

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

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

Monica Yuhas moved to approve the Parks Commission Meeting minutes of the September 1, 2009 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Do we have anyone wishing to make citizen comments?

5. NEW BUSINESS

Michealene Day:

We had a request that we move the discuss and approve the Parks Commission meetings to Wednesdays to the bottom of the list as we have some guest here that's going to speak. We'll attend to that business first if we could.

- b. Discuss and Approve Lake County Forest Preserve Request to Use 128th Street Sand Berm as a Fire Break for Prescribed Burns at Spring Bluff.**

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

Michealene Day:

In the audience we have a representative of the Lake County Forest Preserve. If you'd come to the podium, and the only requirement is you give us your name and who you're with.

Debbie Mauer:

Thank you for having me. My name is Debbie Mauer. I'm a Restoration Ecologist for the Lake County Forest Preserve District. I've been with the District about seven and a half years, and I am coming to you tonight with two requests. I e-mailed John a while back, maybe a month and a half ago now. First off I'd like to cover the Forest Preserve has been working with The Nature Conservancy, the Wisconsin DNR, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and some other partners, probably over the last four years to have a more coordinated approach to the conservation and land management of the lake plain area which goes from the Kenosha Dunes down to about Winthrop Harbor, and with the anticipated passing of the federal budget, there's going to be money available for Great Lakes habitat restoration. And as a partnership, we wanted to be able to take advantage of this new funding and address some of our common conservation threats in the lake plains.

So with that I have a short presentation that gives you some background about that, a little bit about the funding source, and what I'm looking for really is two things from the Village I guess. One is if we are requested to submit a proposal, would the Village support this proposal and this project. And second, because the Village is clearly a landowner in the lake plain if the Village would allow for work to be done on Village property. There are certain areas I could use examples of, and if the Village has any interest in being a more active participant in the proposal and the project in the lake plains. And this is the kind of partnership that we've been looking for for some time and this grant source we believe provides the opportunity.

So with that, I didn't know how familiar everybody was with the entire lake plain area. I know each individual land owner is well informed and understands their property, but this aerial on the lefthand side basically gives you an overall view of what is considered the lake plain. We've just been calling it, for lack of a better name, the Chiwaukee/Illinois Beach Lake Plain. The areas in yellow are the Kenosha County open space, Village property, State property and Nature Conservancy Land that goes down to the State Line. The Forest Preserve owns the area in red and the purple area is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois State parks. So really we're working from Kenosha down to Waukegan Harbor.

This entire lake plain is connected in many ways, not just ecologically but habitat for wildlife and it supports the geological history that's shared, hydrologic features and the way water moves through the system is shared, historic land use and the footprint of that is a shared feature. And we also share conservation threats, incoming water from the bluff and the sub watershed water quality issues, increased storm water runoff, decreased ground water infiltration. So it makes sense to work on a landscape scale because of all these we've mentioned and the adjacent landowners.

The ecological significance of the lake plain, this is some of the last remaining shoreline in this region. It provides habitat for over 500 plant and animal species. Many of those are State listed and, therefore, federally listed species. The habitat for those federally listed species could be expanded with some restoration efforts. It's very important for migratory birds, for avian species as well as breeding habitat for a variety of wetland birds and other bird species. And it provide some of the ecosystem services that you've probably all read about and heard about in improving water quality for Lake Michigan.

It is a beautiful and remarkable place. I don't know how much time you've spent hiking and walking or bird watching, but the Lake County area really provides an incredibly unique ecosystem that isn't found any other place. It is also subject to common conservation threats, spread of invasive plants which reduce groundwater flow, increases surface flow and reduces water quality. And, again, I don't know how informed you are about land management and land management activities, but a lot of the hydrologic issues we have probably facilitate this spread and expansion of invasive species in the native community. That causes degradation of wildlife habit. So invasive species, although it may be the result of other influences, is one of the primary threats to long-term conservation.

So the grant program that we have applied to with the proposal is called the Sustain Our Great Lakes Program. It is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Monies come from six different agencies. They also have a private funder in a steel company out of Indiana. The grant is a two year grant with the possibility of extension. They're really focused on underground habitat work. The pre-proposal we did on October 1st and I've listed the Lake County Board as taking a leadership role in the administration of the grant.

Proposals are due December 15th. The award amount for this particular program is between \$150,000 to \$4 million. This is the first time they have had this program. The program that they have run in the past have all been small grants. Right now in our proposal we are requesting the total project a little over \$1 million. It's a sizeable grant.

The next slide just gives you the major components of the proposal. We'd also like to do a bit more hydrologic assessment.

The next slide gives some specifics. I didn't know how much information you were going to want tonight, but we are talking about treating about 500 acres of land that is invaded by either species like common reed or reed grass and really to keep it from spreading into high quality areas.

Lake County Forest Preserve will be facilitating the prescribed burn management. We're talking about removal of some short sections of gravel road on State land.

Again, I didn't know how much detail you wanted in these proposals. I wanted to provide you with some information about the proposal. I can certainly provide you the three proposals that has a lot of the language in this taken from that. But wanting to know if the Village is interested in supporting the proposal and if they want to play a more active role or a role at all in the land management, that was item number one. I don't know if you have questions

Michealene Day:

I think it's a very exciting and aggressive project, and I commend you on it. It sounds extremely interesting. As a partner, what would you expect the Village or the Parks Commission to help you with?

Debbie Mauer:

Well, I guess at a minimum my interest was if we're requested for that full proposal to get a letter of support. That would help us greatly. We're going to be requesting that from all partners, whether they're actively doing work on the ground or whether they're providing technical expertise. The second thing I was interested in specifically near the State line, and this goes into the next topic of discussion, there's this old right of way. And along this right of way there's honeysuckle and buckthorn and other invasives that I would to see removed because they're adjacent to an area that we put a lot of effort into clearing and things. So if we could receive funds to do some clearing in that small area I guess the next best thing for me would if the Village would allow The Nature Conservancy or the Forest Preserve or the DNR could do that clearing. Obviously you would oversee the project, but to see that area cleared and that would require Village approval. So beyond that it is really what the interests of the Village are in participating in the proposal or work there in the specific area.

Michealene Day:

Any comments?

Troy Holm:

I have a comment. What kind of disruption do you anticipate with like landowners in this

area? Have you had experience with just saying I don't want you in my yard?

Debbie Mauer:

I don't anticipate any disruption. All the work that we're proposing to do is within the boundaries of the public ownership in the areas in the Springbluff, Illinois Bluff, Wisconsin DNR, TNC. I need to clarify. I know there's an agreement with the Village and the Wisconsin DNR on management of lands that are Village that are near. I don't know those boundaries really well because I'm not really familiar with that. But all of this work is going to be in those areas. We send out notifications basically, descriptions of the types of restoration work to neighbors adjacent to the sites we're working on so they're aware of what we're doing.

With any woody clearing we generally remove brush via brush pile burn, although I know the Wisconsin DNR does a lot of chipping. Those brush pile burns can be visible and there are smoke considerations. I don't see that being a problem for private landowners because the burning is conducted under conditions where smoke doesn't become an issue. We have a bit of control over that because piles can be stockpiled and burned in one day so I don't see this as being a problem for the landowners. If there's specific interest, though, from adjacent landowners, certainly this grant does not fund any educational outreach. They said that point blank which is why it's not integrated into the proposal. But we do a small amount of outreach.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions?

Rita Christiansen:

I'd like to hear what Mike and John have to say.

Mike Pollocoff:

I have a couple of questions. One on the burning, and we've had an ongoing policy with DNR that when they're burning the shrubs that we want it mechanically cut and chipped so they don't burn and smolder for a long period of time because that has been a sore spot with citizens in the area. Sometimes luck of the draw you're going to get a wind that's not going to affect them, but as soon as it shifts then everybody is upset. Secondly, on the previous chart you were doing hydrological restoration. Can you tell me how you guys interpret that, what does that mean?

Debbie Mauer:

There are two components with that. Are you interested in

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village is really spending quite a bit of resources on evaluating the groundwater table and the quality of that groundwater table as it affects other things. We've done that for a couple reasons. One is there was some concern by The Nature Conservancy . There is a certain level of development pressure, not as great now as it was in the past, but we want to be able to manage those areas and make sure there isn't any negative impact on that. But I guess we've discovered in the engineering work we've done to date is there hasn't been a good baseline for the groundwater table in that area or even in the geology. Like I said, we have a significant investment in obtaining as much information as we could so we can regulate that area properly.

Debbie Mauer:

Absolutely. So I think I can clarify things a little bit for you. I left out the information on the slide but hydrologic restoration has two components. Water is entering Spring Bluff and until very recently there was two outlets for that water. One was a manhole and the other was a natural flow north. That natural flow north only took a very small percentage of the groundwater, so we are receiving on this water filling up like a bathtub and that water was slowly draining this artificial outlet.

Part of what we're doing is trying to keep clean the 2nd Street culvert, which though artificial is another outlet. We have successfully done that this fall, but as you move down the stream a portion of that culvert has become overgrown with cattails, and when the water hits that there is organic matter that has built up and the water doesn't continue along that outlet.

So part of the hydrologic restoration will be not changing the grade of that Dove Creek but removing that organic material that has built up to allow surface water to flow. The second hydrologic restoration element of the proposal is working on the Wisconsin DNR land in two separate areas where there are gravel roads that are within their management plan that will reconnect wetlands that are now separated by the gravel roads. So those are the two components of hydrologic restoration.

