

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARKS COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
October 7, 2008
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Glenn Christiansen, Kathleen Burns, William Mills, Monica Yuhas, Troy Holm and Jim Bandura. Rita Christiansen and Michael Russert were excused. Also present were John Steinbrink, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works and Ruth Mack, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JULY 1, 2008 AND SEPTEMBER 3, 2008 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Michealene Day:

In your packet you actually will have two minutes to approve, one of July 1st and one of September 3rd. Our minutes for the July 1st meeting because Ruth wasn't here didn't get done. So if you've had an opportunity to review the minutes, can I have a motion to—do we have to do them separately, Ruth, or can we do them all together? Okay, can we have a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Kathleen burns moved to approve the Parks Commission Meeting minutes of the July 1 and September 3, 2008 meetings presented in their written form: Seconded by William Mills. Motion carried 7-0.

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a) Discuss and Approve Playground Equipment for Prairie Springs Park North Ballfields Area**

Michealene Day:

In your packet you'll see that the park district staff as been very, very busy with trying to get grants for us. And it looks like we have some playground equipment in the north ballfields area in Pleasant Prairie Springs to look over.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening, Ms. Chair and the rest of the Parks Commission. The department heads are in the process right now of developing the budget 2009 for the Parks Department. And we're going to start off with a couple different variations of playground equipment. One of the capital items that we're proposing in 2009 is to construct the playground on the north ball diamonds over at Prairie Springs Park, right in between diamond number two and diamond number three.

Recently we saw that there was a grant that was available and it's a Fighting Obesity Through Playing grant. It's kind of a national grant, and I believe there's around \$6 million that's available for it. But the money has to be spent by December 14, 2008 yet. So we are just going—we planned on having playground equipment on the north ball diamonds in the budget anyway, so we are just moving forward as potentially we are getting the grant. We are going to budget for the full amount in our capital plan but then have a contingency in there if we do get a grant.

The grant is 50 percent of the list price, and it's also 50 percent of the surcharge which is not listed on any of these documents here. That was some information that we just received the other day so we didn't have a chance to update our slides. The only thing that's not covered with the 50 percent of the grant is the cost of freight from the factory sending it here. So what staff did is we found a couple different options of play equipment that we thought might be nice to have for the age group over by the north ball diamond that were somewhere around that \$19,000 to \$22,000 range which is really what we had planned on budgeting all along.

Last year for 2008 we were able to construct a really nice playground over at Pleasant Prairie Park on 104th Avenue and Bain Station Road. We were able to find some volunteer labor to construct it, so all we had to pay for was just the price of the equipment. And we're hoping to do the same sort of arrangement next year for 2009.

So I'm just going to go through and take you guys through each of these. We do have some options which are going to be on the last slide of the poles and some of the other equipment. Historically in the past we've tried to match the Village colors with different things. So the slides we have right now we weren't able to go through and customize and actually pull the yellow, blue or green colors. These are taken right off of the Game Time website.

The first one we have is a Smile A While which has a slide, a lot of play equipment. It looks like a really nice playground. If you look at it from the top as if you were over the top of it you can see the different layout of what it has. One of the things that I think we'd like to do, we'd like to have a playground that really emphasizes kids being fit, and so that's why you might see a chinning bar or some of these other ladders or climbing or different things. It's not just climbing up a stairs or some steps and sliding down, but it actually has a little bit more. So it has a little volcano climber, a rock wall, and a different sort of a playground look.

Michealene Day:

John, real quick, how tall are they? I didn't notice it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The height is probably about six feet to where the first standing platform is. You can see where the mouse is on the screen here. I would say that's around six foot. And one of the things that we would have to make sure when we do the construction on here that we have the proper fall zone and material around it to make sure that if anybody would fall off of it that they would have the right impact resistant surface on there. Right now we're just looking at having the wood chips on there, but if we could find some grant or some other monies we would like to install a rubberized surface if at all possible.

The second one we have here is a Fair Oaks Landing, a little more compacted one, but it still has the emphasis of the physical fitness with the rings that we have on the side and the rock climbing wall. It has a couple of different slides. One of the slides can be for older kids on the left and the younger kids on the right. And here's kind of an overview of what that would look like.

The Galaxy is the next one that was pretty much in the price range. It has the same climbing rings around it, a couple different slides, some variations. It has a little step wall on the back end of it. Here's an overhead view of it. A lot of these really have the same theme but we thought we would give the Parks Commission the opportunity to comment on different ones. I'm sure there's even the possibility if you like different features from one and different features off of another one the same way that we did for the playground on the park over by Pleasant Prairie Park, I'm sure that we can mix and match these also. This kind of gives staff some direction to go to when we're talking with the sales rep or the manufacturer.

Meadow Place is the next one. This has a tube, the monkey bars, combing around some slides, some walks, a curly slide, different features like that. It's a little bit larger than some of the other ones. A little bit more spread out. Still really neat. This one has a crunch bar on it. So you can definitely tell that—it has a chinning bar, a crunch bar, something to do pull ups, something to hang and to move to work on mobility as a part of

the grant.

Hawks Nest is the next one that we have here. It's a little bit more expensive but it's still pretty much in our price range. With the grant it's got the corkscrew slide. It's got some climbers, some little walkers on it. As you can see on the overview it's a nice spread out playground. Then we have the option of the plastic colors and the metal colors. I guess at this time I would take any comments that we might have from the Parks Commission.

