

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE  
PARKS COMMISSION  
Village Hall Auditorium  
9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158  
Tuesday, May 6, 2008  
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Rita Christiansen, Kathleen Burns, Michael Russert and Monica Yuhas. William Mills and Glenn Christiansen were excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Superintendent of Parks; and Ruth Mack, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE APRIL 2, 2008 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

Michealene Day:

In your packet you have the minutes for April 2<sup>nd</sup> Park Commission meeting minutes. If you've read them can I have a motion to accept the minutes?

**Monica Yuhas moved to approve the Parks Commission Meeting minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Kathleen Burns. Motion carried 5-0.**

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Discuss Natural Area Preservation Project.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening Board and Ms. Chairman. The Village has assembled a panel of experts to assist in the planning and implementation of the Natural Area Preservation Project. It is the ultimate goal of the committee to preserve and restore wetlands, protect endangered species and plants, promote a healthy habitat and nesting area for waterfowl, construct walking trails and education stations. There are many endangered species of plants and animals making their homes in these natural areas.

Committee members are Lori Artiomow, Jason from Ducks Unlimited, Steve Eggers, Marty Johnson from Wisconsin DNR, Jeff Nania from Wisconsin Waterfowl, John Burke from Halter Wildlife, Peter Ziegler also from Wisconsin Waterfowl, Lon Knoedler from Ducks Unlimited, Jean Werbie, Chad Navis, Glenn Christiansen and myself. The committee met for the first time as a group on May 9, 2008. The group generally defined the boundaries and subareas of the

project. The project boundaries are generally located just east of I-94, south of Highway 50 and just south of 165. The Village has been acquiring land in the outlined area for 20 years to protect and preserve these natural areas.

As you can see, we have up on the wall the area. It's kind of broken up into six different areas, and Area 5 is up on the top just north of Highway C. Area 2 is south of 165. Area 1 is just north of 165. Area 6 is the area between Area 1 and Highway C just east of the Interstate. Area 4 is kind of the wetlands area that kind of connects Area 5 to Area 1. And then the wetlands area from the Sewer Treatment Plant D that connects Area 4 is Area 3.

We broke these up into six different area because we thought this was the best way to handle such a large project area. The first area that we'd like to do some work on is Area 1, and the main goal for that Area 1 would be to make some educational stations and some trails and make a natural meander with the Jerome Creek through that area. We already went through with Lori Artiomow and a grant from Wisconsin DNR and completed a Des Plaines River Planning Report for Area 1.

Pleasant Prairie plans on applying for additional river planning grant to complete conservation and maintenance plans for Area 2 in the next grant cycle, which is the area just south of 165, and then every grant cycle thereafter work on the following Areas 3, 4, 5 and then finally Area 6. One of the Des Plaines River Planning Report goals, like we had talked about, is to create a meander of the Jerome Creek, but the first step to being work on Area 1 is completing a water model for the area. This model will show the upstream and downstream impact of constructing the water way back to an original contour. We had spoken to some of the members from Ducks Unlimited and they may have some resources to complete the water model. We plan on having another meeting in June. Our initial meeting was just really to get the group together and to see what resources each of the members of the group or what areas of expertise they could each provide and develop a plan. Then we're really just moving forward now on trying to implement the plan beginning with the water modeling in Area 1 and then hopefully begin a planning grant for Area 2 and kind of moving throughout the areas as we have grants and resources available. I guess I can entertain any comments or questions from the Commission.

Michealene Day:

Just a quick one and it's just a typographical one for sure but if this goes out to the public. I think you guys met before May 9, 2008.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we did.

Michealene Day:

So it probably is like April 9 or March 9. The committee met for the first time as a group on May 9, 2008?

Rita Christiansen:

It hasn't happened yet then.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Oh, it was April 9. You are correct, it was April 9. We'll make that change in the report.

Michealene Day:

Just in case it gets out and somebody says how could you meet before the date. That was my only comment.

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village has or the Community Development Authority has a parcel of land that we're working on giving to the land trust, and I'd like to have the upland portion of that excluded from the project.

Rita Christiansen:

Specifically what section?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Is that in Area 6?

Mike Pollocoff:

Area 1. You've got that little island that WisPark owns and then we have ten acres of upland directly north of that, and then the remaining—

Michealene Day:

Can you show us on the map, Mike?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think I know the area you're talking about. I believe it's the area that's right in here. We'll make some revisions on the map.

Rita Christiansen:

Why do you want that excluded?

Mike Pollocoff:

Because the uplands are going to be developed, and I don't want—the Authority since we're giving 30 acres to the cause we don't want to have it included in the study and then somebody come back and say you shouldn't develop it because we've studied it and we think we're saving.

Rita Christiansen:

Was that where the farm was?

Mike Pollocoff:

South of that. It was where the chicken place was. The farm we're not allowed in that one.

Rita Christiansen:

Can you tell me if this Area 1 is where the tour took place?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, it is. You can kind of see where the Jerome Creek starts over here and runs down in this area. And the Kilbourn ditch actually runs down from here and the bridge location that we have is in this area down here. So I believe we had parked for our tour back down in this area here where the cul-de-sac is, walked over and crossed into the field. We had walked down and viewed some of the areas. It was a pretty long tour and buggy and muddy.

Rita Christiansen:

Mike, can you tell me again how many acres you want taken out of Area 1?

Mike Pollocoff:

Ten acres right along the interstate.

Kathleen Burns:

Ducks Unlimited is a retail operation, right? What is Ducks Unlimited?

Mike Pollocoff:

It's a nonprofit.

