

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE  
PARKS COMMISSION  
Village Hall Auditorium  
9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158  
September 1, 2009  
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Michael Russert, Monica Yuhas and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2, voting member). William Mills 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 AUGUST 4, 2009 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Michealene Day:

In your packets you have your August 4, 2009 Parks Commission meeting minutes. If you've had a chance to review the minutes is there any additions or corrections? Hearing none, can I have a motion to accept the minutes as presented?

**Jim Bandura moved to approve the Parks Commission Meeting minutes of the August 4, 2009 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 6-0.**

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Recognize Eagle Scout Nick Crass for Trail Development in Des Plaines Natural Area.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and the rest of the Parks Commission, one of the most recently completed Eagle Scout projects was mapping of the trail system just to the west of Lake Andrea in

the wooded area, in the natural area. Nick Crass recently completed that project. It really has turned out nice. The map is what you see up on the board here and it was included as part of your packet. We went through along with the data that Nick had used as part of his Eagle Scout project and we placed them at four locations out in the woods. And so there's four actual trail head markers, the first one being right when you are kind around that horseshoe area right on this area by the horseshoe. That really identifies where the trails are. Then there's three other marking spots inside the trail system itself.

Staff has received already a lot of feedback from some of the residents that walk it on a regular basis. They're kind of saying how nice that it is. It's very easy to get turned around in the wooded area back in there, so it's nice to go through and kind of know where it is. We sent copies off to the police and fire also and so if they ever need or someone needs to be identified they can say I'm on the wood chopper's path or I'm in this area once people get a little bit more familiar with the area. So it was a great project and Nick has done a super job. We definitely would like to recognize him for his efforts this evening.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Nick, we have a certificate of appreciation for you, son. It says a certificate is awarded to Nicholas A. Crass in recognition of valuable contributions to the Lake Andrea Hiking Trail Development. It's signed by Michealene Day, Chairwoman, Village of Pleasant Prairie Parks and also signed by Mike Russert, the Secretary dated today.

Nick Crass:

Thank you very, very much.

Michealene Day:

It will be something you can bring all your friends and hopefully all your future children and everybody else. It's a great project. Thank you very much. It will be enjoyed by very many.

**b. Discuss and Approve Lake County Forest Preserve Request to Use 128<sup>th</sup> St Sand Berm as a Fire Break for Prescribed Burns at Spring Bluff.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Village staff was recently contacted by the Lake County Forest Preserve as a part of their maintenance plan that they're doing just to the south of Pleasant Prairie within Illinois. The map that was part of your packet identifies the area which is the old abandoned 128<sup>th</sup> Street and would like to use that as a fire break area. They were asking permission from the Village to use it because obviously it is Village property, and so it would be used as a

fire break for the southern properties of Lake County on any fires that would be burning north and then as a southern fire break for any burns that we would do burning south.

It really is just kind of an old sand berm. There is a little bit of vegetation on there. Lake County has agreed to venture into a joint grant where they would go through and if awarded the grant would maintain that berm, cut down the vegetation and then maintain it at a state where it could be used as a fire break. I guess I can entertain any questions that the Board or Commission may have. If there is a recommendation by the Parks Commission this would go in front of the Village Board at their third Monday of September meeting.

Michealene Day:

Any questions?

Greg Scheppler:

. . . state line?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, it is.

(Inaudible)

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe that that is Village owned.

Glenn Christiansen:

Okay, north of there, west of there belongs to The Nature Conservancy?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'll have to go back and read the memo that I got to find out exactly where the ownership boundaries are.

Glenn Christiansen:

(Inaudible)

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Unless you know, Mike.

Mike Pollocoff:

I think that parcel between the State Line and the red areas is Nature Conservancy. We might have one lot in there that belongs to us.

Glenn Christiansen:

I would assume that The Nature Conservancy is in agreement . . . if they own in between we'd obviously have to involve them in the fire burn (inaudible).