In The Nature Conservancy properties we aren't proposing anything that's called hydrologic restoration because they feel like they don't know enough. So what we've proposed is to expand that baseline study into Chiwaukee and take a better look at what other surface water flows that are coming into the site and also do some water quality sampling. It's really more focused on surface water and shallow ground water with a series of wells put in, but the idea is to really understand a little bit better what's coming off the bluff now so that if something occurs in the future to change that at least they know where they started, and hopefully that can guide their management decisions on how to accommodate water as it's coming in and the volumes change, or maybe what can

be done if they see a change in water quality improve it upstream. So we are trying to address the assessment aspect of it and increase our base numbers. That can only be about 10 percent of the program proposal and we're right on target. We've sort of pushed the envelope to what we think the funders will accept.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions or comments?

Glenn Christiansen:

I'd like to say that based on some of the years of experience helping with The Nature Conservancy I understand how difficult these projects can be and how frustratingly slow they sometimes move, and the threats on these areas are extraordinary. The losses of species and habitat is extraordinary. Most people don't even begin to comprehend. So far everything I've heard I like and I hope that you get the grant and I hope this moves forward.

Michealene Day:

Mike, would you want us to entertain a motion that we support the—

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes, if you'd like to make a motion to support the proposal as presented and recommend it to the Village Board to be adopted if you need a resolution or an executive, what's your vehicle?

Debbie Mauer:

I would love to walk away tonight feeling that the Village supports this, but you also have not had a chance to review the proposal. So however you want to act or not act. Like I said if we're asked for a full proposal that the request will be made by November 1st, December 15th to resubmit. I'm not planning on doing it early. I need all the time I can get. So if you want to do something more formal at the November meeting....

Mike Pollocoff:

I guess what I'd like is the opportunity for staff to review the proposal and be able to bring that back. We can bring that back to the next Parks Commission meeting and ramp that up to the Village Board meeting depending on what kind of instrument you want to put in your grant, if you need a resolution from the Board or whatever.

Debbie Mauer:

Well, and like I said, it depends on how involved the Village wants to be. If it's just a matter of supporting the proposal and getting a letter that would be fantastic. If the Village wants to integrate it into the proposal we have some flexibility. I'm hoping and I'd like to see this partnership evolve and really work together. Like I said I'd love a letter of support, but if we can do the work together I think in the long run that probably benefits everyone.

Mike Pollocoff:

I think just from what I know about it, doing a clearing of that right of way these things are animals to deal with. If we have somebody who wants us to help us with that that's a good thing.

Debbie Mauer:

I wouldn't be asking for any money from the Village. I should make that very clear. I wouldn't be looking for funds or cash contributions. I feel like that's asking a lot at this stage of the game, but to have your support

Mike Pollocoff:

But if we can look at that proposal and see if there's some other things we can partner with I'd like the opportunity to be able to do that.

Glenn Christiansen:

Mike, could we make the proposal then to allow them to clear that berm at least?

Mike Pollocoff:

I'm comfortable with that.

Glenn Christiansen:

I would like to make that proposal to allow them to at least do some of the work to clear that berm.

Mike Pollocoff:

You're looking to do this next year, right?

Debbie Mauer:

The award wouldn't be made until May of 2010 so the work wouldn't begin until that time.

Mike Pollocoff:

Unless you want to do it as one comprehensive package.

William Mills:

Why don't we wait. One question I had real quick was you had mentioned 1,200 acres of uninvaded land and 500 acres of invasive species have taken over that land. Is that across Wisconsin and Illinois?

Debbie Mauer:

That is a conservative estimate. It is across the whole lake plain. A lot of that area—the Forest Preserve we own about 280 acres. It's a small stand in a critical location for connecting, but it's a small piece of property. Illinois Beach is about 3,500 acres. They comprise the bulk of the lake plain probably . . . the highest quality area. So a lot of that 1,200 acres is based on the work they're proposing with cattails. But I think it's true for all of our areas. It's hard to map that out and it's hard to come up with that number without exaggerating so that's a very conservative estimate of what would be protected. All of the clearing that proposed by The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin DNR is going to protect and preserve the prairie. The prairie will not survive without it.

William Mills:

Okay. I know from being down there that there's a lot of what you describe as the problem, shrub cover and cattails that's scattered pretty much everywhere. I know when you first cross the railroad tracks on 116th right below the tracks there's a very thick stand of reed canary grass.

Debbie Mauer:

And that's one of the areas identified as part of the management plan.

William Mills:

So this is all over the place. Like you say it probably is conservative but it does comprise an extraordinary threat.

Michealene Day:

I think that you can go away tonight knowing that we are in support of you. I think the

Village would like to work with you and depending on what Mike and John say, if you want to stay in contact is what I guess we're saying so we can have something for you at our next meeting.

Debbie Mauer:

I'll keep you updated.

Michealene Day:

That's terrific.

Debbie Mauer:

And then the second reason I'm here tonight is a specific request the Forest Preserve . . . but again it has to do with that 128th Street right of way. The District is asking the Village for formal permission to utilize the section owned by the Village to put in our burn break so that we can burn south of there. The District has an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to burn on their property. I know that the Village wants a letter of indemnification and waiver of liability which the District at this point has no problem with. Our Board needs to review, but we don't see that as a problem. I just wanted to give you an opportunity to ask questions.

Michealene Day:

Earlier you had said that the fall nor in the early spring you were thinking about burning in that area right away anyway.

Debbie Mauer:

No, so this doesn't need to be rushed through, but it is something I know that takes time when we start getting involved with waivers and liability and all those types of things and lawyers and what have you. So I just wanted to start the process early to make sure that the next time I would like to see that waiver. The burn is scheduled for the fall of 2010, and that would include this area.

Michealene Day:

If I remember correctly we didn't have a problem with the burn line. We just were concerned about adjacent homeowners and the insurance policy. Was there any other concerns that anyone wanted to talk to Debbie about now? I think that was it.

Debbie Mauer:

Okay, so what I can do, Ruth and I have been corresponding on this draft document. I think what we'll do is get that reviewed. It is not my area of expertise. But I think we can probably work on the draft document and that's probably the most important thing to get in place from everybody's point of view. And if questions do come up feel free to e-mail me myself or my supervisor.

Rita Christiansen:

Debbie, a question for you. All of the people that would work on the burn they are certified through the school?

Debbie Mauer:

Yes. The Forest Preserve runs their burn program with experienced burn staff. All of our staff go through the basic burn training. Our crew bosses have crew boss training. They also, all of them, have at least five years experience and many of them have more than that. The burn line we will be putting in this is not mowing. This is not moving sand. This is simply putting in a black line so allowing the vegetation to burn down so any other fire that comes to the area will stop at that black line. It's a temporary break that would be done either before or the day of. And we contact the Pleasant Prairie Fire Department and the Lake County Sheriff. We send out burn notices to adjacent property owners. So we do do notification. The burns are also posted on our website the day of. I included a copy of our burn plan; not light reading but if you wanted to see it it is there. But, again, if you have any questions

Rita Christiansen:

Actually I did read this yesterday and it's very thorough. I greatly appreciate each section I thought was very comprehensive. And the consideration of wind direction, wind speed.

Debbie Mauer:

Oh, absolutely. You have to be extremely cautious when you burn anywhere but especially near the lake. We take our program very seriously and we see the value of it and safety consideration.

Glenn Christiansen:

I also read it. I burn my father's property out along the Des Plaines River. I manage 40 acres, so it's fun to burn. I mean it seriously it's a difficult job.

Michealene Day:

Well, I really look forward to a partnership with you. I think it will be a very good job.
Thank you.

Debbie Mauer:

Thank you very much for your time.

Michealene Day:

Do we move all the way down to Item d now, the bike a pedestrian trails?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Staff is recommending that we switch Items d and e, just interchange them so that--

Michealene Day:

Sure.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

--Mr. Theisen is able to be out of here at a decent hour.

Michealene Day:

Go ahead, sure.

e. Receive and Discuss Ingram Park Update

Blake Theisen:

You all received a packet?

Voices:

Yes.

Blake Theisen:

My name is Blake Theisen with Schreiber Anderson and Associates, and I'm going to talk about public open space in a little bit different manner here tonight. As you know, our firm is retained to do the conceptual planning for the Ingram parcel. Many of you were here at the open house we had back at the end of July. Tonight I'm going to present a little bit on the findings of that workshop and what we've done since then to bring it to

you.

First item we'll talk about the evening we had at the end of July and all the activities we went through. And then for us when we went back and looked at how to move forward, our design considerations that got us to this point today. I'll go through Concept A and Concept B and the associated cost estimate. Then we'll talk a little bit about what's the next step in the process.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If I could just add one thing. I see the Parks Commissioners going through and did they all receive this packet also or is this something you just brought on this morning?

Blake Theisen:

No, everything I sent you is in the packets.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's perfect, thank you.

Blake Theisen:

So those of you who were at the workshop in July, I know we had several public input activities. The one shown here was a visual preference survey where everyone got to vote on open space activities and amenities that they liked and disliked. So we took all that into consideration when we started laying out our concept. We handed out a survey which had a list of questions that people could answer. A lot of people don't feel comfortable making comments in public in front of their peers, so we took that back and analyzed the comments.

