

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARKS COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
August 4, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Glenn Christiansen, Michael Russert, William Mills, Monica Yuhas, and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2, voting member). Rita Christiansen and Troy Holm were excused. Also present were Mike Pollocoff, Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Director of Public Works and Ruth Mack, Clerical Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE JULY 7, 2009 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Michealene Day:

In your packet you have your July 7, 2009 Park Commission minutes. If there are no corrections or additions could I have a motion for approval of the minutes?

Michael Russert moved to approve the Parks Commission Meeting minutes of the July 7, 2009 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 6-0.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Yes, sir? We ask that when you come up to the podium you state your name and your address please.

Michael Schmitz:

My name is Michael Schmitz. I'm at 9525 River Road, Pleasant Prairie. Back in 2005 I purchased the property at the end of River Road. Doing so I believed I was going to have a lot of privacy and tranquility for the family. Loved the idea of being surrounded by nothing. I called and inquired about the possibility of anything being built in the future next door and was told it's a preserve and there was nothing to be done over there.

Possibly in the future a bike trail would run through the middle of the place. I didn't have any problem with that and bought the place.

My property goes back from River Road all the way to the Des Plaines River approximately 1,200 feet. With me moving in originally there was trails basically leading from the cul-de-sac at the end of River Road all the way back to the back side of my property along with all over back there. I kind of noticed a lot of traffic all over my property at first. I didn't really mind it too much because I was kind of new out there. But eventually it became a problem. Some people were hanging around the backyard kind of lost and then they realized they were in somebody's backyard. I had a camper down by the river that somebody broke all the windows out of it. About two weeks later they came back and set it on fire.

Unfortunately at first when I moved in I couldn't identify who was cutting the trails leading from the cul-de-sac over to my property. It took me a little while to figure out who was doing that. I finally identified a neighbor that was doing it and I approached him and asked him please stop because I didn't really want people to be coming from the cul-de-sac onto the property that I have no clue what they're doing. He understood totally. As far as I know he hasn't really cut it since. He even had a story of his own about the previous owners having a canoe and a four wheeler stolen off the property. Obviously from the cul-de-sac and a quick exit down the road.

The next summer barely any signs of the old trails. We still kind of had a lot of traffic coming through. One day back by the river I was approached by two gentlemen basically that were dragging a canoe down the river. They realized they were on my property and asked if they could have permission to come back that weekend with their canoe club. I explained to them that I had a couple issues with, first, liability and privacy and I'd appreciate it if they didn't. However, they showed up anyways with their canoe club and then proceeded down on my property and upon leaving left behind quite a bit of litter, candy wrappers, water bottles. I went and asked them again after they were meeting down at the cul-de-sac to please stay off the property. When they left in the cul-de-sac they left behind some empty cups and other candy wrappers and garbage behind.

So from there I posted a bunch of no trespassing signs along them trails that were still not quite grown back from being cut. And that kind of stopped it for a little while. Three weeks later after that I still had a park bench down at the end of the trail down by the river that somebody stole. I can't even leave a park bench outside. I think that's kind of a problem. After living in the City of Kenosha in some not so great areas almost my whole life and never having anything stolen off the property I was kind of shocked to come and find what's going on out in the middle of nowhere kind of. Basically they are just a couple of examples of my privacy being invaded, people vandalizing and stealing and stuff like that. Last year with almost none of these trails barely showing I had hardly any problems, almost none. It was pretty good.

And then this year comes, spring of this year, there's a guy out there with a cutter and he's cutting what looks like a trail to me right down the property line, my property line, 15 or 20 feet off the property line. I went out and asked what he was doing and what's going on. He told me that per the Village he was making a fire lane. Okay, if that's got to be done it's got to be done and that's fine. Then a couple days later I found the same guy walking around with Glenn Christiansen and a woman from the DNR. So I went and approached them and asked what was going on, what they're planning, in for any surprises or anything like that. Glenn explained that they're remove some invasive plants and trees and stuff like that and I kind of asked what that meant. He kind of explained that they'd be clearing basically everything out across the street from my property, all the brush and trees and stuff like that other than oak trees.