Rita Christiansen:

So is there agreement with The Nature Conservancy regarding this space between the two areas?

Mike Pollocoff:

I don't know.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'm reading in my memo when I contacted Debbie Mower who is a restoration ecologist for the Lake County Forest Preserve, and she did say that they are working with the DNR and the Chiwaukee Prairie on this project. I can make sure both representatives from the DNR and Chiwaukee Prairie area aware of this before it does go before the Board.

Glenn Christiansen:

(Inaudible) recognize it belongs to The Nature Conservancy . . . it's owned in cooperation and managed (inaudible) that's my understanding (inaudible).

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It states in the second paragraph of the memo, the Lake County Forest Preserve is also working with other landowners along the lakeshore area including The Nature Conservancy, DNR and Illinois DNR to develop a joint interstate proposal to help fund habitat restoration across multiple natural areas along this lakeshore area. So there are multiple organizations that they're working with.

Mike Pollocoff:

We just need as part of this approval here we probably need to get an access easement or agreement from The Nature Conservancy allowing that to take place. It would be a one

page document before we do that.

Glenn Christiansen:

I'd be happy to make a recommendation to go forward. I think it's long overdue (inaudible) as far as I'm concerned (inaudible).

Michealene Day:

So, Glenn, that's a motion then?

Glenn Christiansen:

No, it's not a motion.

Michealene Day:

I thought you were making a motion. I was going to say we've got a motion . . . .

Glenn Christiansen:

I'd be happy to make that motion but (inaudible).

Rita Christiansen:

Is there any liability if we agree to this request to the Village in regards to prior to having any type of an agreement between The Nature Conservancy/Parkside? Don't we need to have that in place to make sure that we're not liable?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the recommendations that we do have is we will recommend approval as long as we're in receipt of a liability waiver from the Lake County Forest Preserve.

Rita Christiansen:

Do we have that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We don't have it yet but it will be contingent on that before the Village Board would make the final recommendation.

Mike Pollocoff:

It would be my recommendation that if there's a motion tonight to approve this that that motion be contingent on an access easement granted by The Nature Conservancy for the work to take place on their property, and an agreement between the Village and Lake County Forest and them to . . . the Village for their burning efforts. We have that agreement that we use with The Nature Conservancy on our properties that they burn in this area, the same thing with the State.

Rita Christiansen:

Is there any reason why this would need to be approved tonight or could be put on for October so we can have everything in a row before we take this kind of a vote? I think it sounds like there's pieces that are missing and I have a concern.

Michealene Day:

I think if the motion is made with the contingency that those two items are done then to come back and say—because if the contingencies aren't met then they wouldn't get approved anyway.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It looks like they don't plan on doing anything right away so we could definitely bump this back a month and make sure they have these additional pieces in place and then bring this back to the Parks Commission.

Jim Bandura:

I would feel more comfortable doing that just knowing who the correct property owners are and knowing that all of the requirements that we're talking about tonight are in place. My main concern right now is I'm not clear on the property owners of what's happening here.

Rita Christiansen:

And considering what I read in the meeting minutes from last week, we definitely want to make sure that all the appropriate parties are notified in accordance so we don't run into any issues of concern. That's my concern.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, staff will go through and make those changes and bring it again at the October meeting.

Glenn Christiansen:

And I would assume that normal procedure (inaudible) viewed by the Village attorney.

Mike Pollocoff:

If we think we need legal counsel we'll do it, but typically I'll do that.

Glenn Christiansen:

I was just wondering if it would be normal procedure for something like this to make no liability (inaudible).

Rita Christiansen:

Have we had agreements with Lake County before on issues like this, and if we have how have we worked with them?

Mike Pollocoff:

We have agreements with them on highways, storm water, fire. This is the first one with the land conservation. Our other ones haven't been bad. They're generally reasonable people just like us.

Rita Christiansen:

And I notice the marina is close by.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right.

Rita Christiansen:

Working with the person that owns the marina.