The nominal process we actually had the boards up here and people if they felt comfortable they expressed their likes and dislikes. We had a list which allows people to gauge the attitudes of their peers. And then we did a quick design shred. We broke into two different groups and actually sketched out examples of how we thought these different elements could lay out in the park. Strangely enough the two groups came up with very, very similar designs which made my job much harder coming up with a suitable alternative to that one design. But I think we have done it and I guess we'll move on here and talk a little bit about the design considerations.

Some of the things we heard clearly was that the space had to be flexible so it could be general open space for a pickup ultimate frisbee game or a softball game or a group of kids playing kick ball. Accessibility was paramount. Everyone needs to be able to utilize this park in an even manner. So trails need to be accessible to everyone and all abilities.

Alternative recreation opportunities, what I mean by that phrase is looking at the other parks in your system. What elements are not or underutilized. So we think that we've tried to touch some of these items here in the concept.

Passive uses, it was clear that they didn't want big stadium lights and concrete tennis courts and a running track. That was a clear message. So we decided to take that nice natural setting of the parcel and enhance it into a passive setting. Sustainable design features, a lot of comments were centered around solar energy or wind energy, trying to be progressive in the architecture of the shelter and some of the construction methods, whether it's . . . pavement or bio swales to treat storm water. So we tried to incorporate some of these elements into the concept.

We'll move here to Concept A. I'll just walk through it and we'll hit some of the key differences of the two concepts. The main entrance to the park will still remain here. We've assumed on both concepts that we're going to leave this homestead alone for now. That said, we've planned in our head, and we didn't want to put it on paper at this point, for future expansion. Running the access road just south of the parcel splits the eastern portion and the western portion. That western portion where the homestead could be utilized in the future for athletic fields or if you wanted a small scale soccer field or maybe it's a softball or kick ball diamond, not a big lighted facility but some sort of backstop. So we've tried to leave enough dimension here with the road to allow for that space.

As we move through in Concept A we've centered all of our parking in one location here as well as the shelter and the playground all within close walking distance. We also ran this access road—I should step back. We are showing a future neighborhood development plan in the background so we all know how it's going to tie in. Whether that gets built in two years or twenty years we're thinking about how that's all going to tie in. So we're showing one central parking location, a series of trails coming through. The fishing pond was a definite that we heard on the site. We're estimating about three acres surface area for that fishing pond and about an acre for our detention pond to treat storm water runoff.

The dog run in this scenario is more linear stretching under the ATC lines and heading up to the pond. We've allowed for a small water feature in the dog park which could be tied hydrologically to one of the ponds. It doesn't have to be but it could be. The dog run area would need to be fenced. We also heard concerns from this property owner that he did not want animals running in and out of his property which is totally understandable. This open green space is sized large enough for a full size soccer field is someone every wanted to strip it or it can be left alone and mowed. The orangish-yellow areas we have taken some of the earth . . . and made it undulate into berms and swales to take storm water runoff from this parking area and bring it down to our detention pond on the corner. We are hoping that you won't have any storm water infrastructure costs in the park . . . inlets. We're hoping everything can be treated on the surface . . .

We have tried to reforest this area with native species. Again, this is a concept plan so we haven't gone into laying out the different vegetation This concept A shows a second smaller play area, whether it actually has a formal play structure is up for debate, but we wanted to try and serve these northern neighborhoods once they're developed instead of having people pass all the way through the park. The idea of a park in my mind is not to have somebody drive through it. It's to get out to recreate. If you can get someone there on foot or on a bike you've achieved the goals. So that is the highlight of Concept A.

Concept B we have changed our road pattern considerably. We still keep our entry point here all the way through the park and tie into this road. Now, that road is not set in stone as it's shown though we're hoping that we can modify that plan to tie in to a more gentle thoroughfare. We've split our parking into two areas, one here and one here. This parking would primarily serve the dog park which has become more oblong, a little bit fatter space and this large open space here which, again, is sized to accommodate formal sports if you choose to take that route. We've also allowed enough space here for a full size soccer field or pickup football. Again, the pond is roughly three acres for fishing and one acre for storm water detention.

Now, the key difference here in this concept is we've tied in a central plaza or gathering space. So not just a shelter with restrooms, but we are proposing a natural amphitheater so stone seating built into the hillside, it slopes down to a shelter or a gazebo right here on the waterfront, somewhere where you could essentially hold outdoor concerts. I'm not talking about Bon Jovi or Rascal Flatts. I'm talking about a local band or some sort of—who knows. But it could be Sunday Nigh Bluegrass in the Park or whatever. But, this becomes a very nice central gathering area. You have parking on either side. You can structure the roads so you have overflow parking if you need it. And this scenario lends itself very well to storm water drainage down to our pond here and ultimately overland to the floodplains

Again, there are a series of trails snaking through the park going in and out of prairie lands, up and down the berms, again, graded to be full ADA accessible, not exceeding any of those maximum slopes. Again, this area could be banded in the future for additional park space.

Michealene Day:

Where did you have the play area for the kids? The other one you had them in two spots. This one?

Blake Theisen:

In this one the play area is located right about here.

Michealene Day:

So there's just the one and not the two like the other one had?

Blake Theisen:

Correct. I mean you could potentially put some sort of smaller feature here, but with this location it's close enough to both sides of the neighborhood that we didn't feel it was warranted.

Jim Bandura:

Getting back to A, where is the additional play area? Never mind, I found it, playground, got it.

Blake Theisen:

The main play area would be here and the secondary here.

Michealene Day:

And both areas had the fenced in dog run?

Blake Theisen:

Right, roughly about the same size, just different shapes. There are a hundred different examples of how to design a dog park. So that said we didn't get into architectural design of a shelter at this point. We thought it was a little bit premature. But the amenity boards we tried to hit three different distinct styles of site furnishings right into the architecture of the shelter whether it's open air or stone facade. Obviously this site would probably want restroom facilities. In the cost estimate we have priced out running sanitary and water from the main road to that shelter location.

The first family of amenities is a little bit more contemporary. It plays a little bit off the prairie style with the laser cut grass and that type of thing. B is more of a clean line basic family, and the three is more of a traditional park setting with woods, slat benches and the shelter. We are proposing all of the light fixtures be LED to cut facility costs and also reduce maintenance costs considerably and potentially also be solar powered. There are a number of fixtures now that have enough capacity in their batteries to run all night on them with one day of charge. As far as the cost estimates go we've got a couple things going for us here.

Monica Yuhas:

I don't have a pricing sheet.

Michealene Day:

I don't either.

Blake Theisen:

I have that.

Monica Yuhas:

John, can I ask one quick question? What's the lighting that we have now on Cooper Road, the traditional black lights? Is that something that can be configured to the solar power to keep consistent with what the Village is going to as far as

Mike Pollocoff:

Right now those are We Energy lights and they won't do that. But that doesn't mean we couldn't—we purchase those and they maintain them. We pay a monthly fee. But I wouldn't be opposed to—assuming we can see something that is capable of storing enough to give us what we need as far as the light spread on the street in the area.

Blake Theisen:

There's a big difference there between roadway lighting and pedestrian scale lighting so that's a great point. I'm not sure the technology has quite caught up to roadway scale lighting. Certainly pedestrian scale and bollards, that type of thing, is here. But I think roadway the foot candles required it might still be out of it. But I'll look into that.

Monica Yuhas:

And what is the pedestrian?

Blake Theisen:

Pedestrian scale light levels are considerably less than roadway. The roadway light might be mounted at 24 to 28 feet. Pedestrian scale is probably 12 foot high.

Monica Yuhas:

And how much light does that give as it comes down?

Blake Theisen:

It depends on the fixture and the type of lamp you use, whether it metal halide

Mike Pollocoff:

About a 20 foot to 30 foot span.

Monica Yuhas:

Okay.

Blake Theisen:

But another way to answer that question is most fixtures that are commercial available now are retrofittable with LED lamps, so you may have a City or Village standard of . . . whatever it may be. Those lamps, if it's a metal halide could be replaced with an LED fixture . . . and many vendors are offering that.

So the price tag at first probably looks a little high but there are a couple things that are going in your favor here. The fishing pond is the largest single ticket item on both of those cost estimates. And the reason that it's so high is there's a huge amount of material to be removed. A standard fishing pond in the State of Wisconsin is generally about 25 feet deep so that the fish have a place for refuge during the winter and they don't freeze. If you think about that, three acres, obviously not all of it is 25 feet deep but that's a lot of material that has to be removed. However, I do know that there is the possibility that with the highway construction going on you may have a willing participant to remove some of that material for you. So that's going to reduce that cost quite a bit. Hopefully they will be cooperative and read the construction drawings accordingly and shape your pond nicely.

So I would encourage you to break down each of those segments on the cost estimate and look at the prices individually. The \$1.4 million looks huge, but if you take out that fishing pond chunk that reduces it quite a bit. The retention pond is another \$80,000. Play structure we threw in the cost of \$120,000. That buys you a really nice playground. You can certainly scale back. It just depends on how elaborate you want to be. Keep in mind these are all place holder numbers. As we move forward into a master plan and eventually into construction documents those costs will be much refined and give you a better picture. So we think this is considerably higher than the final price will be.

Troy Holm:

I have a question. Would you be using for the hardscape? Would you be using your own company or is there local companies that you would get estimates from in order to do some of that?

