

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARKS COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
June 2, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Michael Russert, William Mills, Monica Yuhas, Troy Holm and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2). 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 MAY 5, 2009 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Michealene Day:

In your packet you have your May 5, 2009 Parks Commission meeting minutes. If you have read them and if there are no corrections or additions can I have a motion to accept the minutes?

Michael Russert moved to approve the Parks Commission Meeting minutes of the May 5, 2009 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Receive and Discuss Bike & Pedestrian Trails Plan Update.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening. We had our first steering committee meeting this evening, and to give us a quick recap we have Catrine here from the Bike Federation of Wisconsin.

Catrine Lehrer-Brey:

The steering meeting it was a kickoff meeting so we got to know each other and talked a little bit about reviewing what happened at the public meeting which was last week. We did a quick review. We had 34 people in attendance, and basically we were just learning from the Village what people wanted to see in the bike plan, what connections should be made. We heard a resounding connecting the RecPlex to where we live. People don't like getting in their car driving to go work out. People want to see safe bike trails, they want to make sure things are standard with some signage and things like that. They want to make sure they know where they are and so people from out of town when they're coming in they know where they are.

And we heard a lot about maintenance. People definitely want these things maintained, gravel swept up and things like that. So really nothing we weren't already planning on writing in the plan or accommodating for it. It was really helpful to have people point and draw circles and talk to us about specific locations and talk about busy roads, places where people were uncomfortable and comfortable and things like that.

Then for the steering committee we just set up that we're going to meet every other month, so their first meeting will be just the steering committee and Village staff on July 8th, and then on August 12th we'll meet with the consultants. September 9th will be just the steering committee meeting and then October will be another consultant meeting. And we will be prepared to present a draft in October for review barring any major changes.

I'd like to introduce Kevin. Kevin Luecke will be taking over the main point of contact for me and the Bike Fed. He'll be physically leading the planning project here. I will be moving to San Diego at the end of this summer. So we're very confident that Kevin will do a fantastic job, and I'm going to spend the next couple weeks making sure he hears everything I have heard from you so it should be a seamless transition. He will be the main point of contact. You will be seeing his face from now on but there are no other major changes.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Does the Parks Commission have any questions or comments on the progress or anything that we've been doing with the bike plan so far?

Michael Russert:

What consultants will we be working with?

Catrine Lehrer-Brey:

The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin.

Michael Russert:

And then maybe some of the current projects that we touched based on last month, any change in status?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Not really. The main focus of the project is still the same. We're really looking at the five or six main connectivity points of the plan as a whole. A couple things that we've been doing that has been actually—in the planning and design it's almost in the construction stage is 91st Street just east of Sheridan Road over the tracks. That's actually in design. We worked very closely with engineering and the Bike Fed to make sure that we met all the standards, and we added a quiet zone in there.

The design for 80th and 85th Street will include some restriping of 85th Street east of Cooper down to 39th to include an 11 foot driving lane, a 5 foot bike lane and a 7 foot parking lane all the way down from 39th Avenue down to Highway 31. We actually have a preconstruction meeting on that project tomorrow so that should be going in the next week or so.

And we are in the design phase of 116th Street and that will include an off street trail on the north side potentially. And so we worked to develop the detail with that. The connectivity from the Kenosha County Bike Trail heading west down to Highway 31, really going through an developing exactly where that corridor is going to be, and then we'll be crossing over Highway 31 down 95th to Prairie Springs Park. Then from Prairie Springs Park two trails actually, one trail that will migrate west of the Interstate out of the woods of Prairie Springs Park over the trail and on to a River road to some bike lanes that have been designed by DOT on Highway C and also on the Frontage Road which gives us a very nice connectivity to the Bristol area and really the entire area west of I-94. Then also from Prairie Springs Park tying onto where the sewer treatment plant is which is in the general area of River Oaks, Prairie Ridge, Target and the new mall over that right on top of a sanitary sewer line.

So, again, we've been working with engineering to make sure that the trail is designed to meet all the needs of a bike trail. So those are really the key components that we're working on as a part of this trail, and we're definitely excited to move forward with them in the future.