Glenn Christiansen:

I think (inaudible) marina didn't they donate (inaudible).

Mike Pollocoff:

The previous owners did, yeah. I bet the current owner doesn't even know. That was about 20 years ago that they made that donation.

Glenn Christiansen:

I remember something about it.

Michealene Day:

Okay, then Item b we will table until the October meeting unless someone feels strongly and wants to discuss it more?

Mike Pollocoff:

We'll need a motion and second to table it.

**Jim Bandura moved to table the approval of Lake County Forest Preserve request to use 128<sup>th</sup> St sand berm as a fire break for prescribed burns at Spring Bluff: Seconded by Rita Christiansen. Motion carried 6-0.**

**c. Discuss and Approve Lake County Forest Preserve Request to Allow Implementation and Grant Partnership for Natural Area Land Management on Village Property.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe that Item c is going to follow along with Item b so we will table that also. It would be the staff recommendation to table that also and bring that back next month.

Michealene Day:

Okay, with all the recommendations.

**Monica Yuhas moved to table the approval of Lake County Forest Preserve request to allow implementation and grant partnership for natural area land management on Village property: Seconded by Michael Russert. Motion carried 6-0.**

**d. Receive and Discuss Update to Bike and Pedestrian Trails Plan.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The steering committee met on August 12<sup>th</sup> and that was our third meeting that we had with the committee. And we've been working pretty hard to take the existing plan that



we had as a part of our Master Park and Open Space Plan and make any sort of improvements or upgrades based on any recent development occurrence. One of the major things that we did was we were able to take all of community development's neighborhood plans that lay out where the future subdivisions are going to be and actually put the trails going through these newer subdivisions. So it really helped us identify which ones are going to be on street, off street.

The new subdivisions you can kind of see as bolded parcel lines on this map that's blown up. So we went through and we tried to identify which ones are on street, off street. We made sure to identify that we had connectivity to our trails, to our schools. We had Kenosha Unified involved to make sure that all of the schools are in the correct place based off of their future needs. The green areas on here identify the open space areas we were trying to utilize wherever that we could. And a lot of the red areas are future retail and commercial areas making access with them. It is still just in its draft form. By no means is this the final product but it is getting much closer and closer.

We received a copy of the bike and ped plan from Bristol and from the City of Kenosha, and we have incorporated those to make sure that our connection points are the same. We are working to make a connection down to Sterling Lake, and it will probably end up having to be an on street trail on Highway H at this time. But we went down and identified all the areas that we felt were important to be connected by trails. It's been a very good process. So if staff has any questions on anything that we're doing we can answer that. Then I guess as a second part of this—

Rita Christiansen:

John, can I start you for a second. Can you blow up sections of it. The copy is a little difficult to see.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No, not very easily to be honest with you. I do have a large paper copy map on the table in front of us in case it's hard to read out there on the PowerPoint software. I think it would be a little bit of a task to blow it up, reframe it, make new slides.

Glenn Christiansen:

. . . possibly review the map and if we have any comments (inaudible).

Michealene Day:

Go ahead.

Michael Russert:

Can I ask a question, John, as we're reviewing? So is all the on road trails is it a dedicated bike trail or is it to the side or the median?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Some of them are going to be a dedicated bike trail. I think the prime example of those are going to be what we plan on doing on 80<sup>th</sup> Street between Cooper and 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 85<sup>th</sup> Street from Old Green Bay Road all the way down to 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There are going to be some areas because of budget restraints where we are going to have bike trails identified as being on street. One of our redesign projects, 116<sup>th</sup> Street, we're looking at developing an off street trail ten feet wide on the north side of the road independent from the road. So any time that we can do a reconstruction or widening we plan on trying to make accommodations for bike and peds.

Michael Russert:

And do you know how many miles it is?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I do not have a number yet on exactly how many miles just because that is still in draft form.

Michael Russert:

And percentage off road?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I don't have a percentage either.