Blake Theisen:

That's a good question. I do that a couple ways. I have a running tally of all the projects that we have done in house over the last 24 years, and all the bids that have come back for the actual construction. So we look at that record and see how it's trending. We look at the DOT standard costs every year, and then we also call local contractors. So if I'm working in Ashland I'm going to call a contractor in Ashland or Bayfield and say what is a cubic yard of concrete going for? Or, if we're working here I'm going to call one of your local contractors and get those. Then we take an average of all those prices and give you the best possible. This does not reflect that. This is a general place holder cost.

Troy Holm:

I guess my question would be would you use local or Pleasant Prairie businesses to finish some of this, to complete some of these things, like for planting?

Blake Theisen:

Absolutely. We are a design firm only. So once we would prepare the bid package, the plans and the specifications, we can assist the Village in bidding that out, and my hope is you get all local support.

Mike Pollocoff:

We have to get the lowest best bid no matter where they come from.

Blake Theisen:

But, you can go out and solicit contractors and make them aware of your bid package. And if you have certain local businesses that you want to make aware, absolutely. We'll call, you can call, either way. Always in our projects we try and have as little footprint as we can, so if you can reduce travel time and keep it local that's good.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions?

Jim Bandura:

I've got one question. I think the concepts came from that meeting and I think the concepts that you've developed have come a long way, and I think you've picked up a number of the comments from that past meeting. I guess from our point would we have to kind of like select a concept here?

Blake Theisen:

Thank you. I've skipped the next step slide here. So I guess what I'm looking for from you is to discuss it now, discuss it later, however you want to do it. Decide on a direction, whether it's A or B or some sort of combination. If you like an element of A but love the overall of B that's fine. We can shift things around. Then we will refine that into a master plan. We'll have one document which will be more detailed than these. We'll refine the cost estimate further and try to get it a little bit closer to what we think actual construction costs would be. And then the next step from there is to move into design and development and construction drawings. We get that bid package ready for construction.

Jim Bandura:

And the reason I would like to see that also, some kind of direction tonight, is because of mentioning that we may have somebody that will possibly dig that pond out at whatever cost. If we have a partnership with somebody on it, I think if they have some direction going forward I think that would help out a lot.

Blake Theisen:

That's a great point. At this point you could hand them a drawing like this but you're not going to get the end product you're going to need. I think you're right, you guys need to make a decision as to how you want it laid out and then we can move forward and get those construction drawings ready for a spring season. I assume that's when they anticipate it.

Jim Bandura:

And I'm open to discussing these tonight, too. I don't know about the rest of the Commission.

Blake Theisen:

I have all night.

Monica Yuhas:

One question. On the cost estimate for Concept B I do not see anything that has an auditorium or amphitheater on here. You had the outdoor seating by the lake but I don't see that on Concept B.

Blake Theisen:

There should be a shelter cost carried in there.

Michealene Day:

So it's incorporated in the shelter cost?

Blake Theisen:

Correct. The outdoor amphitheater seating is not a formal stadium seating. It would be flat limestone slabs set into the hillside. It would be very natural, informal, no this is my seat 23B type thing.

Monica Yuhas:

The only reason I'm questioning is because on Concept A, line 22, site amenities is \$120,000, and then also for Concept B main shelter \$120,000. So why is it the same for both when the B has—

Blake Theisen:

The shelter may be the same structure, but the actual seating would just be carried in the landscape.

Monica Yuhas:

Okay.

Blake Theisen:

That's a good question. Good detail on that.

Monica Yuhas:

Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Mike?

Mike Pollocoff:

Madam Chairman, I haven't reviewed this. I'm not sure if this has had an engineering or a staff review yet. I'd like to see—I think one of the things that we're going to need for the Parks Commission to make some decisions in the first instance is we know we're

dealing with the opportunity to have the pond excavated and graded. I think it would be nice to get an estimate or come up with a grading plan for one of the plans or a mixture of those, get that estimate. And then I think the other estimate that we need to have in here and I'm sure you have . . . in your contingency is what is the anticipated design expense for either proposal, to design it, prepare bidding documents.

Blake Theisen:

When we had initially submitted our proposal back in . . . we actually came up with an estimated cost for construction documents and I want to say it was low twenties . . . but that was before we knew about what was going to happen in this park. It could have been an athletic—it could have been a baseball stadium, it could have been—

Mike Pollocoff:

I'd like to see an updated estimate on what that design and bidding documents preparation document was. And I'd like to see itemized from that coming up with a grading plan to cut the pond and get that in place and make sure it works with the whole design. We're in our budget process so there's some level of work that we're going to want to do in this. I guess it's up to the Commission if you want to make decisions tonight on Plan A or Plan B or Plan C.

Michealene Day:

It would be my opinion we should wait until we actually have some numbers on what it's going to cost or as you had suggested.

Jim Bandura:

But, Mike, if I'm hearing you right if we give you some outline tonight they'll be able to give you the numbers, correct?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right.

Jim Bandura:

So we would in a sense have to give them direction on the concept going forward so that can happen. Am I correct?

Mike Pollocoff:

You're correct. The only thing from the staff's perspective we'd want to be able to take a

look at the surrounding land uses, match up grade, proposed grades, existing grades, make sure we're not impacting anybody else's property. And take that, just from . . . I've got a couple floodplain areas there that I'm concerned about.

Blake Theisen:

The northeast corner

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. I want to see how the landscaping doesn't seem to match up with that. We may want to do some different types of work in that floodplain area. It's not a bad plan. I'm not saying that. I just think it could stand some engineering review from the Village's perspective and get those issues—

Michealene Day:

So it is a viable plan.

Mike Pollocoff:

We could do that before the next Parks Commission meeting so you could have that input from the staff and make sure we've got all the lines covered. But I would like to see in the first instance at the next Parks Commission meeting a proposal for the grading plan because I think that's the critical path in order to, one, identify what that's going to cost to put together and, secondly, to get that queued up so that when John is faced with the decision of when that contractor is going to come in and cut the pond we can verify quantities and know what's going to come out of there and what it's going to take.

Blake Theisen:

I would agree with that. However, when I look at a site for grading I can't just put in the pond.

Mike Pollocoff:

No, that's why we'll have to come up—with whatever option we end up doing, that grading plan for the entire site is going to have to be done. I think we just need to get that grading plan, that topo, for that plan first and then we'll go from there to exact that out. I really doubt or I don't know of any big influx of cash that's going to get this built next year. That being said there are some things that we're going to be able to do on the short hand. If we've got that grading plan we're going to be able to know what we can do with that pond excavation, if there's a dirt balance that's going to allow us to do some of those undulating berms and put in the bio swales. We'll have all that information available to

us when that work is taking place.

Jim Bandura:

So, Mike, let me get this straight in my mind that just say we picked Concept B going forward you could put some numbers to that with some tweaking, am I correct?

Mike Pollocoff:

You mean the Village?

Jim Bandura:

Yes, the Village.

William Mills:

Or, would it be better, Mike, if you had both options to see what the grading cost would be once the Village staff goes through it.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. I want to see how either option is so I can make a recommendation to you what is going to be the impact on abutting properties. And we'd like to be able to have our engineers review their estimate sheet as well. So if you guys want to give a preference we'll definitely take a look at that as we look at these.

Michealene Day:

I think it's kind of early in the stages to actually—both of them are very similar and they've both got pluses and minuses. It would be great before we actually had a decision to actually have staff's because we may say we all love B and you come back and say it's not going to work because of this and this and this and this. Now we've got to change it and then we say, gee, after all the changes we really like A better. So it's better to have some Village engineering look at it first.

Blake Theisen:

I'm comfortable with both of these concepts enough to say that our design fee for moving forward would be comparable on either one. Basically we're taking many of the same amenities and just shifting them around the same board. So for me to design the rest of the park isn't going to be much difference. So if you want me to give you a proposal for construction documents I can certainly do that.

Mike Pollocoff:

That's good. I'd just like to see the topographic highlighted and separated out. We may fund that. I'm sure we would want to fund that in the first instance, maybe even later this year, and then put the park itself into the funding for the year after, after all the decisions have been made on what we're going to do.

Rita Christiansen:

I would like to hear what some of the people on the Board have to say about either one of these drawings still pending what you're requesting because I want to know what the rest of us do or don't like. There's no decision here tonight but I've very interested in what the other members of the Board have to say so I can kind of weigh that a little bit.

Monica Yuhas:

I'll start. With A and B being very similar and being asked in the working session when this was going on I tend to favor B more, especially with the outdoor seating by the lake. Is it hard to put in that type of seating once—let's say we were to go with Plan A and then we decide we want outdoor seating by the lake. Is it hard to put that type of seating in after a park has been established?

Blake Theisen:

You'd have to plan for that future amendment by shaping the land so we'd have to grade that bank. No, it's not hard to do.

Monica Yuhas:

But I'm looking at B and I like that amenity. And it would easier to eventually maybe put up some other outside structures in the open lawn in the green space as things develop or as the need arises. But they're very comparable. I also like the fact that there are two green spaces. So if you were to have an older group playing at one area you could also have a younger group or a different group playing a different sport at the north end. So I like the outdoor seating and I also like the idea of having the two green spaces that are separate from each other. That's what sells me on B.