Michealene Day:

The only thing that I like about not the very first one but the rest of them is that the first one looks like it was basically just older kids. With several families that I know you have three to five years difference in your kids. When you go out there it's kind of nice when some of the other ones had stuff like the Fair Oaks they had in one little section for younger kids where you could have your 12 year playing with the 7 year old and not being afraid that it's too big of a park. You're not going to have one kid at one end and one kid at the other side of the park. So I kind of like the idea of having it a little bit more mixed in age difference. Not a big group, but the rest of them all seem that the age span of the equipment was a little better. That was my only idea that I had.

Monica Yuhas:

I have one comment. I am not a big fan of tunnels on playground equipment. Things go on in those tunnels that parents don't always get to see. Plus you wonder about the maintenance of the inside of those tunnels. Things get wiped on the inside of them. I would like to see no tunnels.

Kathleen Burns:

I don't think we had any tunnels in the other one for the same reason. Didn't we go to the open?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, I believe we kept open slides in our last playground for some of the same reasons that we had talked about. So it's probably good that we stick with that same theme.

Michealene Day:

At Prairie Springs Park in the tot lot ones there are some tunnels but they're very short. They're not a big long tunnel. My Tyler plays in there and you can see him go in and it's short enough that you actually can see him come out. It's just a little segment. It's not like some of these where you're crawling through many feet. But I understand your concern.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think the only one that I really see that has the tunnel is the Meadow Place. It has the one that connects the left from the right area. We could go and discount that if that's not something that the Commission deems appropriate.

Jim Bandura:

John, I kind of agree with that not having tunnels on it. I do like the idea of the Hawks Nest because it's larger and the park is larger, and I think we have plenty of room out there to put something like this.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure. And space really is not an issue out there between those two ball diamonds.

Jim Bandura:

And I think the park is used quite a bit. I believe a lot of people visit it. I know it's a little bit more than the rest of them, but with the grant I feel comfortable with all of the stuff that's on this type of equipment.

William Mills:

I agree, because during baseball season there's a lot of kids out there. This one has multiple slides and has a lot of different activities so that you could accommodate a large number of kids with this. I think that will probably be important come baseball season out there.

Monica Yuhas:

John, what are the blue circles?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The blue circles are like a little standing pad where the kids just kind of stand on it and probably just hang onto the post and stand. I don't believe that they spin or anything like that. I think it's a standing platform. They walk from one to the other.

Michealene Day:

So did we give you enough direction or do you want more direction?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The direction that I've taken out of this is that we're kind of leaning towards the Hawks Nest design. We had talked about possibly Fair Play as one, but it sounds like we're between Fair Play and—

Michealene Day:

Hawks Nest is nice, yeah.

Jim Bandura:

And there's a little bit more height to it. I think kids get excited when they're a little taller than anybody else. It's only two feet so we're at eight feet. I still lean towards the Hawks Nest.

Troy Holm:

The only thing I'd had would be the shorter pull up bar.

Michealene Day:

But these are options we can put on, some pull up bars and everything else afterwards, correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Is there a pull up bar on the Hawks Nest?

Troy Holm:

It looks like it. I see a crunch bar up to it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'm sure we can add a pull up bar if that's an option. I think with the whole fitness I would even think that a lot of the older people out there with a pull up bar they might go over there if no one is on it and do some pull ups and continue around the park. That would be appropriate for them to do. So right now I'm looking at the Hawks Nest by adding a pull up bar to it.

Jim Bandura:

I'm in favor of it.

Michealene Day:

Sounds like a plan.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And as far as the colors, I believe that we have the yellow posts over at Pleasant Prairie Park, and I believe that we have the green plastic colors, and then our slides are blue.

Michealene Day:

I think we should stick with that so it will all be consistent. The only question I have is the slides being blue, I don't remember if they're a real dark blue.

William Mills:

They do get very hot.

Michealene Day:

Yes, because I burned myself.

William Mills:

My one son had baseball practice over at those ball fields, and it was probably the June time period and I know the slides were too hot for the kids to get on at that time, so that was the only comment I was going to have. I think the most usage of this playground will be during the June, July, August time frames when baseball season is happening, and I'd be a little concerned about the dark blue color.

Michealene Day:

Could we change the posts to be the blue and the slides into the yellow?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure. I wouldn't see why not.

Michealene Day:

I would think the yellow would be the least hot.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You would want a yellow slide?

Michealene Day:

Would you think the yellow would be the least hot?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'm not really sure. I would think that the plastic itself is really what is generating the heat.

Michealene Day:

But the sun hitting the dark color, though. You stand outside in a white shirt or stand outside in a black shirt—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I can research that. I can ask the manufacturer how much temperature difference there is with the sunlight on the blue slide versus the yellow slide.

Michealene Day:

Because if we're going to stick with those color which one would you think would generate the least heat?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If you're sliding fast enough.

Monica Yuhas:

The staining with the darker color—

William Mills:

Yellow slides is what I think Kenosha Unified has actually, the slides at the school playgrounds.

Troy Holm:

I think yellow is pretty common.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So we're looking for a yellow slide and still the green plastic and then blue posts? Is that the direction I'm hearing?

Michealene Day:

Yes. If once you put it together you go, oh, ick, you can change it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If it's an oh, ick, I'm going back to you guys.

Jim Bandura:

Just out of curiosity what would be the difference if we did vary throughout the different parks but yet kept the same colors?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I would think as long as we keep our same theme colors we have with the yellow, blue and green, however that we mix and match them just kind of makes each park a little bit unique, the same way that we might have two slides on one and one on another and one is a corkscrew and one is straight and one is a hump and one is flat. I think if we go with the same color scheme. I mean if we go with brown, purple and red then people might question why did you choose those colors. But as long as we stay within the color schematic that the Village has use historically I think that would be appropriate.

Very good. So then staff is going to put in the budget when it comes to the playground equipment, yellow slide, a blue post and then the green plastic. Then using the Hawks Nest design and somehow trying to add a pull up bar on it. Excellent. Thank you very much.