Michealene Day:

It's too bad you don't have a cut across from ML to Russell Road to get back onto Sterling Lake. Because ML on a weekend, and even now in nice weather, it's a constant bike trail. People are constantly on ML.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You mean something actually on ML or something that goes—

Michealene Day:

From ML south to Russell Road.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's something we can definitely investigate, the possibility of acquiring some land.

Michealene Day:

Because you can come down as far as the police station on that service road to the weigh scale. And I think that there's a service road that goes all the way through by . . . Farm that will take you right to Russell Road. I don't know. I was just thinking because it's already a regular bike route that if they wanted to get to Sterling Lake.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that's something we can definitely investigate and be a part of the system.

Michealene Day:

Instead of coming down H.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct, it would be a much safer route to take. We do have off road trails, at least having its own lane on all of the new frontage roads off of I-94. They're all going to have a dedicated bike lane also. And then from I-94 at Highway C down to River Road is going to have an off street trail that will turn on street onto River Road and then eventually tie into Lake Andrea over the new bridge that was granted. We do have another steering committee meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Obviously, anyone on the Parks Commission that's interested in attending that has any comments on this we would definitely welcome those at that time.

Mike Pollocoff:

These are meetings that you really might want to consider-

Michealene Day:

Coming to.

Mike Pollocoff:

Coming in to them because they're starting to-

Michealene Day:

Come down to some final numbers.

Mike Pollocoff:

You can tell from looking at the map they're starting to really draw the lines.

Michealene Day:

What time is the meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe we start those at 5 p.m.

Michealene Day:

Five p.m. here?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct.

Michael Russert:

Regarding Michael Schmitz's comments from last month, where is his property line compared to where the trail comes out?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

His property line, and it's really hard to see but it's right where my mouse is up on the top here. So it's probably a little bit more affected on determining where we have the connection from River Road onto the bridge section onto the trails that were mapped out by Nick this past month. So we have had some conversations with him and we are looking at different ways that we can accommodate him potentially by still having a fire break but only mowing it once a year in the fall and keeping the trail itself kind of away from his property.

Michael Russert:

Thank you.

Jim Bandura:

John, prior to the meeting that you were talking about, the September 9<sup>th</sup>, is there a way that you can send out to the Commissioners a little larger plan of this?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure.

Jim Bandura:

I think that would be extremely helpful.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I will see if I can print off some larger copies and you can pick them up at the Prange or I can mail them out to you.

Mike Pollocoff:

We'll put them on your packets.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If you want to stop out at the Prange and just view them out there I can meet with anyone at any time.

Jim Bandura:

I'll be willing to pick it up. Just tell me when it's ready and I'll stop by.

Rita Christiansen:

Can you expound on what you just said in relationship to the fire break away from the property which is understandable and the relationship to was it the bike trail, the walking trail to the property that's adjacent?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. We're looking at making a connection from the end of River Road at the end of the cul-de-sac onto where the bridge crosses over the Kilbourn Ditch, Des Plaines River area. And one of the points of contention from the residents is that we were going to have that trail head due east right along his property line. So we're looking at not having the trail run along his property line, having the trail maybe run away from his property line, and all those things really haven't been decided yet. And that's will probably be one

of the focuses of our September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mike Pollocoff:

We're going to have to meet with either Lori or somebody that has worked on our management plan there to find the best route that's not going to impact the wetlands. Whatever which way we go I think running along somebody's property line is just asking for a disaster. Already just the threat of it is making him crazy. So we might as well find another way to get that traffic south, whichever way we go south, and then wander over to the bridge.

Rita Christiansen:

And in regards to not just his property but other property owners along the Des Plaines River, many of them have found that when you have people that are utilizing the river which is open to everyone, that people get off and they inhabit the land. So his experience is not just meant for him alone in that area. Other neighbors have also experienced the same things. So a navigable waterway is not going to keep people from staying off peoples' property regardless of what signs you put up, etc. That's been our experience with family land that runs through the Des Plaines River.