He finally then introduced himself to myself and explained how he had been trespassing through the back of my property to access the Prairie Springs Park to wander around back there and asked if it was okay. And my response was I really don't have a problem with anybody that comes and asks me about it that lives nearby that I know coming through. I don't have a problem with that. The problem that I do have is people coming from Prairie Springs or the cul-de-sac over to my property that I don't know. His comment in response back to me was that I better get used to it because he planned on running a trail basically right down my property line.

Michealene Day:

Who was telling you this?

Michael Schmitz:

Glenn. So to me that's kind of an admission basically that he knows with a trail running right down the property line it's going to bring more trespassers. A kind of weird response but whatever. Before I could really say anything in response to that he and the other two explained to me that I should get hold of John Steinbrink, Jr. If I had any concerns he'd be the guy to talk to. They reassured me that anything that needed to be changed or anything he'd be the guy to go to.

I called John. I explained my concern about the cutting going on right there and Glenn's comment and he just reassured me that they're just removing some of the invasive species that are growing wild out there and that there's really no plan to run a trail along the property line, that the existing trail that's going through the middle of the property is what they plan on using. He also asked me to come to the bike and trail meeting that was on May 28th, so that maybe some more could be explained about my concerns and stuff like that. I went to it. I didn't see any kind of map or anything showing any of these trails. Nothing was really explained about any of these trails over in this park area, and I asked John after the meeting again, are you sure there's no maps or anything like that that are showing these trails? The only trail that's going to be going through the middle is the

only trail that's going to be used for bike and pedestrians? So I felt that was what was going on, it was going to be one simple trail going through there.

A month later to the day almost I'm listening to your Parks and Commission meeting on the Internet and I can hear Glenn recommending abandoning that existing trail going through the middle because it didn't make sense. He cited management issues. He also stated something about existing trails around that property that other people were making that shouldn't have been. There's no trails that I'm aware of over there other than a couple people that are riding four wheelers at random down in the area, not really making trails but some wheel marks here and there. But the trails that were there originally when I first moved in are pretty much overgrown now. So there's nothing coming from my property over that way.

At this point I was kind of surprised not to hear anybody object to that, especially after I expressed my concerns to John about the issue. Nobody seemed to say anything about not putting a path right down the property line. Then I come home last week and I noticed the asphalt down by the cul-de-sac is kind of all gouged up in areas. I went down to investigate and I could see that somebody came out of the field and was dragging some kind of implement obviously and drug up some of the asphalt and damaged it. I went and looked at I see a trail cut down the property line within 10 to 20 feet of the property line going back 900 feet all the way right along the property line.

My kids reported back to me that they seen Glenn doing the cutting. I called John Steinbrink and asked did something change? What's going on with this cutting that's going along the trail right here. He didn't seem to know anything about Glenn cutting a trail on this property line. He also recommended I come here today to express my concerns. So I'm here. And I'm not going to express my concerns just from the standpoint of being the residential owner of this land right here, but I'm also going to look at it from any person, any of you people coming along and going to try and enjoy these trails back there and nature basically.

The first thing I'll address is from my standpoint. Basically with this trail right there what starts happening when people start wandering over not realizing they're on my property and all of a sudden get run over by a four wheeler or anything? What happens when they're climbing in one of my trees and fall out? What if they're down by the river and it's slippery and they fall in and have problems? And not just me, what about my neighbors, the guy that's practicing golf a few houses down that conks some kid in the head with a golf ball that's wandering through, or the horse farm a little bit down, a kid gets run over by a horse or starts eating the horse's things that they shouldn't be eating. Who is going to be held liable for all of this? Is it us, the property owners, or are you guys going to be liable at all for basically bringing these people onto our yards?

Do I need to get the police involved with all these trespassers? Do I need to be calling them constantly for this? And speaking of police, what do they think about a trail like

that running right through the property? I look at it no more than a getaway trail from my house over to Prairie Springs or back to the cul-de-sac to take whatever and leave. And speaking of the cul-de-sac, and you can confirm this with the police department, I've called many times for anything ranging from suspicious activity to people leaving behind their dirty syringes, underage drinking, people having sex. There hasn't been a week that's gone by down there that I haven't gone down and picked up condoms, packages, underwear, empty and sometimes full alcohol containers, rolling paper packages, syringes, cigarette butts, car parts, used tires, fast food containers, go on and on and on with it.

