

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE  
PARKS COMMISSION  
Village Hall Auditorium  
9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158  
July 7, 2009  
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Michael Russert, Monica Yuhas, Troy Holm and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2, voting member). William Mills was excused. Also present were John Steinbrink, Jr., Director of Public Works and Ruth Mack, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE JUNE 2, 2009 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Michealene Day:

In your packet you will see that you have the June 2, 2009 Parks Commission meeting minutes. If you've read the minutes and have no additions or corrections can I have a motion to accept the minutes?

**Troy Holm moved to approve the Parks Commission Meeting minutes of the June 2, 2009 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Glenn Christiansen. Motion carried 7-0.**

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Receive and Discuss Placement of Korean War Veteran Rock/Plaque in Prairie Springs Park**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening, Madam Chair and the rest of the Parks Commission. Back last month the Village staff received a correspondence from some of the veterans of the Korean War asking if they could place a plaque on a granite rock at the Veterans Memorial. When Veterans Memorial was originally designed, it was really just made to honor the five

branches of services as kind of displayed on the granite engravement that we have and represented would be the three flags around the area of the Veterans Memorial ball field and Prairie Springs Park.

So the representatives from the Korean War are asking permission to place a rock with a plaque as shown in your Exhibit A. There are four pictures on there. It's really something that we didn't consider up front, but the more the staff thinks about it, it really is a nice way to honor some of the specific organizations. And we would assume that once the Parks Commission approves the Korean War Veterans rock at Veterans Memorial that then other ones would be asking to do the same. We do have a decent size grass area just off to the east of where the existing Veterans Memorial is. So we do have the location for it. And from my understanding the Veterans of the Korean War would be providing the rock and the plaque also.

We do have some representatives of the Korean War in the audience and I'm not sure if they want to speak at all on this item or not. This would be the opportunity if you would want to say anything about it. If you could come up to the microphone and we could have your name and address for the record.

Jim Becker:

My address is way on the north side of Racine. My name is Jim Becker, and I'm the Secretary/ Treasurer of the Korean War Veterans Association of Southeastern Wisconsin, which basically takes in Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and Walworth County. Some time ago we started putting these plaques and rocks out. I see you have pictures here. The first one was the first one we dedicated with the three gentlemen standing there and I'm one of them. It was at Echo Lake Veterans Park in Burlington.

The second one was set up at Caledonia Franksville Park in Racine, and the third one on the next page is one that we're going to dedicate on July 27<sup>th</sup> which is the anniversary of the end of the Korean War. That's out at the Kansasville VFW on Highway 11. So we've got three in Racine County, we've got one in Milwaukee and since we have a lot of members from the Kenosha area we'd like to get one in the Kenosha area someplace. And having been out to the park out there for different activities it just looked like a real natural fit for us. So that's why we're requesting to put one out there.

It would be very similar to what this is. The plaque would be identical in size. The plaque is 12 by 20, and the rock is—rocks are rocks depending where we get it out of the ground. We have a construction company in Rochester that happens to have one of their relatives killed in the Korean War, so they are very gracious at giving us any of the rocks that we need. So we'd like to put one out there if you approve it for us. We will put the plaque on the rock. We will take the rock out there. We will place the rock at a mutually desired place wherever you say it should be, and that's basically what we're hoping for.

Michealene Day:

Thank you very much.

Jim Becker:

Any questions at all?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

What is the time frame when you're looking at placing this rock, and when would you like to do a dedication? Would you like to have it done by Veterans Day in November as a goal, or are there some other dates you may be looking for.

Jim Becker:

That would be about the earliest, yes. Plaques are pretty hard to get. I bought two the last time because the price was going up so I have one in my bedroom under the bed. The rock we can just get just about any time we want, then we'll put it on and get it over. But Veterans Day or in that general area would be great.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, thank you.

Jim Becker:

Thank you.

Michealene Day:

And, sir, thank you for your service. Any comments?