So in respect to the idea of managing the prairie, I think we need to keep that also in the focus and then clearly understand what is the vision for that land. Because I don't recall, and I could be mistaken, that it was every clearly defined what is the vision and what is the goal that we're trying to achieve and then working with the homeowners to make sure that we can as best as we can ensure that we meet their needs, too. But thinking the big picture overall what's best for the Village as a whole.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We do have a management plan of that area that was recently completed from grant money from the DNR. And I can make sure to get you a copy of that.

Rita Christiansen:

I'd appreciate that for the Board so we can understand. It's a beautiful piece of property and we want to make sure that we can keep people on trails. And Mike can probably speak to this from his own experience with a family member. It's very difficult even if you have a trail to keep people on trail. We can't be policing 24/7 so we can do the best we can and hopefully people will respect the trails that are there.

Mike Pollocoff:

I thing to me the Village committed to a vision for that land when we accepted the

donation from The Nature Conservancy. And then the management plan really gives us a way to implement that vision and make it work. But to be honest with you given the state of public finance today it's easier for us to secure capital funds to build trails or do these things, but where we come up short is operational maintenance on what we did. As we go through our budget process and we look at what we're going to pick up, I mean things that require people and equipment are expensive, and the ones on the parks side are the ones that are probably going to shake out to the very bottom. Maybe at some point we might be in a position where we say we know we can get some capital funding to do something, but we won't be able to afford to maintain it once we get it so we shouldn't apply for the capital funding and just let the land sit dormant. We haven't been able to accomplish a burn in this area for seven or ten years. I don't remember the last time we did a burn.

Glenn Christiansen:

I think the last time that area was burned was somewhere between '92 and '94. I know for a fact it was one of those three years that was the last time it was burned.

Mike Pollocoff:

My parks department has two employees and a bunch of kids on break from college so we're not staffed up to do it. I agree it's a valuable area.

Rita Christiansen:

It's not a priority, correct? I mean in all fairness we have other issues that are bubbling to the top quicker within the Village.

Mike Pollocoff:

The important thing for us is not to do damage to it.

Rita Christiansen:

Exactly, that's what I was going with. Thank you.

Mike Pollocoff:

But as far as the river that's a little bit stickier problem because there is some rights for people to canoe down the river and be able to disembark and get off on the bank. But then if they go in farther that's trespassing. I think when people have those problems they need to call the police.

Rita Christiansen:

Oh, I agree. I don't think we need to be vigilantes. I think the police department is the correct avenue.

Glenn Christiansen:

One of the thoughts I've had for a long time, and I've often volunteered to assist in this if we ever . . . I think just from reading what Lake County is proposing for their burn, there's a list of equipment that they're talking about and a number of people to manage the 120 acres, and I know that Marty Johnson from the DNR . . . would it not make sense to try and find a group of people who would be willing to volunteer to do something like this and go through the training. If you ask could you find a dozen or fifteen people to do this?

Mike Pollocoff:

We're always looking for volunteers.

Rita Christiansen:

And maybe you can do a partnership with Lake County.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I've recently had some conversation with Marty Johnson at the DNR, and last year the Village was awarded a Whip grant and a Legacy bogs grant just to help out with some of the maintenance in these areas. It was maintenance areas number one and two per that management plan. We did have a meeting late last week with Marty Johnson, and what the Whip grant does it gives us a little bit of funding to go down and remove some woody vegetation, to purchase some chemicals to make sure that vegetation of invasive trees aren't coming back. And we do plan on having a burn in 2011 on the areas of that section one and two which is ultimately just outside of that cul-de-sac.

Piggybacking on that, the DNR is working on setting up a couple of training programs open to the public so anyone that's wanting or willing to learn how to do this and be trained on it can go through this DNR training program. It's something that he's hoping to have set up later this fall. And so when the time comes around in 2011 we'll at least have some sort of a crew. Marty Johnson an the DNR and some of the people that do burn in Carol Beach have verbally been committed to kind of lead these burns we're having on this natural area to make sure that we're in compliance with our conservation easement.

