

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARKS COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
February 12, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

A special meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Thursday, February 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m. Present were Rita Christiansen, William Mills, Monica Yuhas, and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2, voting member). Michealene Day, Michael Russert, Kathleen Burns, Troy Holm (Alternate #1) and Glenn Christiansen were excused. Also present were Mike Pollocoff, Village Administrator, John Steinbrink, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works and Ruth Mack, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 4. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Discuss and Select Consultant - Bike and Pedestrian Trails Plan**

Rita Christiansen:

You have in front of you from the Parks Commission from John Steinbrink, Jr., the bike and pedestrian trails plan. And if you take a moment to review that and whenever you're ready someone on the Board can start discussion.

Jim Bandura:

I guess I'll throw something out here. It was a pretty good meeting last time and I think everybody threw everything out on the table. It was a good discussion about the total hours that the number of the businesses presented to us. So my review of these proposals I think just out of sheer numbers and the hours that the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin is going to put in I think right there there's a bang for our buck right there. The enthusiasm is there. And I think if they run into any issues regarding maybe landscaping or dealing with the DNR I think they have an avenue to pursue if they need any other information. So I'm kind of leaning right now towards the Bicycle Federation for our dollar's worth.

Monica Yuhas:

I also am favor of the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, not just because of the total hours but also because of the grants, the funding that they were able to secure. That was very impressive to me. All the proposals were good. Everyone came well prepared. Our questions were answered, but I'm in favor of the Bicycle Federation for the amount of hours and also with the grant writing that they've done and the funding that they've been able to secure.

Rita Christiansen:

Thank you.

William Mills:

Of course I've got to be the dissent I guess on this. I guess I was a little concerned about, and I'd be interested because I'm not an expert in this, I'd be very interested in what John thinks. I was just a little concerned about lack of experience. I agree the enthusiasm was there and I like the hours that they show, but I was just a little concerned when asking about floodplains, etc., there seemed to be very much a lack of knowledge about how to deal with those sorts of situations in my novice opinion. I guess I'd be interested to hear what Mr. Steinbrink thinks about that.

Rita Christiansen:

John, I guess the question would be, if I understood correctly from our last meeting and correct me if I'm wrong, that if there's questions about floodplains, wetlands, etc., we have a wealth of information and experts within the Village. Could we leverage that knowledge with whoever is selected tonight as a representative for this plan?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The Village does have a full engineering staff that is very well versed in floodplains and engineering. And we would definitely make sure that the engineering department, planning and zoning along with our public works department are all working in conjunction with whoever we select this evening.

William Mills:

So you don't see that as an issue in terms of the estimates that they put together, etc., John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I really don't. I guess the reason I say that is they do have a lot of experience working in other municipalities that have a lot of the same problems and issues that we have. I

believe that in her presentation Catrine said that they do have some experience working with that. I don't believe that the floodplain is really the biggest factor to consider. One of the things that really has drawn me to recommend them was their ability to secure funding. There's one project where they were able to secure a half a million dollar grant and implement it. I know they are a smaller size company, but even in some of the larger size companies with those numbers that you have you're going to have people that are just civil engineers, water resource engineers, and we're really not looking for that component of it. Where the other companies might just have one or two good planners in there. I think that's really what we're looking at here. We have one or two really good planners. They just don't have the background with the structural engineers, the civil engineers. And that's really not a direction I believe in this time we're looking to move at or into.

Mike Pollocoff:

It appeared that the other two firms had loaded up their expenses on the engineering side, and we would be getting some planning effort from them but not in the quantity that we would from Bicycle Federation. I think we really don't have a planner of that nature on staff. We could really get a lot more beneficial hours rather than paying an engineer out at \$80 an hour on the consulting side. We'd be farther ahead to have the planner help us.

Jim Bandura:

I kind of agree with John, because even though they don't have it I think that they would look to the Village for information, and I think if we have our fingers in it more so and guide them along with whatever they need I would trust our engineers to give them the proper information and what have you.

William Mills:

The only other question I guess I had was just about the process. We had discussed last week that we could delay this out until the start of next month. What was the change that happened that caused us to schedule this meeting?

Mike Pollocoff:

I'll take responsibility for that. We had this thing out and then simultaneously we're also working on putting together a stimulus grant program. As we were working on that the work on 116th Street started evolving, and we wanted to be able to locate a trail on that. The State is giving us to make our application on February 18th. We have to have everything done by March 17th. Consequently, if we would have been without a bicycle or trail planning expert for that intervening time then we'd be kind of doing it ourselves. If we can leverage that money, I mean who knows who is going to get what, that's really up in the air, but if we are able to obtain that money it would be nice to have that trail

plan at least for that section of 116th Street done so that we could include that in our bid packet and be ready to go with it. If we don't get it, and there's probably a better than even chance we won't get it I guess, but we would at least have that done to get it into either the second funding cycle for stimulus or for an existing grant program. As I looked at it I was really looking at some of our other trails more on the west end of the Village as we're going through this. But, again, as the engineering started evolving on 116th Street it just became apparent that the faster we could get a transportation plan or working on this the farther ahead we'd be in getting that 116th project out. So I apologize for double clutching you guys but that's why we needed to do it.

Rita Christiansen:

Any other comments before I make my comments? I reviewed all three plans again and reviewed my notes which thank you for having the forms available to us. And I will tell you that I was somewhat disappointed that the third company that came before us was less hours, more money and then when the conversation came around to that instead of three people on the job all of a sudden one person was going to pull themselves off. There seemed to be a lot of uncertainty with that, and I wasn't really comfortable that that would be the best fit for this Village.

The first company that came before us there wasn't anything that really stood out for me as far as what they proposed. And then in regards to the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin this is their passion, and like all of us here we have a passion for what's best for the Village of Pleasant Prairie. And knowing that we could leverage the expertise within the Village, knowing, yes, it's a lot of more hours, the price is good, I think that this would serve the Village best especially because they like to engage the citizens in education. It's one thing to put a bike trail in, it's another thing to teach people how to use it. So having that available is an extra benefit to all of us. So for myself the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin would be my selection. Comments?

Jim Bandura:

If there are no further comments?

Rita Christiansen:

If there are no further comments or discussion I would like someone to make a motion.

Jim Bandura moved to approve the selection of the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin the contract to prepare the Bike and Pedestrian Trails Plan for the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 4-0.

5. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS

Rita Christiansen:

I want to thank everybody for coming tonight. I appreciate you all getting here and making this happen. I think it's going to be a great next step for us.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Monica Yuhas moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 4-0.