Michealene Day:

I also like on B where you're right with the two green spaces and you're right with the auditorium-type structure. But I like where the playground is set having my children with different age groups. I have a younger one and an older one. When one is playing the problem I had at some parks was the kids are playing on here and then the playground for the younger one is way over here. So you're either with the young kid at the

playground and not watching your older one play, or you're watching and your little one is running all over the place. This is kind of centralized so you can keep an eye on your little one and still watch the other one play on the field as well. You're not stretched across the whole park if you have different kids trying to do different things.

Jim Bandura:

If I may I kind of agree with Monica on this. One of the issues I see is this actually brings people into the park, the roadway brings people into the park. The parking, if mom wants to take the kids directly to the playground that's fine, they can park right there. There can be different functions on the other parking. The amphitheater is a great amenity to this. One of the things is security. If the police need to come in at least the police can come into the park further on this layout. The only concern I would have is what Mike said, the wetlands or the grading on the corner up there I think that that green area can be tweaked to take care of that. So I'm leaning more towards the B concept.

Blake Theisen:

Let me make a real quick comment about that wetland corner of the floodplain. We've shown some basic colors there which would represent prairie or wetland, some sort of natural native planting area. We're not suggesting to come in here and grade protected areas. Again, this is the concept plan and it's very rough so we're just trying to portray the feel of the area.

William Mills:

I like many of the things other people have talked about. The B concept I think another nice concept with this is the fact that you have parking that's closer to the fishing pond so for those that might have a more difficult time to get back to the fishing pond. The other question I have is with the dog park or the dog run as it's called here. You've got 1,300 feet for the one concept and 1,800 for the other concept. Could you generally go over where you saw that fencing I guess for each one of the dog run areas?

Blake Theisen:

Sure. It would need to ring this kind of orange area designated as the dog run area. Because the shape changes in that longer stretch in A, that was the 1,800 feet.

William Mills:

And one of the reasons I was asking the question is in the Concept A it look as though part of the area that I thought would be the run with the fence is actually outside of the property there—

Blake Theisen:

Under the ATC line?

William Mills:

Yes. Yes.

Blake Theisen:

We had talked about that in the workshop session in July. For right now we're assuming that we can use a part of that land as long as there are no plantings, structures, rough grade. We have a call into ATC, I've called them several times over the last two months, and have not had any luck with a return phone call to verify that. We're still looking into that. If we can expand the project site a little bit by using that property it shouldn't interfere with any of their uses.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, for myself my concern with A was where the playground was by the back detention pond in close proximity. I felt like the rest of the members that spoke here today I like the way the road goes into, it has two parking spaces. It has more off . . . parking, obviously. I love the feature of the sitting area for possible picnics in the park type of thing. And I'm tickled that we're finally going to get a dog park. Thank you so much. So for me if I have to choose, if I was choosing between the two, it would definitely be B because I think there's a lot of opportunity, to Monica's point, to add other features if we needed to or to expand.

Glenn Christiansen:

I don't think I can add anything that's already been said. I go along with the B plan wholeheartedly. There's nothing else I can add to it. Monica said it best.

Michealene Day:

It seems everybody prefers the B one if it will fit.

Blake Theisen:

For what it's worth we prefer B, too. I think it's a more flexible design or use of the space. You're absolutely right, you hit all the things that we as a team looked at and said these are the strengths of the plan. The multiple open area, the amphitheater seating, the proximity to parking and the road configuration is a better use.

Mike Pollocoff:

We'll review this and back at our next meeting we'll give you our best estimate on what we think the costs are and what it's going to take to do B. As we look at the other information we can at that time fit that into the budget process next year.

Rita Christiansen:

And then, Mike, in regards to the family one, two and three, the site amenities, the opportunity to be consistent throughout our parks as far as benches or bike is that something we'd want to consider or not?

Mike Pollocoff:

We could. Some of our parks are just exposed to more vandalism than other parks. So we end up doing different things at different parks. We try to maintain a quality park furniture that goes in there where we can. But the new things such as solar powered headlights I think that's interesting. I think the jury is out on LED lighting for head lighting or street lighting. I think there's more time to go through with that. But I think the solar powered stuff is extremely interesting. Those are things I'd like to include in any of the parks we have.

Blake Theisen:

A comment on the LED. Our company has had a three year ongoing debate on this LED technology. So we ponied up and said, alright, we're actually going to install it in our office parking. So we installed four LED fixtures, parking lot fixtures and eight LED bollards. I'm 100 percent sold. The lighting is more uniform. Our electricity bill has dropped. The light is a different color. I can't explain it. You have to actually see the difference. If you've ever had an LED flashlight versus a standard bulb it's a different colored light. It's pretty interesting. We are recommending it. The cost difference is so minimal at this point. Everything has dropped in the last couple of years. Technology has caught up.

Jim Bandura:

I'm not opposed to the solar powered or the LED. I think we have time to decide on our furnishings on this, because in my mind this is a stand alone park and it's going to end up being one of our premium parks. I think we still have time on the deciding factor.

Blake Theisen:

Absolutely. And the reason we included that sheet is to let you start thinking about it. You can go one of two ways. You can fit the standard or you can create a destination. It

all ties into the theme of the park. You want to create a destination with amphitheater and shelter but you have a different style of bench and light. We would prefer and recommend you tie all that together. So it depends on what your ultimate goal is for the park. But, yeah, there's lots of time. I'm not saying the existing is substandard for the record.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions? Thank you very much.

Blake Theisen:

Thank you.

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

Michealene Day:

In our packets we do have an update for the bike and pedestrian trails plan. John, did you want to go into that for us?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Staff has gone through and updated many of the comments we had for the Parks Commission from the steering committees. I guess the only thing that really hasn't been incorporated yet, and that's just because we really haven't had a chance to meet yet, is Mr. Christiansen has gone through and kind of identified some areas which I believe that was handed out this evening of the natural area of the areas. It's kind of bounded by 165 and that Prairie Springs area. Some of the staff still has to go through with Mr. Christiansen to kind of figure out exactly how it's going to incorporate into the plan.

Otherwise the police department has looked it, community development has gone through and looked at it. They made sure any changes that they would want to have have been incorporated in that also, and it's really shaping up to be a pretty nice looking document. So I guess that we can either talk specifically about anything, any changes or any comments that we may have on the bike and ped plan at this time.

Michealene Day:

Does anyone have any comments or concerns?

Rita Christiansen:

So, John, did you say that the detail that Mr. Christiansen has proposed has not been

reviewed or incorporated any way in this plan, is that correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. After the last steering meeting that we had we were going to try to find some time to meet before the Parks Commission meeting but that hasn't happened yet.

Michealene Day:

So then we should probably not take any action until you take a look at this as far as the—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We can probably take action on everything exception for the natural Des Plaines area. There really is a specific area, and we do have another steering committee meeting yet. I believe it's later on this month yet. So I guess what staff would be looking for is any sort of general comments to make sure that the staff and the steering committee is headed in the right direction.

Michealene Day:

So everything other than this area is what we're going to—

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, that's correct. There's a kind of natural area between Prairie Springs Park and Lake Andrea a little bit and a couple of natural areas.

Michealene Day:

Other than this area here then does anyone have any comments or directions that they feel that is inappropriate or would like to see changed or isn't in agreement with?

Monica Yuhas:

I'm in agreement with what's being presented tonight pending the changes with Mr. Christiansen's comments.

Glenn Christiansen:

I would go along in general. I think we've done quite a good job of filling in a lot of the blanks in the community I would say aside from the natural areas I think deserve the full discussion on. I agree.

Michealene Day:

It seems, John, that we concur with the steering committee here with the direction that they're taking with this and can't see, other than further discussion on this paperwork that Mr. Christiansen gave us, we are in agreement.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, thank you very much. So I will plan on meeting with Mr. Christiansen before our next meeting to make sure we have an update on the plan for our November meeting. And I believe we have our last steering committee meeting later on in the month. So hopefully the next time that you see this document it will be in its final stage.

Michealene Day:

Because we do love what you've done and hooked the community together.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's been a group project with a lot of people but thank you very much. And then the second thing that the staff would like to recommend is we've been trying to come up with some sort of a uniform standard for signage. Keep in mind this is still a concept, but we were looking at trying to incorporate our Village logo with the same identification features and colors with the grass and some sort of an identification sign on the bottom. So when you're on some of these major trails you are going to know how far it is to the Village Green Center, to the RecPlex, to Illinois, Kenosha and other features. So really based off a lot of the comments that we had at the last Park Commission meeting this is kind of the next generation of signs that staff has come up with. I guess we would ask for any other comments on this sign, any color changes, anything like that.

Rita Christiansen:

My only comment would be, and I sent I believe to you, John, in regards to making sure that we keep in mind our global community in that because we host an international triathlon, I want to be sure that any signage we use is global because it will impact everyone that comes to the international triathlon, so to make it clear and easy.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. One of the things we tried to do to address that was to make sure that we used the appropriate bicycle symbol, that it's kind of globally recognized. So we tried to incorporate that into our Village logo sign to really give it that home grown flavor.

Michealene Day:

I do like on the bottom where you're telling us how far we actually have to pedal to get to work.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Or walk your bike.

Michealene Day:

Or whatever. Turn around and go home, it's closer.

Rita Christiansen:

So this is two separate signs or is this one sign?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It started off as two signs but it would be built as one sign and then staff would just go and put the lettering underneath. If this is the general direction that we're looking at going I would probably have our sign manufacturer mock something up that would be the background or color and dimensions and everything else. I just really didn't want to go through and invest that money into it until we were certain that really is the direction that we wanted to go with the sign.