Unfortunately, my neighbor his dog a while back he had to wrestle a condom from the dog's mouth. That's not really something that you would think you have to go down and do while you're walking the dogs, especially in a nice natural area like that. When I first moved into the place down there me and my family went down and picked up three full garbage bags full of garbage. It's kind of the broken window theory only I'm looking at it from the littering standpoint. If the place looks like a dump people are going to treat it like a dump. So I've done everything I can to keep the place looking clean. And if any of you go down there at any point in time you'd see that it's clean, picked up. Me and the neighbor cut the grass down there trying to keep it trimmed up nice.

So what am I left to do with the burden of policing this area, especially with a trail now? I mean it's been difficult enough to police it on a cul-de-sac, but now it's going to be 10 to 20 feet along my property line, 50 feet from the house windows. I'm left to police it because there's nobody else out there. And how much worse is it going to be with a trail now drawing more people out in the area? It can only get worse. So what means am I left? Do I need to build a 1,200 foot long fence from the River Road all the way back into the middle of the river? How is that going to look along this trail? It's supposed to be a nature trail. I don't want to see a fence, but is that what it's going to take to keep these people from intruding on everybody else's properties?

My other concern then is being a visitor to the park. If I'm just going out to visit this park right here I'm going to look at a beautiful environment, not a fence. I'm not going out there to basically listen to lawnmowers, music, bouncing basketballs, the kids arguing over whether it was a three point shot or not, barking dogs, motorcycles, four wheelers, not just making noise but kicking up dust and dirt. It's not my real idea and I can't picture that being natural or enjoying as much as it would be just heading down the middle of that trail over to the bridge. I don't think you guys would build a nature trail 10 to 20 feet off of Highway 165. That would kind of take it away from being a nature trail.

One of you guy's first duties listed on the website would be making sure that basically the quality of life for all of our community is upheld in an orderly fashion. If we're just going out and cutting paths willy nilly without any obvious permission it's not really organized at all. Ensuring the quality of my life by telling me to get used to people

trespassing I don't think that's part of it either. I don't know how you guys would feel if I built a trail down your property line and invite the world over to see its beauty. Not everybody is going to come over and do damage or anything like that, but what happens when they do start coming over and trespassing and vandalizing and littering and stealing your natural beauty over in the park? You ain't going to be happy with it just like I haven't been happy with it either.

I've got some maps here if you guys would like to look at specifically what I'm talking about so you can get a little bit better idea.

Michealene Day:

They should go to John and Mike.

Mike Pollocoff:

I would like a copy.

Michael Schmitz:

The first one is basically showing the property off the Kenosha County website, the property lines. It shows some of the trails that Glenn is making and the existing trail. The other map is basically showing how many acres of land you have over there, natural beauty, and how kind of strange it looks to have it right up to a residential property.

Michealene Day:

Well, we will take into consideration every comment that you made. It has not been a willy nilly, helter-skelter process. We have some serious—we've spend some serious time and concerns and had meetings, and we have commissions to help deal with where we need the trail aesthetically and everything else. I understand as a person that lives in a rural area, I live on County ML on a 50 acre farm. When hunting season starts when I look out my bedroom all I see is orange because they're all sitting in my tree. And nobody thinks twice about crossing into somebody's personal property to hunt. That is a police issue that you have to call the police on, and I have posted no hunting, no trespassing as well. I understand that.

Also living on a rural road like I do I don't know how many couches I have picked out of my front yard and the same thing with bottles and everything else. I think living out in the county where nobody is seen it's much easier to dump it than when it's on a populated road and somebody sees you drive by and dump off a couch. I have one right now that I'm waiting to take to the dump. It's a nice sofa sleeper if anybody wants it. It's a little damaged, but anyway I'm not trying to be facetious or mean or cruel. I understand where you're coming from. But I'm not privy to the conversations you've

had with Glenn or with John. So I guess we heard your side. I don't know if John or Mike want to make any comments or if that needs to be at a different time.

Mike Pollocoff:

No, I can address it now as long as you're here. I guess, one, the Park Commission has not made a determination where the trails are going to go.

Michael Schmitz:

That's why I made the statement willy nilly.

Michealene Day:

Not willy nilly.