Michealene Day:



I have a mild concern about, while I think volunteerism is wonderful, when you're talking about starting a controlled fire, Lake County Forest Reserve has got a very large taxable body there and they have a tremendous amount of money and they spend a tremendous amount of time I know personally training these people. It's not a one day or a one week training period. It's constant training so you feel comfortable with them burning behind your house because they are fully trained as most firefighters are. So I have a concern about saying we're going to get 15 neighbors and we're going to do a controlled burn and we've all had 18 hours of training on how to burn a fire. I'm not too sure I want them burning behind my house, volunteers. So I want to just make sure that—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, granted that they won't be heading it up. It will still be headed by people that are trained and they'll be . . . on a volunteer role.

Michealene Day:

Yeah, but they're headed by. It takes more than one person to control a fire.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

They will be in a volunteer role.

Glenn Christiansen:

I personally went through The Nature Conservancy burn school many years ago and participated in burns down in Chiwaukee Prairie, on the Des Plaines and I think it's the Lulu Lake Preserve. They do all of their burns with volunteers, with the requirement that volunteers have to go through their eight hour burn school which I did go through personally. And that they have experienced people. The majority of these people have been on numerous burns so it's not just whoever shows up. It is a very experienced staff. They, too, have always had firemen being responsible for their burns, and I think Mike can attest to the fact that they have always been true to their word, and they have always been very reliable in their burning. Is that not correct, Mike?

Mike Pollocoff:

Nature Conservancy is good at that.

Glenn Christiansen:

Statewide they have an excellent record. They have never burned somebody's house down, and they do have required training.

Rita Christiansen:

So to make this point and the concern that was raised . . . it's justified. It's an education point and working with the DNR to get the highest quality because they can show they've had the highest . . . so educating regarding your land, the land development . . . for the areas.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There's a conservation agreement.

Rita Christiansen:

And having got information which I appreciate the larger map so we can better educate ourselves when we have people asking questions. Greatly appreciate it, thanks.

Glenn Christiansen:

And it might even be possible to talk to The Nature Conservancy if you could get a few people from the Village to go through their class and help them . . . might not reciprocate in helping out on this.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's what the plan is right now.

Michealene Day:

I'm going to jump in here. We kind of got off the beaten path. How did we get back on the fire burns because we're actually talking about Item d, the bike a pedestrian trails that we had actually tabled the fire stuff. So I apologize for bringing up the fire myself.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We'll get back on track then. One of the other items that the steering committee was looking for is developing some sort of an identity when you are on a Village trail. So we're looking at going through an identifying some of the major trails that we have and identify them with some sort of signage or maybe mile markers. So at the end of the day if you'd want to ride a 50 mile bike course you would just follow these signs as they go very similar to some of the trails that you see in Milwaukee County or up north.

So we had an IT intern go through and put together several different concepts. Keep in mind we pretty much just told her we're looking for some signage. Throw out a couple of concepts and we'll kind of see what looks good, what the Parks Commission likes. I

believe that they were included in your packet. We tried to keep the Village colors on there and different fonts and representations of graphics of people on bikes.

We have one that's in a circle in the grass. We have a triangle one where the yellow becomes a little road. We have a little acorn one representing a lot of the oaks that we have in the area. A more traditional square one. A little bit elongated one with a sun in the backdrop, and then a representation of the State of Wisconsin with the bike in the middle. Now, keep in mind these are all just rough drafts. The main purpose of these is just to start conversation. If the Parks Commission has any concepts or thoughts on I like this one or don't like that, I like these colors, I like the grass and maybe we can come up with a couple more designs.