Jim Bandura:

If I may, I kind of like this. It tells everybody everything. It tells you that you're in the Village of Pleasant Prairie, you're on a bike trail, and then you have the description at the bottom. So I think for uniformity I think this is a very good way to go and a very good start. You mentioned that you're going to make this into one sign?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct.

Jim Bandura:

I'm fine with it.

Monica Yuhas:

I like the consistency of sticking with what we were using throughout the Village as a whole. Good job.

Rita Christiansen:

I have a suggestion, John. On top of this would be the future for anybody that comes in for an Eagle Scout project, maybe do a comprehensive map of the trail.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, that would be perfect. We're always looking for Eagle Scouts and hopefully work on that in the near future.

Rita Christiansen:

That would work great with this.

Michealene Day:

You don't need a motion, just that we concur? We concur.

f. Discuss and Approve Agenda for 2009 Veterans Day Ceremony.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, Madam Chair. On November 8th at 1:30 p.m. the Village of Pleasant Prairie is proposing to host a Veterans Day ceremony. We have a preliminary agenda in front of you this evening. I'm not going to go through and read the entire thing, but it's going to be very similar to what we have done in the past.

One of the special things that we're looking on doing is having the dedication of our Korean War memorial. We are meeting with the members of that organization on Wednesday to go through and actually lay out exactly where the concrete is to be placed to have stone all set by the November 8th date. And also one of the Village employees who was a part-time worker was called up over to Iraq this past year and had asked if he could fly a flag in Iraq and send that flag back here or fly that flag during our ceremony. So that's something else that we're looking at doing during this. And InVEST is going through and serving refreshments at the end of the ceremony. So if there's any additions or anything else that the Parks Commission would like to see on this we would definitely include it in the program.

Jim Bandura:

You mentioned bringing that flag back here and flying it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes.

Jim Bandura:

Would you get it into the program then?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we would. We just want to make sure that it gets here first. And I talked with the boy's mother the other day, and I guess the flag was sent about two weeks ago, but sometimes it takes a while to be here. So as soon as we receive it we will go through and amend the agenda and have it included.

Troy Holm:

So what park is this going to be at?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

At Prairie Spring park at our Veterans Memorial, located in Veterans Memorial Ballfield by Prairie Springs at Terwall Terrace and 165.

Rita Christiansen:

If anybody has the opportunity to attend it is a very moving ceremony. I know I've seen Monica there. It's really a good thing to go and support the veterans. In regards to the flag I think that's a wonderful idea. When our son was over on his second tour of duty in Iraq State Representative Steinbrink sent Christopher a Wisconsin flag and they flew it. Even though he's stationed in Hawaii, he couldn't get the State Representative to do anything, so he reached back out to where his heart is in Wisconsin and received a flag. I know they flew it with a lot of pride and thank you very much for doing that. So if you have a chance to attend I recommend everybody go. It's really a great ceremony.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. It sounds like something that a lot of people go to.

Rita Christiansen:

So do we need to approve this agenda then, John, for the Veterans Day ceremony? It says discuss and approve.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe that that would be appropriate.

Rita Christiansen moved to approve the agenda for the 2009 Veterans Day Ceremony: Seconded by Glenn Christiansen. Motion carried 7-0.

Jim Bandura:

Subject to your getting the flag and amending the agenda.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct, thank you.

Michealene Day:

Motion carries.

g. Discuss and Approve 2010 Parks Budget.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The Village staff has been working to develop the capital component of all of the budgets, and specifically this one is the 2010 Parks budget. These are items that staff is proposing the budget but not guaranteed to be approved based off of the Village Board decisions.

And some of the items that the staff would like to see in the capital component of that is new park signs at Prairie Springs Park for an estimated cost of around \$14,000. Construction of a picnic shelter on the north side around that picnic area 2 and picnic area 3 site on the far west side I believe that its. Installing security cameras around Prairie Springs Park, the parking lot areas. Replacing a 1995 pickup truck, replacing a John Deere Gator utility vehicle, and then installing lighting at the boat landing by Lake Andrea on the north side.

Michealene Day:

The one item that isn't shown here is an item that we had just discussed a couple items above is the Ingram Park. Is that going to have to be the proposal for the drawings and everything else, is that going to have to be included into this budget plan? Or that something that would just come out of like the engineering budget?

Mike Pollocoff:

It would have to be included in the budget plan and that's why I was asking them to submit specifics.

Michealene Day:

So you can get it in there, that's what I thought.

Troy Holm:

You said in the low twenties, is that like \$20 or—

Michealene Day:

Or it would be \$20,000.

Troy Holm:

I had assumed, but making that clear.

Rita Christiansen:

The other thing, Mr. Russert had sent an e-mail and he had asked about the pier was it?

Michealene Day:

I thought it was the lighting for the pier.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's the lighting for the pier.

Rita Christiansen:

And is that on here?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, install lighting at boat landing at Lake Andrea.

Michealene Day:

It ended up getting on this one right there.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thanks.

William Mills:

John, the truck, that's a repeat request from last year, right, that obviously didn't get funded for last year's budget then?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Actually everything was funded in Parks as far as the capital that we needed. This is just replacing any capital that has met the age requirement for replacement.

William Mills:

So it's a different truck, because I believe last year's budget had a replacement truck.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, we did have a 1989 pickup truck, an old stick shift, an F-150 that was disposed of and we replaced it with a larger one ton vehicle.

Michealene Day:

Any comments or concerns with this budget? Any additions?

William Mills:

Just one more question. Phase 1 of a five year project, what does Phase 1 purchase for the security cameras in Prairie Springs Park?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe that there are four cameras that they'll be purchasing, and really our IT department is heading that up. But I'm pretty sure that they're trying to focus the areas around the parking lots just to make sure that they have a little bit of security and video surveillance in that area.

William Mills:

So that was a request of last year that didn't get funded?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, that is correct.

Mike Pollocoff:

I'm not sure, but I believe IT department has that funded and we're running that through the pool budget. We're putting in outdoor security cameras as part of that. It's not going to be throughout Pleasant Prairie but it will be in the parking lots along the street at RecPlex.

Rita Christiansen:

And then obviously when you have the security cameras you have to have the screens to see what's going on. Is there an intent to put those screens to monitor that where and who is going to do that?

Mike Pollocoff:

The security cameras aren't monitored on a full-time basis. They're in a couple places. One is over at the police department where they can call those up. This coming year the police department is going to be able to pull those up in the squad so it will all be AVL. So if they're coming up and get a call of a complaint of somebody doing some vandalism on a car at Prairie Spring Park, as they're proceeding to the park they can pull up the monitors and have it show on their laptop in the squad to see where it is. So dispatch will have it. They'll be able to see at RecPlex or IcePlex at the front desk because we have rotating security cameras looking through there. But I don't know of anybody, maybe in some places they do, we haven't identified a person who is going to sit there and watch the camera to see if somebody is doing something.

Rita Christiansen:

I wasn't sure how it worked.

Mike Pollocoff:

If there's a complaint we can go back and look at it. We've had really good success at Prime Outlets. We can find the license plate. We can look at a car. We can get a good look at a face with the cameras that are out there, so we're going to be using the same thing.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you for that explanation.

Jim Bandura:

Just one more question to John for my knowledge. You said three small picnic shelters and they're built by kit. What size are they?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe the shelters that we were looking at is around a 20 by 40 shelter, and we were looking at having the same construction that worked on the bridge and the playgrounds and some of these other areas around just in the construction of that.

Jim Bandura:

Very good.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And then if it is approved staff will go for design type and shape and all that before the Parks Commission before it would be constructed obviously.

William Mills:

Is there a high rental rate I guess, occupancy rate I guess of the shelters that we currently have in Pleasant Prairie?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We really don't have too many per se that are shelters. We do have the ballfield pavilion and the rec pavilion. Julie Beth over at the RecPlex has been doing an excellent job of renting all the picnic sites pretty much year 'round on weekends and at various events. So staff feels very strongly that we will be able to rent those and have our investment paid for in a very short time.

Michealene Day:

So I guess the only addition—

Rita Christiansen:

The only question I have and I haven't been over on that side of the park in a long time, there's portable toilets over there?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No, there are not. We do have a restroom facility in the rec pavilion which is very close

to picnic area 2, 3, 4 and 5. And then on the other side we have them in the ballfield pavilion, and then over by the new ballfields we do have some portables that are in there from March through November.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you.

Michealene Day:

So the one addition that we see on here is to provide for Ingram Park some engineering, budgetary design?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we'll go through and include those in our estimates to the Board.

Mike Pollocoff:

The engineering for a topographic map, topographic study. I think that's all we'd be looking to get really get done there this year. There will be some grading along with that pond digging that occurs. I think we talked about digging up what's out there and get some grass growing but not until we know what we're dealing with as far as the grades.

Monica Yuhas moved to approve the 2010 Parks Budget: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 7-0.

h. Discuss and Approve WI Marathon Resolution.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

This year Pleasant Prairie was host in May of 2009 of the Wisconsin Marathon. I believe it was even called the Cheese Heads Marathon which traveled throughout parts of the City of Kenosha and down along the lakeshore within Pleasant Prairie. We are looking at going through and renewing our contract with them and we'll need recommendation of a resolution to go before the Board as part of our contract talks for a race to be held on May 1, 2010. The race was well attended and we really did not have any problems. There was a lot of support with the area residents that were out there along Lakeshore Drive and some of the areas. The City and staff recommends moving forward.