Michealene Day:

Okay, thanks, John.

b) Review and Discuss 2009 Parks Capital Budget

Michealene Day:

I don't know why you want to get rid of a 1989 manual transmission pickup truck? It's just in its prime, John.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Prime is such a big word. We are the proud owners of a 1989 Ford F-150 manual transmission non-posi rear end pickup truck with a little dent in the door. But we definitely use our vehicles as work trucks. They're definitely not show pieces that we've had. This truck we purchased used probably back in 1994, so we purchased it about five years old at the time. I believe it's probably pushing 100,000 miles. It's a half ton pickup truck which has probably been used as a three quarter or one ton with everything that we've hauled on it and stored on it. It's definitely seen its life expenditure. We definitely feel that there really isn't much more good life left to this pickup truck even though I'm sure that some of the kids will shed a tear when it goes.

We are looking at replacing this with a three quarter heavy duty ton pickup truck with four wheel drive and having a snow plow on it so we can use that for plowing snow in the park also. The two other snow plow trucks that we still plan on keeping is a 1995 and a 1996, but those trucks are really starting to get tired, too, so we really need to start putting our plow on some of our newer vehicles especially with the volume of snow that we plow and the amount of usage that we're using all of our pickup trucks over the summer months.

So we were hoping to pick up another used pickup truck at the Milwaukee Auto Auction the same way we had done in the past for around that \$22,000 to \$24,000 range, maybe something that's about two years old, maybe 15,000 or 20,000 miles. So we're definitely not paying the new price for it, but we're still getting something that's going to have a lot of life and definitely a lot more useful value than what this 1989 manual transmission pickup truck has.

Michealene Day:

It sounds kind of mean to say it but with the auto makers having such terrible, terrible years I see a lot of dealers having a lot of fire sales on relatively brand new trucks with warranties on them. Would that be something you might entertain to look and see what a brand new one would cost with the warranties and everything else on there? I bet it wouldn't be a whole lot more than the \$23,000 you're looking to spend on a used one.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's definitely something that we would research. If I can pick up a new one for \$26,000 with warranties and rebates and whatever else that's something that would probably go back to the Parks Commission and back to the Village Board, and this might be in January or February or March whenever we decide to do the purchase, and say we came through and budgeted for a used pickup truck like we have historically, but now since—we found a really good price on a brand new factory warranty and 20,000 less miles and see

how the budget stands at the time. So we would definitely address it or investigate it I should say.

Michealene Day:

I'm sure you would. I wasn't sure what you were looking at if it was a brand new one or used one.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We're looking at something used normally. Probably about the last I'd say about eight years I don't believe we've purchased a new pickup truck, van, one ton dump truck. Everything has been used just because we probably save about 25 or 30 percent off of a new price. And they still have plenty of useful life on it. But if I can get a new one for the same price I would definitely attack that first.

Michealene Day:

We have the construction company and I don't know how many dealers in my construction organization that I belong to have called me and said we've got this great one ton or we've got this great three quarter ton and it's a 2008, because they have to pay the finance charges, too, and they just want to get it off their lot.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Or if we could find a contractor that wants to buy that new one for a couple years and then sell it at 20 percent less we would definitely entertain that also.

Michealene Day:

It might be an idea.

Kathleen Burns:

Did you see the e-mail from Mike questioning whether or not—did you get that e-mail? Oh, okay.

Michealene Day:

Mike had e-mailed and he was just wondering, because I'm sure he was thinking new or used, too, on this, were you going to be trading in the pickup or just trying to sell that old one outright?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We will probably just—most of the vehicles that we get the dealers don't want them as trade ins. So all of our used vehicles go to an auction, Auction Associates up north. I believe that's like a tri-state area. They have auctions multiple times per year so we send it up there and it goes for auction. I'm sure that for some person this is the perfect pickup truck. They will purchase it, come home very excited that they have it. If I could find a dealer that would give us more than what we believe auction price would be for it, which would be \$800 maybe or \$900, I mean if somebody would offer me \$3,000 for this pickup truck I would definitely go to move it as quickly as possible before they looked at it closer.

Michealene Day:

How many miles does it have on it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe it has close to 100,000. And the problem is that it's not just highway miles like driving here to Madison. It's been miles that have been here to the park, overloaded, over trailered, stop and go. It's hard miles as with all of our vehicles that we have. There's a big difference between taking a pickup truck and never putting anything in the bed, driving it from here to Milwaukee every day for work and getting 80,000 miles on it versus actually using it as a truck was designed to be used and probably over using it, I'll be honest. Because sometimes when you put a load of mulch or dirt on it you put as much as the bed will hold even though it's probably overweight on it.

William Mills:

We just retired our 1991 pickup truck that looks pretty much like this one at work only a month or two ago. So, the same sort of thing. Just the hard service of small, mileage driven. It's tough on those vehicles.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And it gets to a point with pickup trucks once they are around this 20 years old they have a hard time finding parts for them when something does go bad. So we had the same problem with some of our older pickup trucks and some of our older snow plow trucks, some of our old Fords that we had in the fleet that are 15 or 20 years old. They just don't make the parts anymore. So you need to find a scrap yard or a bone yard that has an old truck that's in there and hopefully has the parts that you need on it, go there and take it off and put it on your truck.

William Mills:

Is there holes in the floorboard?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, there's holes in the floorboards. If the brakes go bad you can always just put your feet right through. We try to make it as safe as we can for the kids when we're driving but it's definitely rusted up. We've painted the doors and painted the bed and everything else that we could possibly do with it. It's tired.

Michealene Day:

It's time to get rid of it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's time definitely.