Kathleen Burns:

Oh, really? It sounded like a store or something.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

They do a lot of fundraising to protect natural areas like this. And I believe that their fundraising goal for the next year is to raise \$1.5 billion to put towards restoration projects worldwide.

Kathleen Burns:

And where are they located? Where are they from?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

They have branches all over the US and Canada and other countries.

Michealene Day:

You'll see they'll have stamps or pictures and stuff that they'll sell for part of their fundraising activities. There's a branch I believe Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we have a Kenosha branch that's very strong. Lon Knoedler is the Wisconsin Chair for sponsorship and Chad Navis is on the State committee also. I can get you some more information on the background of Ducks Unlimited and the history for the next Board meeting if you'd like.

Kathleen Burns:

Sure, I can look it up on line. I just wasn't familiar with that. Thanks.

Michael Russert:

Who currently owns Area 6?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe that Area 6 is not under our ownership. I'm not sure, Mike, who the owners are. That's this area here.

Mike Pollocoff:

That's owned by a family, the Schafer family farm. They haven't farmed it in quite a while. I think it's a trusteeship of one of the sons that had it. They led their dairy herd go probably 20 years ago or more. It hasn't been cropped. I don't know if there's a wetland staking that far ago, but if you were to look at it then and now I'm sure there's been a lot of encroachment which is okay.

Michael Russert:

And then what are the plans north of Area 6, south of Area 5 and then west of Area 4? Is there a reason why that's not being preserved?

Rita Christiansen:

Off of Wilmot Road.

Michael Russert:

South of Highway C.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's where the interchange is going to be located.

Mike Pollocoff:

That's where the realigned interchange is going to be. That's not floodplain. It's crops. There's no plans to acquire that to put an end to the floodplain. In fact, when Highway C interchange is redone we'll probably be seeing proposals for commercial development in that area.

Michealene Day:

It's all buildable land.

Michael Russert:

And then with the extension of the interstate going north will that have any impact on the Area 5 and Area 6 and the Area 1, the widening of 94?

Mike Pollocoff:

The widening is about 50 feet. It's widening but it's not significant. The interchange is going to become bigger but that's really the most significant change.

Michael Russert:

And then my last question is for Area 1 it's identified as project order number one, so when would the trails be identified for the area and also built?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We've had some trails that have been roughly identified. The first thing you really have to do is see what kind of impact that that water model has, and then based on the results of the water model then we can really know what our ground elevations are of lowland and upland, and then

we'll try to place our trails in the upland areas to keep them from being flooded out.

Michael Russert:

So still in 2008?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No. I predict that you probably won't see any trails in here until probably 2010. We'll probably finish the bridge that we started on in 2008 and into 2009, and then hopefully our water modeling is done in 2009 and we can start some trail work and get some grants or funding or donations in 2010. It's definitely a long-range project, but just a starting point we've identified some of the projects that we'd like to do.

Michael Russert:

So then by the time we get to Area 6 we're looking at probably 2012 or 2013 for completion of the whole project?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Oh, I think you're looking at much longer than that. We really don't have an exact time line. We just kind of identified Area 6 as being the last one because we still don't provide ownership for it. All of these are still under discretion of the boundaries depending on what we find out with wetland surveys and staking and property ownership. If we have a developer that comes into a certain area and wants to restore an area at their cost we would probably bump that up and move it around. It's just kind of our first educated guess on how this would take place.

Rita Christiansen:

So as the map changes based on your statement then would it come back to us again to look at again? Or, are we looking at this as a whole picture right now and then any changes would just go through the Village and we would never see what that is?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Any minor changes we would probably just take care of. If there were going to be any major changes we would obviously let the Commission look at it. We can do updates as major events happen. If we are awarded grants, if the water modeling study does go through, if there are any major improvements we would make sure to keep the Parks Commission informed as they do happen.

Rita Christiansen:

So to my point then I'm hearing two things. You're going to keep us informed as major things change.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct.

Rita Christiansen:

But the change will already be approved and then we'll be informed? Or, we'll be able to come back and say have any type of feedback based on whatever models you bring us back prior to a vote?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, we can make sure to bring any major changes to the Commission before they're finalized. I think that would be appropriate.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you.

Mike Pollocoff:

What we're talking about not bringing back are just those kind of nuance changes on the wetland line as staking is done. If you guys want to see that, too, that's fine.

Rita Christiansen:

I guess my point being I want to make sure I fully understand the process should I get asked the question. Then if I don't obviously I'll defer that to the Village Board.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions? I'm sure since you've only really met once this is pretty preliminary, and some time after you meet with the committee again in June as you develop it's kind of hard for you to answer all the questions with just one meeting under your belt.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, that's correct. And by no means am I an expert in natural area conservation. That's why we have some other people. My role on the committee is really just as the representative of the property owners. Then we have other people that really understand some of the details of the conservation and how it needs to get developed to restore everything back to its natural state.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. I'm sure after your June meeting you'll let us know more.



John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we will.

Michealene Day:

Thanks. Any other comments?

Kathleen Burns:

I'm glad to see Glenn on the committee, too. It's a representative right from the Board so that's a good thing for us, too.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Glenn really does bring a lot of knowledge—

Kathleen Burns:

Oh, definitely.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

—to the project with his knowledge of conservation. He's been a resident of that area his whole life so he really brings a lot of good history back also the group and the committee, so we're really lucky to have him on there.

Michealene Day:

Okay, thank you.

**6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Michael Russert moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kathleen Burns. Motion carried 5-0.**

Michealene Day:

Thank you all and we'll see you next month.