Michealene Day:

Any concerns?

Rita Christiansen:

This was the same route they ran last year?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes.

Mike Pollocoff:

Except the return route. Before they didn't go into neighborhoods. We had runners going in both directions on Lakeshore Drive plus whatever cars were there. We want to get the runners on the return leg to go through the neighborhoods to limit the amount of time that they're all on Lakeshore Drive.

Rita Christiansen:

So street parking is there any consideration for that?

Mike Pollocoff:

On Lakeshore?

Rita Christiansen:

When they're running through the neighborhoods?

Mike Pollocoff:

I don't think that would be a big problem. We're just going to limit parking on Lakeshore Drive.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There were two components of the race I believe. One was a full marathon and one was a half marathon. I believe that the Village leg was just the second leg of the longer marathon. So you have much less, there's probably only 30 percent of the people in the race actually ran within Pleasant Prairie, where 100 percent of them ran in some of the northern boundaries up by Harbor Park up to by Carthage.

Michealene Day:

Entertain a motion to approve the Wisconsin Marathon Resolution?

Jim Bandura moved to approve the WI Marathon Resolution: Seconded by Troy Holm Motion carried 7-0.

- a. Discuss and Approve Moving Parks Commission Meetings to Wednesdays in 2010.**

Michealene Day:

As we all know we meet on the first Tuesday of every month, and the Village is asking us to consider meeting on the first Wednesday of every month.

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village Board and the Plan Commission is looking to move their meeting dates from Mondays to Tuesdays. Because one or the other eight times a year is getting moved anyway because of a holiday. So rather than juggling that as we go we're looking to move the Board to Tuesday. We suggested Wednesday, but if you wanted Monday would be open but then you would deal with the holidays as they came up. So Monday is an open day at the Village Hall and Wednesday is an open day. We're looking to have Parks and Rec to keep their first and second weeks, but if it's a Wednesday, really I think the only thing the Board would be looking for is that you pick your day. Wednesday would be fine. Only once in a blue moon we'd have to juggle some meetings because the Board of Appeals also meets on Wednesdays but they meet on demand. They haven't met in a year and a half. So that would be the only hiccup that might occur. They start a little bit earlier, and the Board would request that the time stay at six o'clock.

Jim Bandura:

Mike, you mentioned just the Village Board is looking to move or—

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village Board is looking to have the Village Board and the Plan Commission, so before the Board takes action they're walking this thing through all the Commission.

Jim Bandura:

Okay, and the Commission. So Village Board and Plan Commission will be meeting on suggested Tuesday.

Mike Pollocoff:

Those two bodies typically have the longer meetings. They've been on Mondays, so that's more of a juggling of schedules because people are going to those meetings when we have a holiday. If you were watching football last night there's really no football to watch on Monday nights anymore.

Rita Christiansen:

I don't know about that. So what would prevent them from moving to Wednesday and us keeping Tuesday?

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village Board?

Rita Christiansen:

Both the groups you talked about.

Mike Pollocoff:

You could recommend that to the Board if you'd rather meet on Tuesday than a Wednesday.

Rita Christiansen:

The only reason I'm bringing that up as a suggestion is because Mr. Russert has sent an e-mail saying that he would be unavailable to meet on Wednesdays. He has another commitment. He has been very supportive, comes to the meetings, adds a lot of very good input. So I would hate to have him leave the Board because he can't make the meetings.

Mike Pollocoff:

One thing we were looking at is having the Parks Commission, Rec Commission, any Commission that's making a recommendation to the Village Board have their meeting occur after the Village Board meeting so it would give us time to get an action item back on the agenda without waiting a long time. That's really the only other reason we're looking at a date beforehand. Otherwise we'd be pushing that—

Rita Christiansen:

Isn't there also some kind of State ordinance that we have to publish our agenda so many hours before we have the meeting?

Mike Pollocoff:

Twenty four hours.

Rita Christiansen:

So if we had it afterwards we wouldn't make that commitment then.

Mike Pollocoff:

If we had it before we wouldn't be able to bring an action item to the Board because we couldn't make our 24 hours so we'd wait the two weeks or whatever to get it on there. Sometimes that's not a big deal and sometimes it might be.

Jim Bandura:

This might be a weird question but what is our Village President's schedule between here and Madison?

Mike Pollocoff:

Monday and Tuesday are his opens.

Jim Bandura:

Are his open days?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yeah. And that's when they're in session. When they're not in session he's usually up there on a Wednesday or Thursday. But even when he does meet he drives back every night so he's generally back here for meetings anyway. I don't think that's an issue for him.

Michealene Day:

It's kind of a difficult—the last time we were on the Commission it was very difficult. This is the second time since I've been on this Commission since we've changed our date. And it is difficult, and it's difficult for everyone who volunteers because of other commitments. I can go either way. I guess to take a poll I guess is the best way to decide if we concur to move it to Wednesday or not.

Mike Pollocoff:

You could go to Monday, too. Monday would be vacated in the Village Hall.

Michealene Day:

So, Monica you go first. We'll go this way. Your opinion?

Monica Yuhas:

The one thing you have to think about is when there is a holiday when are we going to meet? So I'm in favor of Wednesday.

Glenn Christiansen:

I actually only have one night of the week that's a conflict for me and that would be a Tuesday night so-

Michealene Day:

Wednesday is better for you?

Glenn Christiansen:

Wednesday would work fine for me.

Rita Christiansen:

Based on the fact that I'd hate to have Mr. Russert us lose his expertise on this Board I would rather stick with Tuesday.

Troy Holm:

I'm indifferent.

Jim Bandura:

My feeling is that I'd like to stick with, have the Plan Commission and the Village Board Commission run the same days if needed because sometimes there's Village Board meetings that come before or after the Plan Commission because they're voting on similar items and rushing it through maybe if you want to call it that. So I would have a tendency to stay with it being on a Tuesday, but I'm not opposed to have this meeting on a Wednesday or Monday.

Michealene Day:

I didn't get an opinion. You've got to pick Monday or Wednesday or Tuesday.

Jim Bandura:

I'll stay with Wednesday then.

William Mills:

I would have conflict with most Mondays personally. Tuesday or Wednesday personally either day works for myself. I kind of echo Rita's concerns about losing a valued member of the Commission by changing to Wednesday.

Glenn Christiansen:

I would like to add that to mine also.

Monica Yuhas:

So do we need to take a vote on this to send it to the Board? Do you need a roll call vote on this?

Mike Pollocoff:

Not necessarily. That's up to you guys if you want to have a roll call.

Michealene Day:

So the consensus I hear here we'll have one of two things. What I'm hearing here is that we're either going to ask to stay on Tuesday or move to Wednesday, is that correct?

Rita Christiansen:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

Okay, all in favor of moving to Wednesday raise your hand.

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

That's four of us. All in favor of staying on Tuesday raise your hand.

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

So there's three.

Rita Christiansen:

Mike wants to stay on Tuesday. Does his vote count? So that makes somebody over there the tie breaker. Sorry.

Monica Yuhas:

I guess my question, Mike, is the following. If the Board decides we're meeting on Tuesdays and Plan is meeting on Tuesdays then Parks can't meet on Tuesday.

Mike Pollocoff:

I think as I understand your motion you're telling the Board to go find another day.

Rita Christiansen:

That's a polite way of putting it.

Mike Pollocoff:

I took it politely.

Monica Yuhas:

And I took it politely, too, but I don't-

Michealene Day:

I don't know that we actually have that option.

Rita Christiansen:

I think we can ask for anything we want at this point.

Mike Pollocoff:

The other thing you can do is ask for the fourth Tuesday of the month. Plan at least for a year one of the budget recommendations is to move Plan to one meeting a month.

Jim Bandura:

Move Plan Commission to one?

Mike Pollocoff:

Just one meeting a month.

Jim Bandura:

Based on what's happening in the Village?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. But if that changes then the Plan would be going back to two meetings a month.

Jim Bandura:

And then we couldn't really have the fourth Tuesday for the Parks Commission.

Mike Pollocoff:

No, it would just be short term.

Monica Yuhas:

Question. What about the first Thursday of the month? That used to be for School. School Commission has since dissolved. Maybe that would allow Mike to be able to attend on Thursday. If we don't do Wednesday we could meet on the first Thursday of the month.

Mike Pollocoff:

Thursday is open also.

Jim Bandura:

I don't have a problem with that.

Michealene Day:

Anybody have a problem with Thursday?

Voices:

No.

Rita Christiansen:

We might want to confer with Mike.

Michealene Day:

Well—

Rita Christiansen:

I'm sorry but he is a part of this Commission.

Michealene Day:

He is, however, we are trying to accommodate him.

Rita Christiansen:

And we don't know that Thursday won't accommodate him. So to allow him a change to respond considering that we've considered him in this whole process I think would be appropriate. Do you need a decision tonight, Mike?

Mike Pollocoff:

I think we might want a decision before you meet again. I guess if the Commission wants to take a vote and then give Mike the ability to change that if he can't do Thursdays.

Jim Bandura:

But the whole thing is we're meeting here right now to vote on this and it's unfortunate that he's not here. We have the majority of the Board here.

Michealene Day:

I'm not in favor of withholding this until we can get hold of Mike.