Michealene Day:

When you're spending more money repairing it than—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Exactly. You spend more money on maintenance than what you will actually put in payments for something new.

Michealene Day:

Any objections to a motion to see about purchasing a new pickup truck?

Jim Bandura moved to approve the 2009 capital budget item of the purchase of a new pickup truck: Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 7-0.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you. The next item that I have that we're proposing in our capital plan is replacing a 2002 Toro Workman. This Workman was actually used by the Milwaukee Brewers for the 2002 and 2003 season. We were able to pick it up one year after we had used it, so I believe that Toro was the sponsor of the Milwaukee Brewers. They used this for prepping their ball diamonds. I got a great price on it. Again, it's something where it probably got a lot more use for the Brewers as it would have gotten from someone else if

we would have bought it new.

Also, being around 6 or 7 years old it also is really at the end of its useful life. We've rebuilt a lot of the parts on it. We actually went to this—right now we have two other John Deere Gators which is a little bit heavier of a machine than what the Toro Workman is. I apologize for not having a picture of the John Deere Gator. But the John Deere Gator, we use our Gators for prepping the ball diamonds, for hauling mulch, for hauling canoes from one end to the other, hauling people around, hauling mulch, whatever we might use it for. So the same way we're kind of upgrading from an F-150 pickup truck to a three quarter ton or a one ton pickup ton, upgrading from this Toro Workman which is a good machine but it's not as heavy duty as what the John Deere Gator is.

So we're looking at going through and actually updating our Toro Workman which is pretty much at the end of its life cycle with the new John Deere Gator, and the cost of that is around the \$9,670. And we would be trading this in.

Michealene Day:

So this will be traded in?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we will be trading this in.

William Mills:

How long of a life do you get out the Gator, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We look for about 6 or 7 years on it. It really depends on how much it gets used and how hard it gets used. We use our machinery all pretty hard as a whole. We don't just use it. Like in a residential use you would have it, you would drive it here to the barn and come back once in a while. These are prepping the ball diamonds in the morning until 6 a.m. until 4 at night, 6 or 7 days a week. When it's not working with that it's hauling mulch, it's hauling chips, it's hauling dirt, it's hauling bricks, whatever else we might have. We drag the beach with it every day and so there's a lot of sand that gets inside the internal parts as we're dragging the beach and stuff like that. We attempt to replace our Gators about 6 or 7 years. So to get the 6 or 7 years our a Toro Workman which is a little bit lighter machine I was actually very happy that we're able to go as long as we could with it.

Michealene Day:

Do we need a motion then again, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, please, on each of the capital items.

Monica Yuhas moved to approve the 2009 capital budget item of the purchase of a new pickup truck: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 7-0.

Michealene Day:

Project bike and pedestrian trails plan \$7,500.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, back a couple years ago I believe it was in 2005 we worked on developing a Master Park and Open Space Plan which kind of talked about the different playgrounds, where we wanted to have parks, where we wanted to have open space. And the next component of that is developing a bike and pedestrian trails plan. So it's kind of the plan that takes off of our Master Park and Open Space Plan, because in there we said we want to have a path that goes from this park to that park, but it really doesn't talk about any of the details, the cross-section, how wide that it is, exactly where it is going on the parcels and just kind of really fine tuning the whole connectivity that we have between all the parks. So we've had this in the budget the last couple of years. It really hasn't gone anywhere.

But the problem is there's a lot of grant money that's out there, so without having the bike and pedestrian trail component of it you really can't get any grant money for your bike trail. Since we got our Master Park and Open Space Plan we have been able to secure a couple of grants for parks and different things like that, and we've been able to get quite a bit of money from some of the developers just because if they're developing a subdivision we're telling them that part of this subdivision is having a neighborhood or community park on it. So at least they're able to donate the land and identify it, because a developer would be more than happy to put as many lots as they can all the way around.

Village Green Park was extremely timely. We actually got a developer to donate all the land and \$200,000 of capital equipment for a playground, soccer field, softball diamonds, tennis courts. Creekside Park we were able to get land donated for. No equipment yet, but half the battle is just having the land available for it. We're in the concept stages of a High Point Park which is a part of it also, so when that commercial development comes in by Dabbs Farm and Highway 31, and I see it's for sale again within the last couple weeks, everyone is aware that we do plan on having an 80 acre community park that's going to have the eight soccer fields and the quad baseball diamonds and everything else.

So it's in the plan and out there. So as development occurs we're really able to keep ahead of it with the developers and have the land already assigned for there.

One of the hardest things that there is to do which I believe really came through as part of the process of the Park and Open Space Plan was to go through and try to put a park in an existing neighborhood. Everyone is very happy just leaving it how it is. They did a move in next to a park and they don't want a park there. And we really saw that with Unit W in Carol Beach. And actually we ended up having it planned and designed and all the meetings and then at the 11th hour all the residents stopped by and said, you know what, I really don't want this in my back yard and keep it natural. That's what the Park and Plan and Village Board ended up doing with it. So I think it's definitely to be proactive and kind of work ahead of development versus trying to do any in fill afterwards. Because I think your probably resource and money head working with them ahead of the game just trying to develop all the parks that we have there.

So we're looking to spend around the \$7,500 as an amendment, and this would be the same process that we did. Probably not as extensive as what the Park and Open Space Plan is, but definitely something where it would take a little bit of legwork. We would go through each of the neighborhood plans and develop it in cross-sections. Some of them are going to be on road, some are going to be off road. How are we going to cross Highway 31 is the big question that we have. How are we going to make the connectivity into Bristol, into Uline or the Abbott properties as they all develop, or to Prime Outlets if somebody wants to ride their bike there and come back? How can we make this work with road construction and other projects that are going on throughout the Village?