Mike Pollocoff:

And neither has the Village Board. Right now we have a consultant engaged who is going to help the Village through a process of open meetings, planning sessions, to come up with where those trails are going to occur. A decision has been made that we've approved that as a Commission or the Village Board identify where any trails are going to be coming in and out of that Prairie Springs Park because that's the whole purpose for having the park and bike and ped plan to be done. So that question hasn't been brought to the Commission and it will happen after a series of meetings and open sessions to do that.

So I know there's trails that are out there. Some of them are really old trails in and around Prairie Springs Park. That's an item that's going to be on the agenda tonight. But as far as an official designation of where a trail is going to be or making a determination the Village hasn't taken any position on that.

Michael Schmitz:

So why would somebody be back there cutting trails?

Mike Pollocoff:

I don't know. I will say there's trail cuttings for firebreaks because that prairie is going to have to be burned. And to the extent that we're able to get staff together to be able to accomplish a burn we need to have firebreaks along property lines where there is improvements. You don't want that coming right up to your fence. Those kinds of things have to happen to maintain that area. As far as a designation of a route or a trail that hasn't happened.

With respect to people trespassing on your property, I'd encourage you and you sound like you're not shy about calling the police, if people are on your property and you haven't given them permission then you need to call the police department and have them take action on it. I think posting signs without putting a fence up is the next best thing other than having nothing or putting up a fence. You feel strongly enough—

Michael Schmitz:

There's been signs up for a couple years.

Mike Pollocoff:

—and I don't blame you for feeling strongly about it. If you feel strongly about it you should post it and if somebody comes on your property without your permission call the police department because that's one of their jobs. We can only get out there if someone tells us something is going on. They'll do a patrol, but even still they're relying on people to tell us and call us and say somebody is on my property.

Michael Schmitz:

Understood.

Mike Pollocoff:

I didn't give them permission—

Michael Schmitz:

At this point we're making a trail that leads right up to—

Mike Pollocoff:

It's two different things. There's two different issues here. One is we have people that are going on your property, trail or not. You said they're using the back area. If you have people on your property and you didn't give them permission you need to call the police. This Commission is a ways away from determining where the trails are going to be. That just hasn't happened yet. And anybody who is surrounding the area is going to receive a letter in the mail for their chance to comment on it, to look at the plans, because then we'll show people where the trails are recommended to be. I haven't seen a plan yet that says where the trails are going to be myself and I'm the one who has to sign the check to say, okay, we'll go ahead and start constructing. I haven't seen that yet. So we're not there.

Again, when we get to that point, you being an abutting neighbor or any abutting neighbor at any trail is going to receive a written notice in the mail so that you know when to come and comment. And that will be if that trail is next to your property or 300 feet away from your property. You'd still be an abutting neighbor. I'm sorry you've had some of those problems but—

Michael Schmitz:

And I'm simply trying to be a good neighbor.

Mike Pollocoff:

I understand.

Michael Schmitz:

I just hope that you guys return the favor. That's all I'm asking.

Mike Pollocoff:

Okay. If you went to one—

Michael Schmitz:

It just seems like I'm getting different stories. I'm being told there's definitely going to be a trail run down the fence line and I'm told—

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village hasn't approved that. The Village hasn't had a trail plan presented to us in this area. And until that is done and we've acted on it after a process of due notice to everybody and public notice there is no adopted trails in that area.

Michealene Day:

So, Mike, again just to clarify the mowing is firebreaks that the Village is doing?

Mike Pollocoff:

The mowing is not a trail. Mowing is for firebreaks. I can see somebody going out and doing that if they're planning on doing a burn.

Michael Schmitz:

Who does that? Who decides that? Who determines that?

Mike Pollocoff:

Probably the people that are going to undertake the burn. If we've got a contractor that's working with us, Nature Conservancy, they'll usually get volunteers together and put a burn together. Again, it depends on the weather, if we can get out to it or not whether or not that happens. And it hasn't. That area hasn't been burned in quite a while and it needs to be. But whenever that activity takes place the first thing we want to do is have firebreaks put in along property lines where there's improvements. But that's not a trail. Not in my mind. A trail is something that—you'll see an item on the agenda tonight where the Board or the Commission is going to accept a trail plan, and that's within the Prairie Springs Park proper.

Michael Schmitz:

So there is a plan?