Jim Bandura:

I agree. We went from Wednesday to Thursday now, so Thursday everybody here so far that I've heard we're in agreement to do it on a Thursday. How many days are available for Mike to be here then? That would be a question.

Mike Pollocoff:

I don't know. I heard Wednesdays were bad, but I don't know.

Jim Bandura:

Again, I'm not opposed to having it on Thursday. I'm available. So if the Board here is in agreement to have it on Thursday I think we should leave it at that and let—

Michealene Day:

And hopefully he can make it.

Rita Christiansen:

And then step back in regards to your comment then, the vote was taken and four people said Wednesday would work and three opposed. So instead of going to Thursday then, would you not agree that you should stick with the vote that was on hand in the beginning?

Jim Bandura:

We certainly can do that.

Michealene Day:

And stay on Wednesday. But at least we're trying to say if Wednesdays is a bad day we can go to Thursday.

Jim Bandura:

If that's the case we'd have to rescind our vote right now, what we just—

Mike Pollocoff:

You can just vote again on a new date. If someone wants to make a motion to vote on Thursday then you have a vote on that. That's why I understand going to Thursday

because we knew Mike couldn't make it on Wednesday so if you want to go for Thursday? That's also an open day.

Glenn Christiansen:

So in other words next meeting we could possibly be voting for another meeting date?

Michealene Day:

No, we want a motion tonight.

Glenn Christiansen:

Oh, alright.

Rita Christiansen:

And the decision was Wednesday. That was the decision.

Michealene Day:

Well, we know that Mike can't make it on Wednesday. Do we want to reconsider and try to plan it on Thursday and the hopefully he can make it?

Jim Bandura:

I think if the Board right here is in agreement to have it on Thursday let's vote for a Thursday. I'm okay with that.

Michealene Day:

All in favor for Thursday raise your hands or aye.

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Opposed?

Rita Christiansen:

I think the first vote should count.

Mike Pollocoff:

Are you abstaining on that vote then?

Rita Christiansen:

Yeah, I am.

Mike Pollocoff:

Just so we can get it in the record.

Rita Christiansen:

I'm abstaining.

Michealene Day:

So we're going to recommend or ask that we meet on Thursdays.

Mike Pollocoff:

The other reason we're working to get this thing squared away is because the Village puts out a calendar every year that says what days everybody is meeting. We have to get that printed up and have it ready.

Jim Bandura:

Part of the problem is our constituents or our Village people they expect the Board to be on a Monday night and now we're going back and pushing and pulling the dates. I guess it's okay.

Mike Pollocoff:

One of the problems we found is when we move our date for a holiday it can be on the Kenosha News, it can be on our website, but inevitably there's people showing up here on Monday for a meeting and then they don't catch it that it's Tuesday. They think it's going to be the following Monday. That's why if we move away from the Monday altogether if there's a holiday on Monday it doesn't matter because the Board meets on Tuesdays. We plan on getting this out in the newsletter, it will be on the calendars which go to every single household in the Village and all the Commission dates and meeting dates are also on that calendar.

Michealene Day:

I have a question for you I just thought of, we've gotten pre-empted for elections on Tuesdays.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. And so on election day even numbered years there's three, odd numbers there's one. So you wouldn't be—

Michealene Day:

Because we'll be on a different day. But now what about the Village and the Parks Commission if it falls on an election?

Mike Pollocoff:

On election day there won't be a Board meeting.

Jim Bandura:

I've got a good idea. Why doesn't the Plan Commission and the Village Board change theirs to Wednesday then and we'll have ours on Thursday?

William Mills:

That is a good point. It's less . . . but it's still the same issue I guess if you move to Tuesdays.

Mike Pollocoff:

It's eight moves versus three moves.

Michealene Day:

Two or three. Okay, well, it was an unpopular vote and a little contentious I guess there at the end but we can't always agree on everything.

6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS

Glenn Christiansen:

I have a comment I'd like to read. Recently the Des Plaines River was listed by the Wisconsin Wetland Association as a 1 from 100 wetland gem in the State of Wisconsin.

This is rather an important distinction placed on the river although this did not come as a big surprise to anyone who has been familiar with the river. I have for most of my life witnessed firsthand many of the great things that can be seen along the river. I think it's been published by SEWRPC and the DNR that there are in the neighborhood of 220 species of birds that migrate through the river area or call it home. Considering what we've just seen this evening in regards to Chiwaukee Prairie that's an even larger number of bird species moving through the Des Plaines River.

Furthermore, there are in the neighborhood of at least 250 species of plants including grasses and wild flowers and sedges and so forth. Some of these plant species grow in the wetlands or in the prairie types or they grow in oak savannahs. This also includes 37 species of fish which is considered a rather healthy fish species population in any river system. I don't even know how many different types of snakes there are. There's at least one endangered species of snake, probably seven or eight turtles and one of them is a threatened species of turtles. The amphibians and mammals I don't even have a count on.

The point that I am trying to make is we are all stewards of this area in that we need to try to find a way to protect and preserve it. We are also obligated to share this land with the public. This may seem strange but this land was given to the Village with strings attached for it to be managed and to make it accessible to the public. I'm mentioning this because in many respects part of the reason why I spent so much time making up the proposal for the bike and walking trail system ties into this, and I think it's important we take into consideration that this land is in dire need of management and restoration.

In talking to some of the people I have worked with over the past 25 years or so, Lori Artiomow have come to the conclusion that we have probably lost somewhere in the neighborhood of two or three threatened or endangered plant species in the past 15 years which is about the time in which the Village started negotiating with The Nature Conservancy to acquire this land. It's kind of sad that as time goes on the rate of loss will not just continue at the same pace, the loss will accelerate dramatically. We've already lost one of the prairie remnants that did exist 15 years ago, along with the two or three threatened or endangered species.

So I think it is important that we somehow find a way to deal with the Des Plaines River. I know it's very difficult considering the budgetary constraints that have been put on everybody, but I do think that planning and discussion is important. I think one thing that would really be a great beginning would be to come up with a vision. I don't really believe considering over the years my discussions with Mike and John and Jean that we are all talking about the same ideas as to what to do with all the land currently owned and the lands that have been proposed to be included within these boundaries.

And I think it would be—I think it's imperative to have a comprehensive view, and I believe it's important that we have a vision, a common vision of what we want this whole

thing to be some day. Because some day we will all be gone but the river will still be there. What we decide in the next five or ten years will determine what future generations see after this area surrounding it is developed. And the development that has taken place over the past 50 to 100 years has done extraordinary damage to this river already. The clock is ticking.

So I do think it's very important that we try to discuss the river and come up with a united vision of it and try and find a way to accomplish these goals. It won't happen overnight. That's plainly obvious. Just listening to the young lady earlier this evening should give people an idea how difficult these things are to accomplish.

There's only one other thing I'd like to comment on. Two months ago a gentleman came in here and made some comments that I feel were in some ways directed at myself, and I would like to clarify a couple of things that were said. I met some people at the end of River Road from the DNR to discuss the management work that they had been carrying out. They had been brushing out the area, and the gentleman at the end of the road came over and asked what was going on. And I introduced myself as being a member of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission and that they were from the DNR and what they were doing.

He was very unhappy with the idea that the brush was being knocked down. He was really—he felt that there was nothing wrong with the area. I tried to explain to him that it was a sound management plan and practice and it needed to go forward because we were obligated to go forward with this. He continued on by explaining that he did not want to see or hear the Interstate. I told him that unfortunately he was going to have to get used to the fact that this plan was going to go forward because of all of the work that had gone on to get to this point in the first place.

I'm not going to go through the whole conversation because I think some of the rest of his conversation speaks for itself. But there was one comment in there that I really take exception to. He asked if there was anything else going on and I told him that there was planning for bike trails and that there was a proposed trail to go around the field. That he got rather argumentative about, and he said that there was nothing wrong with the trail going through the middle of the field. I said there is a problem with it. The first 100 feet of it whenever there's any heavy rain is a muddy trail. But I told him it was only a proposal for there to be a trail to go around the field. His comment that night that I said that the trail was going to go around the field and that he was going to have to get used to it was never said by me and I do take great exception to that.

I work very hard on this. I can't tell anybody the hours I have spent over the years on this area. I had a conversation with the other gentleman that was in here that night and afterwards he agreed with some of the things that were said that really were not accurate. So I guess I'll leave it at that. I think I more or less have gotten out in the open what has bothered me for the last two months. I felt that I finally reached the point where I had to

say something about this.

Michealene Day:

Thank you for your comments. I agree with most everything you said, yes. Thank you.

Glenn Christiansen:

I would say in the future that when somebody comes in like that I wish we would stop the person with a time limit. I know that somebody has got to unload, but allowing somebody to blame the Village for things that are his own responsibility, and I talked to Lori Artiomow about it and she agreed that some of the mowing that went on down in the field was not the Village's responsibility or fault and it created a problem, and that mowing came from his land. So to stand there and blame the Village for trespassing and blame me for things that weren't said I think really—and perhaps you just have to let these people say their thing and let them walk out the door. I don't know. But it bothered me.

I've taken this all very much to heart over the years on the Des Plaines River and I feel very passionate about trying to get something positive accomplished, and when somebody comes in here talking like that I suppose I fear that it may damage the process and that we may shy away from doing the things that we really need to do.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Monica Yuhas moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by William Mills. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.