Michealene Day:

Is this something that then--like you said, we did talk about it last year a little bit about getting together. Is that something then that we would do, you'd ask the Commissioners now to come in like a half an hour earlier or stay a half an hour later to do or extra meetings? If this does get put through on our capital plan or budget, I think we should almost immediately start because it is a long process. It won't be as long as what it took us to do the master park plan, but it would be nice to at least get going in concept.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure. As soon as it's approved that we have the monies available January 1, the first thing we'd probably do is develop an RFP to put it out for all the consultants and find out who is actually doing the work and that would probably take about six weeks. We'd award a contract and we could probably start having meetings around the March/April time frame and have a couple public information meetings over the summer months and hopefully finalize it by the fall of next year would be my tentative time frame.

Jim Bandura:

Just a quick question. This is only a portion of the monies for the bike trails and pedestrian trails, correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

This is just the planning money is all that we're looking at. There's really no development—

Jim Bandura:

. . . the study.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

This is just working on developing a plan, working with the consultant, having the meetings, engineering the cross-sections, identifying exactly where they're going to go, the on road, the off road, what kind of striping we're going to have on road, what kind of signage that we're going to have at any major intersections. We had talked about how do we tackle Highway 31? Do we look at getting a grant to go over it? Do we make some improvements into the signals where you push a button and it holds traffic? Do we do sidewalks down by WisPark to get it?

One of the things that we'd really like to do, we would really like to get the connectivity from Prairie Springs Park along Main Street into Village Green Park, into the bike trail and into Lake Michigan. If we can make that our main corridor that would be a step, and then how do we tie off into the south with some of the trails they have in Illinois? How do we tie off into the north with some of the trails they have in Kenosha County? How do we go west and tie in with Bristol and some of the other County trails that they may have. It really just kind of flows with the whole theme or thought process.

Michealene Day:

A lot of it, too, is with the safety issues where you think that it's a great area and you figure out it's too desolate and you worry about safety. You don't want your young teenagers your young kids walking that path because it's too isolated and unsafe. So there's a lot to take—when we were first looking at it, we said, oh, we'll just go along here. Well, maybe not.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, exactly. So kind of taking into account all the factors. Something that I've seen over the last probably about five years, as development is occurring in different parts of the Village, whether it's in the Village Green area, whether it's in the southern component of Pleasant Prairie, you see a lot more people riding their bikes down 93rd, a

lot more people riding their bikes on 116th, because before when it was just a farm field now there's now a subdivision there. And the people at that subdivision go, hey, I want to go to Lake Andrea and I'm going to jump on my bike and ride there. But then they ride down 116th which isn't in the greatest structural shape so they may ride down 93rd which really doesn't have a bike lane. You have cars zipping up and down. You have construction trucks.

So it's really how do you tie in all this new development with our bike and park plan, and then how much are we able to tie into development? So when a developer comes in we can say we plan on having a trail coming through here so we really need to have a 30 foot easement for this bike and open space plan, it needs to have a gravel base, asphalt three inches, whatever it may be, lit a certain way, trail heads identifying what they might have, rest stop area with a drinking fountain or restroom part of the way or have that be tied in as part of the park. So when you're going with your kids or whatever you might have, you can go and ride a couple miles, stop at a park and take a break, or go a couple more miles and hit a destination. Maybe one of the destinations is going to be our Village Green Center, for example, with everything that's going on there. There's a lot of retail going on and commercial down by Dick's and Target out there. So taking all those components and then finding out the best way to really—or find an alternate mode of transportation.

William Mills:

Will the plan take a look at all the bike paths that were kind of identified in the master plan, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes. The bike and ped trails plan will really just be an appendice on the Master Park and Open Space Plan. So it will be something that ties onto the back of it. So anything that happens in this plan would definitely be reflected or updated in our Park and Open Space Plan that we have. And I believe that the Park and Open Space Plan expires in 2011, so in 2010 we'll probably have to go and update that plan again the following year. So it really is kind of a nice segue into everything we have to do. Because I believe it was a six year plan and we're about three or four years into it already. So we're moving forward. It's something we've got to keep on the radar anyway.

That's been the greatest resource I've had in the Parks Department is having that plan because when there's this big boom in development we were ready for it. We could say we need to have this park here, here's the amenities that it's going to have, and it was great because the developers and everybody was on the same page up front. There were no surprises. I know that residential housing is slow right now, but there is going to be a time when it picks back up. And when it picks back up again, I would hope to be ready again for some of these new parks that we might want to investigate in the 2011 updated

plan.

Michealene Day:

Can I entertain a motion for the expenditure for the bike path?

Monica Yuhas:

Motion to approve.

Jim Bandura:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. With the playground on the north ball fields, didn't we just go over that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we did. I still wanted to have it as a capital item. I guess I really wasn't sure how to have it in here. So we just talked about all the playgrounds first, identified which one that we wanted. We probably didn't really have to act on it at that time. We can act on it again now just to be consistent with the capital if you're still happy with it.

Michealene Day:

As we discussed the playground equipment in the north ball fields and the construction to put it all in we have a capital expenditure of \$20,000. Can I entertain a motion to approve that?

Kathleen Burns:

I move we approve it.

William Mills:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Kathleen Burns:

Do we have to state that it's really \$23,000? I think the one we approved was the \$23,000.

Michealene Day:

I think it was \$15,000, wasn't it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

After the grant money. And so maybe how we should approach it then, Commissioner Burns, we'll actually put in the actual price it's going to be with our colors and adding a chin up bar and everything else that we have. And then we'll put in there a contingency we might possibly get 50 percent of the funding as a grant. Then based on the result of the grant will be how much money we'll actually end up with. But we'll definitely structure it accordingly based on your recommendation.