Michealene Day:

My one question was to our esteemed Police Chief here is the safety issue with traffic and bike trails, all of that. I'm very glad that you're here participating because I think especially around Green Bay Road and 165 we have issues with a lot of traffic and heavy traffic.

Chief Wagner:

Thank you and good evening. Safety is the primary reason for involvement here in this committee and that's something we'll be watching very closely. Obviously these facilities need to be safe otherwise people won't use them and they we're basically all wasting our time. So as we move through the process we're going to be watching that and we're going to be watching it very carefully and very closely.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you. I want to thank the steering committee for taking time out of their busy careers and personal time to come here and help us with this project. It's an important project for the Village and thank you all. Anybody else?

Rita Christiansen:

Catrine, thank you for all your time. Kevin you've got big shoes to fill. I hope you're up to it.

Michealene Day:

Alright, thanks.

b. Receive and Discuss North Ball Field Playground Update.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

This past weekend we, and when I say we I mean the representatives or some of the athletes from the Tremper football team and myself and Tom Patrizzi went and constructed the playground that was budgeted for 2009 on the north ball diamonds over at Prairie Springs Park. We had 24 kids that worked about six and a half hours putting the playground together. It really turned out great. We were able to dig all the holes, put the entire playground together, every rivet, every bolt and concrete all the posts in that six and a half hours. So the concrete is curing right now.

We plan on having the mulch in this week, and hopefully the playground will be all set for the kids to use by this coming up weekend. So it was a really good event. The kids worked really hard for 11 large pizzas and some Gatorade. I think that they really got a lot out of it, and they really took a lot of pride in putting it together in making sure that it was level, that the posts were straight. So it really was a good community service project for the kids this weekend. So it is done and you're more than welcome to go and swing on it or run down the slides over at Prairie Springs Park.

Michealene Day:

You really want us to go on the slides, huh?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It held me.

Michealene Day:

As we've stated in the last minutes of the last meeting, John, you've been able to get a lot of our youth involved in the community. Again, I wish there was some way we could acknowledge them for all their hard work. In the newspapers we read about all our youth being in trouble and causing issues and problems. We've got a lot of good youth here and they've done a lot of good work here. So we want to thank you for getting them involved. Somehow we'd like to be able to get some kind of acknowledgment for their work as well.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Maybe staff will work on putting together some sort of a recognition plaque for the Eagle Scouts and the football team and the construction group that have been working on projects throughout the last year and recognize them in that fashion. That's a great idea. We'll have that for the meeting in July.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Anybody else have any questions?

c. Discuss Prairie Springs Park Natural Area Bridge Extension Grant.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Village staff went through and is putting together a grant for the phase 2 of our over the river and through the woods trail that we have that ties in Prairie Springs Park to River Road which is really one of the components of this project. The phase 1 that we have on gray is a bridge that was constructed as a part of phase 1 where the students from the construction group went and actually built a 45 foot bridge over the top of the branch of the Des Plaines River and about 200 feet of elevated boardwalk. We received the grant from DNR about three years ago and it took two years to construct it. The grant covered the price of materials and then the labor was covered by the volunteers at the high school.

We are looking at doing the same thing for phase 2. We have about 400 feet of elevated boardwalk that we're constructed that will tie in where our existing bridge ends and really

to the high land area out of the floodplain. So our grant that we are requesting from the DNR will cover the materials, and we've talked with the construction group at Tremper and they're looking at going and—if we receive the grant by September, this semester, we will start construction on phase 2 this year. Otherwise it will be the following September. We're very excited about having that. And the Village Board just passed a resolution last night authorizing the grant proposal.

Then when that component is complete we're looking at phase 3 which is an off street trail really through the highland area. If we can do something with some Eagle Scouts helping to clear away some of the brush and develop that, that will really make our connectivity from River Road to Prairie Springs Park complete. So it's probably going to take another six or seven years. But with the limited amount of funds that we have at least it's moving forward.