Mike Pollocoff:

Just for that one area but not the total plan isn't done yet. You were at that one meeting and you could see how preliminary it is. We're just not that far along yet.

Michealene Day:

It's not up to you, correct? This one is not up to his home?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, it's not near it.

Michealene Day:

So I would recommend that you attend all these meetings. It would be very beneficial to have the input. We do have a steering committee that is trying to get a good feeling for what the community wants as far as bike and pedestrian. And that is just bicycle and pedestrian. No four wheelers are going to be on this thing. It is just walking and bikes and that's it. No motors.

Michael Russert:

Mike, I have a question. Is it protocol for the Village to notify area residents if they are going to put a firebreak near their property line?

Mike Pollocoff:

No. And sometimes we have some volunteers who get ahead of themselves out there and do it as a matter of good practice as best management practice to do it. But where we do it mostly is in Chiwaukee Area. Again, DNR does that and they'll install those ahead of time. But given the budgets we've been dealing with we haven't had a point in time where we've been able to put enough people together to go out and burn. So the Village hasn't undertaken that.

Jim Bandura:

I have a question. Where are these people that are entering your property . . . where are they entering onto your property?

Michael Schmitz:

Towards the back. You can see where Glenn's trail ends and makes a 90 degree turn going back towards the bridge.

Jim Bandura:

So they're coming down—

Michael Schmitz:

They're going down that way and then entering down the back side. Not just my property, like I say, but all the neighbors' properties.

Glenn Christiansen:

Since I know the area well, what they're doing is they're following down along the fence line and then they're seeing the trails that are on your property, and apparently they've discovered these make very easy walking through the heavy grass out there. That doesn't excuse it—

Michael Schmitz:

With the no trespassing signs there.

Glenn Christiansen:

That doesn't excuse it, but that's what people do.

Jim Bandura:

So you notice they're parking in the cul-de-sac and start walking down there?

Michael Schmitz:

I usually notice them coming back up the trails and in my backyard. So I can see them coming out of the woods area right in the backyard.

Jim Bandura:

I would definitely . . . (inaudible) . . . parking like that . . .

Michael Schmitz:

Fortunately I was able, John, give him a call and they had posted some no hunting signs on there. I asked the question if they could please put some no parking signs up after dusk to dawn, dusk to dawn or something like that. They had them up there within a week. That seems to have helped quite a bit because there's not as much traffic down there. The other thing is right now there's hardly any traffic down there at all because of construction.

Michealene Day:

Also, your one concern about the police department, the Police Chief is on the steering committee so his input on safety and coordination of traffic is definitely—his input is definitely in there. So he attends all the meetings and he is involved in the steering committee. Anybody else have any comments?

Michael Schmitz:

I just want, once again, if they park at the cul-de-sac and are walking down a known trail down the middle of the field they're not going to end up over by our properties. If they're walking literally down a property line and see the other trail they're going to start heading over to other trails. The grass is always greener.

Michealene Day:

Well, I know what you mean. A lot of them don't even enter on my property to go hunting. They'll come up the river, the Des Plaines River because I'm on the river, too, and they'll wander in and enjoy themselves. I've had many a critter butchered in my backyard so I know what you mean.

Michael Schmitz:

I hope so.

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

Michael Schmitz:

Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Any other citizens' comments? Yes, sir?

Dennis Bell:

Dennis Bell. I live at 9461 River Road. Mike's property buffers me from the park, east of the River Road. I just want to say I'm in support of what Mike had said. We've had the stuff taken from my property. We've had people come back there and tell me what the hell am I doing back there and I'm on my own property. I'm sure you run into the same thing. By moving any plans on putting a trail in and having it further it away would definitely be advantageous to keeping people off of our property. So I would just like to put in my word that's my feeling as well.

And as far as police response, I've lived back there over 40 years and I've called the police three times. One time they came right away, and one time they never did show up. One time the guy came back there but he wouldn't get out of his squad car to look around for a lost animal. So I don't have a real lot of confidence in the way the police have That's all I have to say. Any questions?

Michealene Day:

No, sir. Thank you for your time in coming. Any other comments?