Kathleen Burns:

Thanks.

Michealene Day:

The next item is infield tarps for softball diamonds.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the things that's we're working on doing over at Prairie Springs Park are different ways that we can use our labor more efficiently, that we can have more games and really cut down on our expenditures. One of the things that staff did, I felt working with Kris Jensen who is the Sports Director over at LakeView RecPlex, is investigate the possibility of purchasing some infield tarps. We're actually looking at four infield tarps,

two infield tarps on the north ball diamond and two infield ones on the south ball diamonds that we have. So we would roll them out in case of rain, and then if it would rain you don't have to spend all that time prepping and dragging, adding the surface, adding the ballfield mix, rescheduling games and stuff like that.

So we actually went and did a little analysis. We figured if it rains an average of 15 times per year during the summer which is one day a week, you might get a rain day between May and August, the tarps actually pay for themselves in about two and a half years with the amount of labor that we're saving by not having to go through and dry out the fields and add all the turf material and everything else that we have.

Troy Holm:

The question is how long do the tarps last then?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The tarps have a life cycle of around ten years.

Michealene Day:

Really?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes.

Troy Holm:

They never get ripped or anything?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'm sure that they do but I'm sure we could always patch them. It's a heavy duty material. They get rolled up and rolled back. I think a lot of it is subject to improper maintenance or vandalism. If you have a tarp out and you have kids running all over it with cleats it's not going to last very long. But if you just roll it out and then carefully roll it back up in the tube, put it off to the side, when you store it if you have it on an area where it's kind of protected. You really don't want to have it against a nail dragger or a cyclone fence, but having it somewhere where it's a little bit safer and be protected. So I think as long as it's managed properly it should have the ten year life cycle I would hope.

Michealene Day:

A lot of the problems I see is with mildew. It's been rained on, now it stops raining, you roll it up and stick it back in the tube, it's not dry. The next time you open it up it's pretty nasty. But in my mind even if it only lasts the two and a half years the amount of time that you saved in not having to prep it and reschedule a game I think it well worth. Even if it expenses itself off in the two and a half years, it's still a savings in the time factor.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. And this is a little bit new territory for the Parks Department. We never really had a tarp before so we're really not exactly sure how it's going to function. We have talked with other communities that have them. Based off the recommendation it's worked out very well for them. So we're kind of hoping if we take care of them and manage them properly that it will be something that's a cost benefit into the future moving forward.

Monica Yuhas:

And I'd like to state for the record I had the opportunity this summer to prep a ball diamond.

Michealene Day:

It's a pain isn't it?

Monica Yuhas:

It's very tedious and very time consuming, so I see this as a real plus. Especially if the ball diamonds are prepped and you even wanted to cover them. I don't know if this is something you would do, but you're prepping them in the morning when it's cool and the games aren't being played until later on that night, a lot of times there's parties going on in the pavilion, and as soon as that diamond gets prepped the kids want to walk out and play in the chalk line. Then you're having staff go back out and re-prep something. That needs to be done because those teams that come to the ball diamond to play they want a nice field. With that I would move for approval.

William Mills:

The only question I had, John, did you mention two tarps on the north field and two on the south?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes.

William Mills:

I was just wondering because there's four fields on the north side what the thought process was.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the things that we're working on it trying to manage the prepping of our ball diamonds as efficiently as we can. So let's say, for example, if you have four diamonds on the north side which we have, and you have four ball games scheduled, you can either take the approach and go down and prep all four diamonds and just have a game at six o'clock, or you can prep one diamond, have a game at 5, 6, 7 and 8, for example. So that really cuts down on your initial expense. So with that logic if we can get all of our games just on two diamonds when it rains that's kind of saving us \$3,000, because we really feel that we can go through and schedule all of our games. So I guess we're using two diamonds as a practice diamond where if it rains you don't practice, but if there's a game—we have two diamonds on the north and two diamonds on the south and then we stagger it.

Now that we have the lights down there there's no reason why you can't have a game at 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 or whatever the times may be. So we're really working on trying to use our diamonds and use our lights because we have the lights and stagger them so that we don't have to prep all four diamonds. It does take an hour with two people to prep a diamond, and you can spend that labor of eight hours for prepping four diamonds or two hours for just prepping one diamond and you've just cut your maintenance cost down 75 percent for that day. So that's the thought process that we're working through as we're trying to make all of our programs and our maintenance as efficient as possible.

Michealene Day:

We have a motion to approve the \$6,000 from Monica. Do we have a second?

Jim Bandura:

Second.

Michealene Day:

Any more discussion? All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. We have install security cameras throughout Prairie Springs Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

As we talked about, more development comes more people, comes more vandalism unfortunately and more other bad things that could possibly go on. The Village has been working very proactively to make all of our parks and all of our commercial and retail areas as secure and safe as possible. And so something that we're looking at doing is installing some security cameras throughout the parks, especially Prairie Springs Park. We have lots of cameras inside the RecPlex right now where we can really monitor what happens inside the RecPlex, but once you get out into the parking lot it's really hard to monitor what goes on out there. A lot of the times you might have something that's going on or their car gets broken into in the parking lot or they might have an issue with someone doing a fight after a sports event or something. We talked with Brian, the Police Chief, about this. It would be nice to get a camera that shines out into the parking lot of RecPlex, out into IcePlex, something over by the ball field pavilion.

