second, I've got to get that piece.

Michaeline Day:

But we are a little bit away from actually deciding the actual verbiage?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct. I believe the staff this evening is just looking for some sort of a motion to move forward to bring this to Partners In Design, the plan and profile of this and come up with some sort of a concept view and style that we can bring back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Mike Pollocoff:

And that you're happy with the location of it.

Michaeline Day:

I think it's a good location. I think for the exact reasons you gave you're overlooking the area yet you're not parking yourself in the middle of 165 looking at the area. People do park there. I think it's an excellent spot, and I think you, Glenn, and Partners did a nice job on the conceptual plan, that it's not too large and intrusive, but it's tasteful and it's designed so that you can read it and still look over. It's not too tall where you're going, oh, yeah, I see what you're talking about. So I think it's perfect. I for one think you guys did a good job. I would look for someone to entertain a motion to proceed as you have given if there's not any other questions.



William Mills.

I make a motion to proceed with the design and plan as presented tonight.

Michael Russert:

I second the motion.

Michaeline Day:

Any more discussion? All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Then you'll just handle this then for us?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we will.

### **C. Discuss Veterans Memorial**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

At the Monday night Board meeting one of the Board members asked if we could come up with some sort of a concept plan for a veterans memorial, and they brought up the idea if we could potentially do something by the ball field pavilion. So I've outlined an area in between the ball diamonds just south of where the bleachers are. I apologize it's a poor picture. This is the bleacher area and the diamonds on the left and the right and the pavilion. It was our thought that at the beginning of baseball games and tournaments there would be three flags and a small monument that would be at the base of it and landscaped around so everyone that was watching the games could easily view and enjoy the honor that we're giving to all the veterans. Mike, do you have anything else to add?

Mike Pollocoff:

It's really a blank slate for the Commission. One option John lined out. The other one is that if you think back, and you kind of see it on this map here, at the ballfield pavilion there's a big paved plaza up to the right. You can see it from the road. It's a big plaza. Ed Kaufman, the former Trustee, he left us \$5,000 to do a monument or some seed

money for a monument. We have that and it's grown some since he died. But with the concepts if you want to name the pavilion veterans memorial pavilion or the ballfield, or we could put the flags up there. You already have a ready made plaza. If people could see them there and then put a monument up. I've seen municipal monuments to veterans and sometimes they have monuments that list each war. You can kind of go the whole gamut. They can give the names of the people who live in the community or they just have the monument itself.

Glenn Christiansen:

I've seen where they've paved sidewalks up to something and then people pay to have a person's name into a paving brick, too.

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes, that could be done, too. But we do have that one area that's kind of set. It would take getting some power into it or whatever. Or, the other thing is to put it out on the field so the people out there could see it. It's a nice spot and really a lot of people see it and go there. If you go there every night in the summer or the spring or the fall there's people there so it's really kind of how we want to do it. I think that really the direction from the Village President is he'd like to see that happen there. He's not telling you guys where to put it or how to make it look, but he thinks that would be a nice place to have it and get it done.

We had some previous plans to create an overlook along the lake which is also nice but, one, it's more expensive and it's kind of where do you put it where it can be a good view and not be off by itself. This is something here where a lot of people would have the opportunity to see it and whatever we end up putting there. You may want to look at inviting some vets or some people from the Pleasant Prairie VFW to give you some input as to what they think it might want to be. We don't have to come up with this overnight. But he's thinking it would be nice to dedicate it at Family Days next year and be able to have it all done.

Michaeline Day:

I think the ballfield is a nice idea, but I do know that I have some close relatives that were involved and some friends, and I do think the plaza is a nice idea because veterans or people who have lost people in the war do like to stop for a moment and I don't want to say pray but meditate or think about it, and if you're at a plaza site, on the site on the plaza, it's a little bit easier than to go stand in the middle of a ballfield. You're not really in the middle of the ballfield but it's a little bit I think more appropriate.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

A little more accessible.

Michaeline Day:

A little more accessible and it seems it's doing what you're thinking of doing. You're actually dedicating a spot, not just finding a spot to stick it.

Mike Pollocoff:

This here, like I say, it's already got concrete. We could probably put like another finish that we have over by Lake Andrea Plaza, stained, so we could make it look differently. We could probably even do some reconfiguring. It's just a spot that already has the parking. It's handicapped access. It would really be a matter of putting the monumental flags and some nice benches for people to sit at there.

Michael Russert:

Is there a significance of three flags? It would be three American flags?

Mike Pollocoff:

Like at Andrea Plaza where you have the three, the State, the U.S. and the Village. I guess we don't have to do that either. If people don't want the Village flag there and just an American Flag we could do that. It's not concrete as to what it needs to look like. And we'd light it rather than somebody having to take the flag up and down every day. We could keep it lit.

Michaeline Day:

You could almost have the American flag and the branches of service flags, too.

William Mills:

I have to agree I think I prefer the thought of the monument off kind of away from the ballfield. I think it's just more appropriate for this type of monument. In the plaza I think it's an excellent idea that it's not completely off by itself. It's still around where a lot of people congregate but kind of off by itself.

Glenn Christiansen:

And the idea I think you mentioned the idea of the veteran's ballfield or something on that order. Something like that might be appropriate. It's kind of nice to tie it in with

something that gets used, family use.

Mike Pollocoff:

I think that's the intent is to have the monument and then name the whole thing veterans ballfield or veterans pavilion or whatever we end up calling it.

Glenn Christiansen:

Actually right now it sounds like a very nice idea to say the least.

Michaeline Day:

So can we get Partners In Design to do a two-fer?

Mike Pollocoff:

I'm not sure we'll need them.

Michaeline Day:

Just do it ourselves?

Mike Pollocoff:

In house. I think, Madam Chairman, if you want to have a little subcommittee look on something with that and if you want to involve a couple Veteran's organizations and get some input from them we can arrange an evening meeting and go through some stuff and come back with some concepts. Maybe John can put them together for us on the map and see what we've got and be able to price it out. We have \$5,000 in there. I think it would be reasonably easy, as long as it's not a referendum, we can go out and get some donations and pick up some more money depending on what the ticket is. But having so much stuff already in place there it shouldn't be that bad.

Michaeline Day:

Then can I entertain a motion for staff to proceed with working towards a monument for the veterans in the plaza?

William Mills:

Does that also include—I think it's an excellent idea to involve the Pleasant Prairie VFW, etc.

Michaeline Day:

Right, that's just saying that we're going to start the process.

William Mills:

I make that motion.

Glenn Christiansen:

I'll second that motion.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Motion carries.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Michael Russert:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

William Mills:

I second the motion.

Michaeline Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michaeline Day:

Thank you all for coming.

**ADJOURNED: 6:30 p.m.**