5. NEW BUSINESS

c. Discuss and Approve Trail Names in Des Plaines Natural Area.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and the rest of the Park Commission, you really read a lot about in the paper about a lot of the bad things that are going on in communities, and the Village really feels that it's important to recognize a lot of the good things that are happening right here in our community and Pleasant Prairie. This evening we have three

organizations, actually it's two Eagle Scouts and one athletic team that has spent a lot of their own time and with their troops and other volunteers within their organization to make Pleasant Prairie a little bit nicer place to live.

We have two Eagle Scout projects this evening. The first one was Nick Crass. He's actually right in the process of this right now. He's been working on this project for some time now and he was hoping to have this complete this last weekend. The main focus of this project is to aim the trail system that we have back behind the woods and Lake Andrea and using a little bit of history. Nick, I'm not sure if you want to address the Park Commission and say a couple words about your project.

Nick Crass:

Hi, my name is Nick Crass. I live at 8218 66th Avenue. When I started this Eagle project I had very little idea what I was getting into. I went back there with a GPS and I took a vague mapping of that area. Now you can see where the trails go. I think this is going to be a big help once this project is done. Having this completed people will be able to go back there and know where the trails go because I got very disoriented very fast when I went back there the first time. I think having four maps and three benches will be a lot better and make the trail system a lot friendlier for people to use. At this time it does not go into your neighborhood. I'm glad that I'm not being . . . right now. I had a lot of fun working on this project and I hope you see the results in the future. I have a flyer just in case anybody is interested. My project will be taking place this Saturday, and anybody who wants to help out it will be greatly appreciated.

Michealene Day:

Nick, how long did it take with your GPS to do this?

Nick Crass:

I've been working on this for about a year now. Most of that was just getting the approvals through the Boy Scouts of America. But I've gone out there on four different occasions and probably about two hours in length each occasion to map the trails on different days to make sure I get accuracy with those trails. Basically what I did was I took all those GPS points that I got, put them into an Excel document and connected the dots.

Michealene Day:

Nick, how old are you?

Nick Crass:

Seventeen.

Michealene Day:

That's quite impressive. That's a lot of work for a 17 year old.

Nick Crass:

Thank you. Any other comments?

Michael Russert:

What's the length of each of the trails miles-wise?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's actually something that we're working on is going through and determining what the lengths are. We are going to have that on the legend also. Really one of the interesting things is the whole theme that we have behind the naming of the actual trail system itself and what the individual trails are. I'm not sure, Nick, if you want to just very briefly go over what exactly is Ponderosa and some of the other names of the trails up there.

Nick Crass:

Sure. When I got this project I was asked to create the names of the trails because no one had actually ever done that before. And I had been given a suggestion to name the trails based on the history of the area and I thought that was an excellent idea. And so I met with a person who knew the history of the area, Gary Sullivan, and he told me a little bit about the history. And each of these trails has a significance in the creation of this area. The Ponderosa Pit trail system being that the area where the lakes now stand used to be the Ponderosa Gravel Quarry. Some of the trails have reference to the woods back there and some have reference to the pit. One reference to the pit would be the Hoss Dredge Trail. A lot of the things in the quarry were in reference to the movie the Ponderosa and Hoss was no exception. One of the trails names is Game Farm Walk, and that is in reference to the woods back there was a pheasant farm for seven years. A lot of the trails have historical reference and I think that is important to the area. And there is a short summary of the history that will be accompanied with the maps so people can learn a little bit about the history as well.

Michealene Day:

What about Tom Sullivan Way? Tell us about that.

Nick Crass:

Tom Sullivan was the foreman of the gravel pit. He got to open and close the pit and I thought it was fitting that he should have his own trail.

Michealene Day:

And with Wood Choppers Path?

Nick Crass:

Yes, Gary Sullivan was nicknamed Wood Chop, and he actually cut many of the trails and I thought it was fitting that he should be included as well.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments or questions?

William Mills:

The last one I guess, Golf Course Side Hike, what prompted that name?

Nick Crass:

If you notice that there's a name Chuck Miller in there, Chuck Miller at one point owned all the property and he was going to make a golf course, but the DNR decided that it wasn't fitting for the area and they told him that he could not have a golf course, although he had gotten within I believe it was one grade of golf course quality. So that's when he turned around and turned it into a gravel quarry. So just a little short trail attributing his attempt at a golf course. Any other comments?