Michealene Day:

I like the ones with the bright yellow, either the triangle ones or the square ones where there's a lot of yellow in there. I think the bikes would be needing to see this, but the green and the blue might kind of fade in, especially if these are going to be along side the road. People can realize—you're watching for signs as far as speed limits, etc., etc., but the bright yellow and the green kind of draws your eye more to it than if you just are looking to a green and blue one maybe. Or, if it's dusky or cloudy or a little overcast I think you might catch the bright yellow a little more so in your car for safety wise would be my idea. That would be something that maybe the police department or traffic control, but to me if I'm driving down the road something like looking at those two signs on the road driving I would notice the bright yellow, the green and the blue versus more than the acorn. I don't know. What do you guys think?

Jim Bandura:

I agree. I kind of like the triangle one with the different color bike trail on that, because it lets you know that it is a bike trail there and even cars driving down I think would be able to pick that up. So I think having that say that it is a trail in that color I think that would help out a little more for visibility.

Michael Russert:

I like the idea of the prairie just because it's Pleasant Prairie.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

When you say prairie you mean the grass?

Michael Russert:

The grass, right.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright. It's because one of them like this one has the white lettering it doesn't mean that we can't alter it or change the colors or move the sun.

Michael Russert:

Are there other requirements for the DOT for marking of bike trails besides what we're going to put up for the Village?

Mike Pollocoff:

You have that marking that goes on the street. That was a suggestion using our Village logo and taking out Pleasant Prairie. That's our logo, the grass and the hills, and where it says Pleasant Prairie, I'm looking at the one at the dias there, just put the big bike symbol. All that would be reflective.

Michealene Day:

You mean in this one right here?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, it would be right here on the podium.

Michealene Day:

Oh, yeah.

Mike Pollocoff:

So instead of saying Pleasant Prairie just put in the bike right there so people aren't having to read Pleasant Prairie bike path. It's the Village logo, it's got the grass and the blue and the green and make that bike as big as you can, probably just like you'd have it on the street.

Monica Yuhas:

I like that. I do. I like the prairie. I like the grass. That is our identity. You see it throughout the Village. You see it on signs. You see it on cleaning up the roads. You see it everywhere. And it's a reflective sign. They're going to be up to Wis DOT standards so they are going to be reflective and you are going to be able to see them. A bike path if you have the bicycle symbol what more do you need? You know it's a bike

path.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the advantages of having a sign like this is that it is a standard size and shape. It might be a little bit more cost effective than an odd shaped sign.

Rita Christiansen:

I agree. I would stick with what works best for us and adjust the wording accordingly to fit our needs. It truly is the symbol of what we are.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So if I understand, we're looking to take our existing Village sign that's on the dias, taking off the words Village of Pleasant Prairie and putting the bike symbol of that two area?

Rita Christiansen:

There's only two of us that said yes to that. This wasn't part of the drawing, so how does the rest of the Board feel?

Jim Bandura:

I'd like to see a little representation of it with and without Pleasant Prairie. One of the things is I think even though that's our symbol I think somebody maybe new to the area or whatever wouldn't realize that it is our symbol. So I'd still like to take a look at having some kind of verbiage on it.

Monica Yuhas:

I guess my question would be if you're going with that size sign, the letters are going to have to be big enough so you can read the sign. So if you're going to have the Village of Pleasant Prairie on there and also a bike symbol, how big are the letters going to be and how readable is it going to be?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It would probably be an 18 by 24 inch sign which is much more comparable to what's in front of Ms. Day. Street signs are very deceiving when you see them not on the street. They look much smaller when you're in your car, and then when you take off the post and hold them in your arms you're really surprised at how large that they are. I believe that a sign 18 by 24 inches would be a very nice sign but not at all too large. I think

that's a standard size speed limit sign within the Village.