Rita Christiansen:

Where would this be placed? What maintenance is required?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

What I was thinking on doing is just having it just to the east of the existing Veterans Memorial. We do have a little grass area. As far as maintenance on the plaque and the rocks there really wouldn't be any maintenance whatsoever, obviously, because it's a plaque and a rock so there's not too much to do with that. And I would probably just mulch around the edge of the rock so maybe in spring with a little bit of Roundup once a

year at the same time we do the rest of the park maintenance. So I would foresee the maintenance of having this on here as very minimal.

Rita Christiansen:

It appears that the rocks shown in the various memorials are different sizes. We should consider the size.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, sure. I think that's a great point. I think the rocks that are on there, just kind of basing off the general size of the gentleman here, it looks like the rocks are about three feet high and three feet high and that's pretty standard I think for any type structure you may have out there. So whether it's a rock or whether something freestanding or something built, I think a three by three size maybe that's something we should make some sort of recommendation from the Parks Commission is not to exceed a certain size so we don't have something that's an eight by ten structure for example.

Michealene Day:

And it dwarfs the other ones.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. If we make them all three by three size or four by four. So it all looks very consistent. And I would assume that each of the organizations that would stop out here would have to do something very similar to this just to make sure that the plaque and the sizing and everything all fits. So at the end of the day we really do have a nice memorial area out there.

Rita Christiansen:

I think we should set a standard for size.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think setting a standard would be appropriate. It's just kind of a guideline to follow. We're not saying that if they have a rock that's 30 inches versus 36 inches, as long as it's done with good taste, for example, as long as it's an approved recommendation on site. And we're definitely going to work with all these organizations if this does prove moving forward to make sure that it does look tasteful. I'm sure that all the organizations want the same goal at the end of the day. They want something to be proud of. They want something to honor all the people in their organization. Staff definitely recommends approval of this.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions?

Jim Bandura:

John just answered them.

Michealene Day:

Would anyone like to entertain a motion then to recommend that we set aside a space for the memorial.

Jim Bandura:

I would make that recommendation.

Rita Christiansen:

Second.

Michealene Day:

Call for a vote. All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

We'd be very honored to have a memorial setup for the Korean Veterans. Thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And if I can meet on site with you at the end of the week or next week to actually go over the exact location on site at the park if you'd like.

Jim Becker:

Just give me a call.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'll give you my information right after the meeting.

## **6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Michealene Day:

Rita, you had something you wanted to bring up?

Rita Christiansen:

Yes. At a previous meeting we had talked about the possibility of having a farmers market near the RecPlex. Any more thought . . . I realize we're very busy . . . .

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I do not believe that any work has gone into it moving forward. I'm not really sure what department would manage it. It sounds like it would be the Department of Public Works. Somehow we'll try to organize it through the Parks Commission since it is on Village parkland. That is something that we could try to do a press release. I've never really organized a farmers market before, but I'm sure we could do a couple press releases and see what sort of draw that we would get from the local residents. That kind of makes it a project moving forward for the 2010 season.

Rita Christiansen:

This would give us an opportunity to do more research for benchmarking. It would be nice to have fresh produce.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Maybe it could be a possibility to have some volunteers to be on some sort of a steering committee to kind of drive this going forward.

Michealene Day:

Yes, you see the different communities that do have it. Like you said, the downtown Kenosha area has it. You drive through Illinois and Libertyville and it's a big, major event. You can buy anything in those . . . .

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure. Maybe we can look at one of our next meetings putting together some sort of a

steering committee that would kind of guide that process.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

Michael Russert:

One comment on that. John, didn't we try that two or three years ago? A young woman was presenting that but what the struggle was the individuals or the vendors doing that in Kenosha down by the lake. Would it be hard to pull from that venue to start that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe that was one of the pitfalls but that could be something that could be re-evaluated to see if there's more of a need three years later to see if there's more people or more interest involved with that or not.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Jim Bandura moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.**

Michealene Day:

Thank you very much.

Meeting adjourned 6:12pm.