Monica Yuhas:

Nick, I would like to express my appreciation as a person who has no sense of direction. This is fabulous. So I appreciate all this time and effort you put in to putting this together and allowing generations to be able to use this trail and the plan and to learn some history. Job well done.

Nick Crass:

Thank you. I would like to say that these trails were actually previously mapped, and when I got back there--it was a previous Eagle Scout, Brian Cooper, and when I got back there I found out that the maps were very molded and you couldn't make sense of them. I thought that was a little bit scary being out there in the trail system that the map was not legible. And so on the little credit plaque that I got to make, it's about this big that's

going to go on the map, I had to put on the bottom that these trails were previously mapped by Brian Cooper. I thought that was fitting.

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

Nick Crass:

You're welcome.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

William Mills:

I'd just like to express my appreciation. I walked on some of the trails back there in early spring with my wife, and as you mentioned the maps were kind of hard to see, etc. I knew that it was okay to be back there, but my wife was asking the question are we even supposed to be back here. So I agree with you that I think with the trails being better mapped that there will be a lot better use of the trails back there as well. So thank you.

Nick Crass:

You're welcome.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One other item that we have to complete this project is on this trail head that Nick has been working so hard on we're talking about having an area that talks about the history, and it's probably going to be like maybe 18 inches deep and 12 inches wide. In your packets that you received today there were two different historical perspectives, both being the same but one just goes a little bit more in detail. I apologize for not giving the Commission as much time as they should have to review these, but I guess I would like to leave it up to the Commission to make a decision or a recommendation on which one of these two historical documents that they would like to see in the trail head that Nick will be making.

Michealene Day:

I guess my question would be as they all get a little older sometimes if the print is too small we can't read it. I like the longer version, but if we're going to have a negative seven font it would be kind of useless to put it in there. So if we could make it so it's all

readable, if it has to be a little larger—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Like an 18 or a 20 font if we can make that work on there that would be okay?

Michealene Day:

Yes.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I do believe with the amount of size that we have we can take the larger one in a larger font like that and still have room for it.

Michealene Day:

Sometimes when you see they try to put too much information and it's just too small to read so you don't bother reading it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The font that we're going to have will be about three times larger than the font that's on the document in front of you now.

Monica Yuhas:

I also like the longer version. There's a lot of information in here that people should know about and it is a part of history so I would like to see the longer version.

William Mills:

I agree. The longer version as long as the print it big enough which it sounds like it will be.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, then that's the direction the staff will go. I'd like to thank Nick also because he really has putting in a lot of work. It really is encouraging to see some of these young kids and the potential that they have. I hope that when he grows up and gets a job he stays in the area because both of these boys are going to be big assets in the future. So thank you very much, Nick.

Michealene Day:

If there's not any further discussion, can we have an approval to accept the trail names that Nick so appropriately named?

Jim Bandura moved to approve the Trail Names in the Des Plaines Natural Area: Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 6-0.

Michealene Day:

Motion carries. Thank you, Nick.

b. Recognize Eagle Scout Ben Coopland for Fire Pit in Prairie Springs Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Ben Coopland has been working on a project and had it completed this past summer. He worked very hard on it. It's something that is located in picnic area 5 in Prairie Springs Park. Actually the trail system is probably about 200 feet northeast of the area where this is, so you'll be able to see both of these Eagle Scout projects within very close proximity of each other. Ben, if you want to take a second and explain your project and what you did.

Ben Coopland:

Hi, I'm Ben. As he said, it's by the beginning of Nick's trails. It started off as like a burned grass area. There wasn't any definition and there was no seats. There was just benches randomly everywhere. So I met with John and we discussed different ways of building benches and the requirements, how big it has to be. It looks really wide but the requirements required it to be that big. The benches changed a lot from like railroad ties like at Bong to like it is now. It looks nicer. The pit actually there's a metal grate for the pit so there could be cookouts there, too, for people who want. Of course, there would be permits before they used the fire pit.

Michealene Day:

We understand then that you designed this yourself?

Ben Coopland:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

Quite impressive. And how old are you now?

Ben Coopland:

Seventeen.

Michealene Day:

You're seventeen also. Have you taken classes in school to learn how to design this and figure it all out?

Ben Coopland:

Kind of.

Michealene Day:

It's very nice. I understand it's been used several times already.