Michealene Day:

My only concern, and I do like that sign very much also, my only concern is for the safety of the bicyclists. I mean right now the amount of motorcyclists being killed on the road in Kenosha County is up significantly. They're on motorcycles getting hit by cars going by. And with the bike path now we're going to encourage more bicyclists. So I just want people to be aware that we're encouraging people to ride the bike on this road so the sign does not blend in and become, oh, it's just part of the scenery here. I just want to make sure that it's visible just like you see the stop sign. You say, oh, stop, or yield, that we go, oh, bike path, because we're not always going to be able to have a paved side of the road where people are coming up and down and the roads are not always going to be straight like on ML. You're coming up a hill and if the bicyclists is not exactly on the side in front of my home there's a lot of cars kind of swerving all over the place, so you just want to make sure that people can see the signage and understand the signage. What it really looks like to me I'm just more concerned about safety.

Rita Christiansen:

John, a question. Thinking about our international triathlon, and we do have a lot of athletes that come here to prepare prior to actually occurring and you see them and it's wonderful, is there anything culturally or internationally that we should probably incorporate into the sign that would emanate with someone coming for international triathlons?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think one of the greatest honors we can have is just having those people from other countries coming here for our triathlons and just recognizing locally with our symbol. I'm not sure if I would really want to make a recommendation of changing our Village logo or tweaking it all. I really like Mike's idea staff wise because it is a standard size sign. The artwork is very recognizable.

One of the things that some of the representatives off the bike and ped have made mention to in the steering committee meetings is that one you identify a trail as a bike trail and you start putting up the signs, people are going to be riding their bikes on there and the motorists are going just to know, alright, this is a bike trail. This bike trail starts here, it ends here and you need to start watching out for a bike. So by having consistent signage spaced appropriately I think is really going to make it a lot safer for all the people on bikes, especially the ones that are riding with traffic.

Monica Yuhas:

Question, what is the spacing on the signs? What is the distance from one sign to another?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

A lot of times what they will do is they will just put up a sign wherever you make a turn. And so if you go straight half a mile and a turn half a mile you would just have them at the turns. And I think a lot of that is just budget wise. You'd probably have a time affording to have them one every 100 yards. I wouldn't envision it as being like a no parking sign where you see one, you see one, you see another.

Mike Pollocoff:

We can check and see or have the consultant look and see if there's a standard. I'm not aware of one but that doesn't mean there isn't one.

Monica Yuhas:

And then also if you can find out what the price of a sign would be with the standards, the reflective.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

With the bike symbol on it, one of them with words and one without words. It's pretty much just a graphic and they just print that graphic out and stick it on a sign. So it's actually reflective material put on a metal sign is all that they do. So once we have one and then if we produce 50 of them the cost of it isn't that astronomical. But I will get a cost for you and a couple different versions of this standard sign for the next meeting.

Monica Yuhas:

And can it be with the same font so we keep consistent with the other signs? And then what is the life of a sign?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Ten to fifteen years.

Mike Pollocoff:

It depends on how many kids are beating on it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, it depends on how many people drive into it.

Michealene Day:

So there's a lot of stuff you're going to get for us next meeting.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You always keep us very busy which is good.

Michealene Day:

So you're going to get us the maps a little bit larger so we can all see them, and then the signage, the two pictures of the sign, correct, so we can kind of see what that's going to be about and then the cost?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's correct, and the cost estimate. If the Commission would like I can probably have these maps printed off yet this week. If I can ask for some sort of count on who would want a map?

Michealene Day:

Are you looking at maps like this?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, that size.

Michealene Day:

Do you have a copier at your office?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We don't have a copier but I do have a plotter. I just print them off that size.

(Inaudible)

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, we'll take anything available.



Jim Bandura:

Twelve by eighteen I think would suffice.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I have an 11 by 17 which I can give you this evening.

(Inaudible)

Monica Yuhas:

And do you want us to pick up the big one?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You can pick them up. I can drop them off at your house after work. I can mail them to you.

Mike Pollocoff:

We'll fold them up and mail them. That's easiest.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So I'll send one to each household.

(Inaudible)

**6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Monica Yuhas moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 6-0.**

Michealene Day:

Thank you. We'll see you next month.

Meeting adjourned 6:54 p.m.