We kind of staggered this. We're looking at eight cameras total at different areas throughout the park. And we would really leave that up to the discretion of the PD and how they feel it's best to really have areas secured. But just knowing that we're probably not going to get \$60,000 for cameras up front, but if we can take our worst areas, identify them, and I would assume they would be the parking lots, monitor that, they would actually be able to monitor or view what goes on in the parking lots of RecPlex and IcePlex from our dispatch center, the same way we are monitoring what goes on at Prime Outlets and in the development over by Target and Dick's and other areas throughout the Village. So it's just one more resource that the Village has to make sure that everyone that visits our parks are as safe and secure as possible.

Michealene Day:

I would agree. I would definitely agree. And with it getting darker at different times and people going and visiting—I mean RecPlex and IcePlex have very liberal hours and they're busy, and by the time you come out there's nobody there. It is a little nerve wracking if you're coming out by yourself walking all the way out there and are people following me or not following me.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And we've actually had a rash of crimes over the summer where somebody will go and park in the back of the RecPlex parking lot and they'll go walk around the lake. They'll go and get around the corner a quarter mile and all of a sudden somebody goes and smashes a window and grabs a purse and takes off. If we would have cameras there, you would see who was out there, what kind of car they were driving and you could probably

see it happening. Dispatch an officer out there and see they're heading down Terwall Terrace and going in this direction on 165, blue pickup truck, whatever that may be and really kind of help this process. I would assume that once these cameras are in place it would really just deter crime because people would know this is just a bad place because it's very secure with the cameras and people are watching it on a regular basis.

William Mills:

How frequent is that happening, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I probably hear about it a couple times over the course of a summer where it will really go and, I don't know, for example over by the beach pavilion they had a shower there and so everybody parked outside in the gravel area by the beach parking lot. They were having their shower or their party inside the pavilion and they came back out and they saw that three of the cars were broken into. If you would have had a camera shining in that parking lot off of the beach pavilion, for example, you would have known while it was happening or at least you could have gone back on the tape and found out maybe a driver's license, a description, posted a picture of someone if you might want to have something on the beach or whatever areas. I would really leave the placement up to our police department where they had the most problems or they see where they can do the most good with the camera money.

Jim Bandura:

That would be my concern. You said that this is for only eight cameras? That's a pretty big park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And I wouldn't be opposed to having more cameras later down the road. But technology changes so fast. I'll be honest that I really don't know what technology is going to be out there in five years, the way that everything changes. The cameras change so fast, the DVRs, recorders, the means to actually transmit changes so fast. So we would probably want to have Ruth Otto, our IT Director, talk about that more. But they're running them over fiber lines and the better the screen shot that you want means more pixels which means more band width and maybe you need different equipment. So we're just looking for now just as a baby step starting in the worst areas. But I definitely see it, like you talked about, Mr. Bandura, as having the whole park or at least as much as we can afford to do being secure.

Michealene Day:

You have to start somewhere.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Exactly.

Kathleen Burns:

Do those cameras come with signs that this park is under video surveillance?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Oh, sure.

Kathleen Burns:

Or those kinds of things that add that extra little deterrent?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure. I would definitely post them. I do believe that it's illegal right now to post that if you don't have a camera up there.

Michealene Day:

Oh, really?

Kathleen Burns:

I meant if we did.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes. But if we actually did have one I would definitely let people know you are being watched and so don't break into cars, don't vandalize, don't do anything you're not supposed to be doing.

Kathleen Burns:

So would that kind of signage then be included in this kind of cost?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Oh, sure. I'm sure that the signage is a very minimum cost based on the purchase of the

camera and the DVR or recorder and stuff like that.

Michealene Day:

That's kind of an advertisement for them, security by—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Whichever company we pick to install it or if we install it ourselves with their IT department. They're actually getting pretty good at installing cameras and stuff like that.

Jim Bandura:

Where is that tied back to, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It would tie right back into our dispatch center over at the Roger Prange Center, 8600 Green Bay Road. If you've ever been in the new dispatch center he has these two huge screens and he has all these little camera shots. So he's actually looking at Prime Outlets. He's looking at the fuel bay at the Prange. He's looking at Target and Dick's and maybe, Chairperson, you could go into a little more detail because she was just at dispatch for eight hours. I've never really sat there. It's just what I see when I walk by the door.

Monica Yuhas:

I was amazed with the new big screens that they have. And when I was working with one of the dispatchers, Katie, you see all these blocks and she can zoom in on any one of those screens. She can zoom in on that picture, she can go out on that picture. It's amazing. You hear about the technology, but until you actually see it, and the picture is so crisp and clear. They said it's helped a lot with cracking down on crime and being able to solve cases. I was amazed at how many are actually out at the rock. I did not know there were so many out there. They're there. You can see who is coming in, who is going out.

I thought if there's ever a lost child or something were to happen they can go back and they can piece it together. It's good technology. It is amazing. So I told my son don't do anything you're not supposed to be doing out at the RecPlex. It's that good. Even at teen night, the Friday night I was there it was teen night, and between answering her calls and doing what dispatchers do, she saw a couple groups of kids congregating around lockers in a really tight group. She just saw it out of the corner of her eye and she thought that looks funny. So she brought it in and she was watching them while she was doing other things because it's second nature to them to know what to look for. Nothing transpired but yet they're there watching. So if there is a problem they can let the appropriate

people know, hey, there's something going on over there.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

A lot of people see the cameras but they really think it's being recorded somewhere else. They really don't understand that there is someone 24/7 that's watching those cameras all the time. When I go there with my kids, even though my kids are grown, it still makes me feel good knowing that they are safe and my family is safe, my wife is safe when we go there because everyone is being watched.

Jim Bandura:

How is it handled at night, the camera? Is it really visible?