Ben Coopland:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

It's very, very nice. I want to thank you. I'd like to present you with a certificate of appreciation. It reads certificate of appreciation. This certificate is awarded to Benjamin Coopland in recognition of valuable contributions, the Prairie Springs Park Fire Pit. It's signed by myself, Michealene Day, Chairperson of the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Mike Russert, the Secretary Village of Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission. Did anyone have any comments for Ben?

Monica Yuhas:

Great job, Ben.

Ben Coopland:

Thank you.

Glenn Christiansen:

Big improvement over the former fire pit.

Michealene Day:

I think in our Village newsletter staff had put together a thank you for all of the work that our young people have done in our parks. It really has improved the parks. We always read about negative things about our youth, and just sitting here this evening we have two very talented young men that have come and worked for our community. We'd like to thank you very much. I'd like to give you a round of applause, both of you.

a. Recognize Tremper High School Football Team for Playground Assembly

Michealene Day:

We also have two certificates. Is anyone here from the football team?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The football team has been very busy starting to get ready for their season so they're not able to be in attendance. But I did talk with the head coach and they do have a pre-season banquet. So if the Commission will allow me to I'd like to present that to them at their pre-season banquet. They really have a hard time with all of their double days and everything else that they're doing in preparation for the first game in three weeks.

Michealene Day:

No problem. I would just like to put it into the record, if we could, that we also have two certificates of appreciation to the Tremper High School Football Team in recognition for their Pleasant Prairie park playground assembly, and also they put together the north ballfield playground assembly. They have worked tirelessly again.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I was involved in both of those projects and the older that I get the more appreciation that I have for them, a lot of young, strong guys helping out with these projects. They went and actually assembled all the poles, put the slides together, mixed the concrete, put the stone, dug the holes. It was really amazing to see how much work was gone into it. At both of these project there were probably about just over 25 student athletes that were there, and so they were really able to accomplish a lot of work. My back at the end of the day actually held up with that also. So thank you very much on behalf of the Tremper High School Football Team. I'm a volunteer coach for them, and I'll make sure to pass the appreciation on to them at their pre-season banquet next week.

Michealene Day:

Okay, thanks.

6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michael Russert:

Was there followup on the open house I believe that occurred last week or two weeks ago for the weigh in on 93rd Street?

Mike Pollocoff:

No. But I think there were some Commissioners that might have been there. Monica was there and Glenn was there and Jim was there, too, and Rita was there. It was a good exercise. It kind of split it up into two groups, and the Ingrams are in one of the groups, and talked about some of the things that we'd like to see accomplished. It's amazing how close both sides came to what they thought would be a nice park there. They're going to work on laying that out and bringing back a drawing. In the meantime, John has found somebody who wants to, and I don't know if it's a done deal yet-

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Potentially excavate the pond at no charge to us. As part of the I-94 construction project they're looking for a lot of structural material for raising the elevation of the road, and we're trying to work out all the details to have our pond dug for no charge to the Village. So hopefully by our September meeting we will have some plans for you to review and some positive news that we've finalized that commitment with them.

Michael Russert:

How large is the pond?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We're probably looking at at least three acres and rounded up to 40 feet so it will be a really nice fishing pond. That's one of the things that Schreiber/Anderson was coming back with us on some recommendations on the size, the shape, the depth of a fishing pond to make sure that any habitat in there really does thrive.

Michael Russert:

Thank you.

Monica Yuhas:

And I would just like to say one thing about the open house last week. When you came

in, you signed in, but you were also given red stickers and green stickers, and they have pusher boards set up of things that you would like to see in the park, and if you like what you saw you put a green sticker. If you didn't like a particular paving or natural screening or a gazebo or an outbuilding you would give a red sticker, and it gave you a visual as to different aspects of ideas that are out there. It was very helpful having that visual to say, oh, I like that or that didn't work so well. That was the first time since I've been involved as a Board member to have that hands on visual to say yes or no. It was interesting to see how other people thought of the park. And it was a diverse group. You had your younger people, you had your older people, and the residents they all came together. And it was a good two hour session to throw around ideas. So I encourage people whenever there's an open house or planning session come out, because your ideas and your input is valued and that's where we draw. So I encourage everyone to come out.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Monica Yuhas moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by William Mills. Motion carried 6-0.

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

Meeting adjourned 6:53 p.m.