Michealene Day:

So is it probable that we would be able to get a grant that quickly in September, or is it more probable that it will take us a year to get it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's really hard to tell. A lot depends on what happens with the State budget this year and how much funding that they do have. I was working with Tom Blotz at the DNR who is the project coordinator for these grants. He has been on site. He was on site a couple times when the kids were doing the construction. We send him a packet of probably 30 or 40 pictures, and they're very excited to see so much community involvement in the project. They do feel that this natural area really is a beautiful area within Pleasant Prairie that's underexposed or utilized right now. So by exposing this and making it a trail that goes all the way from River Road onto the park I'm sure that it's going to score very high in points. So depending on the budget we'll have to see what happens in the future.

Rita Christiansen:

Is there any way with the bike trail funding with what we're trying to accomplish with the bridge that we can bridge the costs together somehow?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that's a great idea and that's something that we'll work with Kevin on now to make sure that we can include this as a part of our plan and move that forward as far as other funding issues like that.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions or comments?

Glenn Christiansen:

Have you considered rerouting the green section of this around the edge of the field as I had suggested from the standpoint of management later on? It really doesn't make sense to cut across the field.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that the green line really just represents a destination and an origin right now, and as part of our steering committee those are definitely things we can talk about exactly where that will lay out.

Glenn Christiansen:

It's really just a question mark

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And it's a great comment. I think right now it's just a reference point. But hopefully in the course of a couple months we'll be able to identify exactly where that will be going and to have it staked out and plot out the new course.

Glenn Christiansen:

My main concern is right now if we continue to use that in the long run considering the incredible expense of planting that field, if we continue to use it for a prolonged period of time . . . create more problems later on. But at this point as soon as possible establish a different route . . . permanent route.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

For construction you mean, sure.

Glenn Christiansen:

Yes. With the DNR out there now clearing brush it may make sense to establish part of the permanent route . . . field. The tough part is that over the long run if it continues to be used for a couple of years it will do more harm.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that's a great idea. And maybe as soon as the mosquitos die down we can go out and identify a new path.

Glenn Christiansen:

Yes. If you go east from the cul-de-sac along the edge of the field there's already a mowed trail there that was put there by somebody.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's a great idea.

Glenn Christiansen:

. . . trail but since it's been started. It's in the right area for the

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, we will do that.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Any other comments?

6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Do any Parks Commissioners have any comments?

Michael Russert:

I have a few comments. The first one I read in the paper that the Village Board approved the consultants for the 93rd Street donation of land to develop a park and trails. I was wondering if we can get an update on that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

On the Ingram Park plan?

Michael Russert:

Correct.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That was actually one of the components that I forgot to speak of this evening. We do plan on tying that Village Green trail that goes between 93rd Street and 104th Street and actually making some sort of connectivity from that trail onto Ingram Park and also tie the 89th Street trail onto the northern borders of that. Really besides those comments that could be another one of the projects that the steering committee will be working on over the next couple months to identify the exact layout of those and how they tie in and the easements that we have to acquire in the future.

Michael Russert:

The last question is any feedback from last Saturday's and Sunday's event at Lake Andrea with the water ski folks?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

With the jet ski races?

Michael Russert:

Right.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I heard a couple of comments. I was on site on Saturday and I got to watch them a little bit. It's very exciting racing. Those jet skis are going very fast out there, but they really limit themselves to the western part of the lake and so they're still able to fish anywhere really from Lake Andrea to Picnic Area 6 and east. So they're very sensitive about making sure not to use up the entire lake area especially over a nice weekend like we had this past weekend. I thought it was a very successful event and we welcome them back next year.

Michael Russert:

I was surprised with the lack of spectators for the event. I just wondered the advantages of having the event. Is it monetary that they pay the Village to have the event here?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

They do pay a rental fee for being on the lake. The crowds are not huge that we have out there but they have their own following. I think a lot of people that are walking the lake watch them and a lot of people that are doing other things around the lake enjoy them.

It's definitely not a crowd like Wakeboard Nationals or one of the triathlons.

Michael Russert:

Thanks.

Troy Holm:

I have a comment. I see that we're advertising for the alternative position on the Parks Commission. Has anybody responded to that or are we advertising for that?

Mike Pollocoff:

We have had 3 applicants in house. We'll keep it open for three more weeks. It has been in the Village newsletter and on the website.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Glenn Christiansen moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Have an enjoyable evening.

Meeting adjourned 6:22 p.m.