Monica Yuhas:

Yes.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It really picks up on the smallest amount of light. Even in an outdoor application it's really amazing at how much light the camera can pick up. I'm not a very technical person when it comes to all the cameras. I got my . . . from the IT department, but all the ones I've seen if there's just a little bit of moonlight or starlight it almost looks like it's daytime. It really is amazing. You would almost have to see it for yourself to believe it.

Jim Bandura:

I'm all in favor of it.

Kathleen Burns:

I'll second that.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Part of Commissioner Mike's, he wasn't able to be here, but as far as capital expenditures we had talked about during our meetings of possibly putting a light in at the boat launch in 2009, and Mike asked that we bring that up that we did not see that in our capital expenditures. Is that something that is still on the docket to do?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's actually something, and I apologize and it's probably my fault, but I'm happy that he brought it forth. It's something that I had not included in the budget because I just forgot to be honest. So it's something that we can investigate and still move forward in the budget process. I'll have to get a price for a transformer on the boat launch, a light pole, a light and then the wiring hooking it up. So I will work on that starting probably tomorrow and include that as part of our packet to the Village Board.

Michealene Day:

Okay. Those were the items that John had for us.

6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Does anyone have any other items that they had on mind for budget or any other items that they had that they just wanted to discuss?

Troy Holm:

Back on the cameras that we're purchasing, you said that it goes down to the dispatch. Does it cost for every camera that we've got placed somewhere does it cost extra for them to be watching it I guess?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No, all of the dispatchers are Village of Pleasant Prairie employees so they're actually watching it as part of the regular routine. So there is no additional charge to have them service that. As long as we keep the dispatch center as part of our Police and Fire Department there is no extra charge for that, because those people are already watching 24/7 all the other cameras in the Village, monitoring the safety calls.

Troy Holm:

I guess at some point, though, you're going to think we're going to develop all these new roadways to different parks and stuff like that? You're going to probably want cameras on there and then so many more cameras are going to require another person to watch all

those things? Right now they've got two screens that they can see, but maybe sometime in the future they'll have four.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that's a great point that you bring up, and I'm sure that down the road they might have to expand the dispatch center to monitor the screens. I'm not really sure how they plan on attacking doing that, but maybe that's something that I'll have a conversation with the Police Chief about. As we bring in these more cameras, how do we make sure that they're all monitored properly? I'll have that conversation. Thanks for bringing it up.

Jim Bandura:

I'm kind of all for even monitoring some of the intersections that we have in the Village. I don't know if you'd want to throw that out there.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, like at a major intersection and stuff like that.

Troy Holm:

Grand Avenue

Michealene Day:

I'm bringing this up, this weekend was the anniversary of one of my dear friends had passed away and he lived in the Gurnee, Illinois area. And the Gurnee Park District has a tree dedication reception once a year in the fall. Friends, family, neighbors can donate a tree in any of the Village of Gurnee's parks. They have 10 or 15 parks. And the trees run anywhere from \$150 to \$250 which is very reasonable. For a six foot evergreen tree \$200 is pretty reasonable. They plant it, they put a plaque in front of the tree saying this particular person . . . family, and they have a very nice ceremony at one of the parks and they have water and cookies and they come up and hand them a plaque and anyone can come up and talk about that person that passed away. Or, they can still be living. One person was giving a living memorial for a tree.

It was real touching. They did an excellent job on the ceremony. It was amazing to me there must have been 20 different families, and most of the people that bought a tree was because their family members had used the park, walked the park, enjoyed the park, sat on the bench in a particular park, watched the park grow in their neighborhoods. I talked to the person in charge of that program afterwards. She had said it's been 20 years now and the parks on a purely selfish point of view gets beautiful trees donated in the parks,

especially the new neighborhood parks where you don't actually have trees, and the people in the community feel very involved and become more involved in the parks themselves. I just didn't know if that would be something. I know we used to do trees, didn't we, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We still have a program for dedicating trees. It's probably not marketed as good as it should be anymore. With all these new parks that we have, and I guess, Chairperson, I really like the concept of having a ceremony once a year. And whenever that time of year may be, we probably do half a dozen memorial trees per year.

Michealene Day:

I'm giving you this. It's just the different parks that they donated at. I do have the brochure on it. You can have that, John. The parks in Gurnee had said that if we wanted more information or help if that was something our Park District was interested in that they would give us any information that they had on it. It was well received. We had, like I said, I don't know how many were there, 15 or 20, and they must have had 200 people at that ceremony. So it was just something I thought I'd bring up because I thought everyone there really enjoyed it. It was very emotional. It was well received. And while we do the memorial bricks for veterans, this would tie in to bring more community involved in our parks as well.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think this is a great idea. I really like the concept of doing a ceremony at the end of or one part of the year that really kind of ties together everyone. What you had talked about if somebody wants a tree or a bench in a certain area, we actually had a widow stop by us must have been a year or so ago, and it was part of the memorial tree program, but she said she really wanted to donate some benches. She said her husband always fished on this area and he always had his chair right here. And she would be able to donate a bench because that's where he enjoyed being. So we purchased a bench and having it there. But nobody really knows about it. It doesn't get out. So if we would do a ceremony and have it on Channel 25 and give them a plaque and put together a nice program I think that's a good—

Michealene Day:

Then the tree always has—it's just a little plaque next to the tree that says the family name.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that's a great idea. Maybe I will try to put something together and have the Parks

Commission review it in the next month or two.

Michealene Day:

I'm not sure when they plant trees is it spring and fall, or when is a good planting time?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Spring and fall are definitely the best times to do it. Right now is probably an ideal time to plant a tree if you need to plant a tree. Thank you very much for that.

Michealene Day:

Anybody have any other comments?

William Mills:

Sounds like a treat suggestion.

Michealene Day:

Everybody was crying.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Troy Holm:

So moved.

Jim Bandura:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.