

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARKS COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
November 3, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Glenn Christiansen, Michael Russert, William Mills, Monica Yuhas, Troy Holm, and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2, voting member). Rita Christiansen was excused. Also present were Mike Pollocoff, Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Director of Public Works and Ruth Mack, Executive Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE OCTOBER 6, 2009 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Michealene Day:

In your packet you have your October 6th Parks Commission meeting minutes. If there's no additions or corrections can I entertain a motion to accept the minutes.

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

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Approve Lake County Forest Preserve District Land Management Agreement**

Michealene Day:

Also in your packet there is an agreement that, Mike, as I understand it the Village and the Forest Preserve got together and hashed out terms and conditions.

Mike Pollocoff:

Sure. And I think everything in the agreement is in order Madam Chairman. There is one thing that I would recommend, an amendment to the agreement to this language. I don't think it's

problematic. But in Section 2, Paragraph 3, they're using the Illinois EPA Smoke Management Plan as their basis. I want that to be attached as an exhibit to the agreement so we all know we're talking about the same thing. I don't know if it's different from Wisconsin's, but I don't have a problem with using theirs as long as we have a copy of it made part of the agreement. Other than that I'd recommend that the Commission give a favorable recommendation to this to send to the Village Board.

Michealene Day:

With the amendment to change we'd like the Illinois EPA's Smoke Management Plan attached, can I entertain a motion to accept the agreement?

Glenn Christiansen moved to Approve Lake County Forest Preserve District Land Management Agreement with conditions recommended by Mike Pollocoff: Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 7-0.

b. Receive and Discuss Bike & Pedestrian Trails Plan Update

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening. Village staff has been taking a lot of the work that's been in progress on the bike and ped draft plan on the actual map and determining what sort of signage that we will recommend to the Village Board to use for signing all of our Village bike routes. Over the last couple months we've had many different variations of what we wanted to see for that. And I believe that hopefully this should be one of our final projects or products if adopted or approved by the Parks Commission this evening.

It takes the Village logo, it takes the Village colors and then the international bike symbol and kind of incorporates it all very nicely into a sign. And something else that we have the scenarios where we want to have some sort of a mile marker saying RecPlex two miles ahead, Prime Outlets a mile and a half towards the right. We can come up with just a separate smaller sign underneath that's blank where the public works department would go through and put that lettering on depending on whatever is appropriate for that. So I guess I would ask for any comments or questions on the actual sign itself.

Michealene Day:

I think it looks wonderful. Any other comments?

Jim Bandura:

Just a quick one, John. You said there will be an informational section below it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It may not be on all of them, it will just be on ones that appropriate to have it. And we haven't gone through and identified exactly where all the locations are yet, and that's something that we'll probably have before our December meeting. But it's something that at least we'll have available. And then as things change or as new areas pop up we'll be able to go down and actually use these same base signs for a long period of time but then just make the other ones in case something changes a little bit a more cost effective way to manage it.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments? Motion then to accept the signage?

Jim Bandura moved to accept bicycle signage recommendation: Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you. And then the next component we had was a copy of our actual bike and ped plan. Our steering committee had met a couple weeks ago, spent a lot of time going through the last and final hopefully revisions that we have on there. And then Kevin with the bike and ped plan had taken the SEWRPC plan that we had and make sure that any pieces that we had missing out of that SEWRPC plan were added into here as far as the main trunk bike routes.

Probably one of the last things that we'll end up doing, if this is going to end up being pretty close to what our final product is going to be, is sending it off to Bristol and the City of Kenosha just to make sure that they're aware of what's going on and if they would have any last comments. Give the Parks commission one more month just to make sure if there's anything else they would like to see. Then I think we should have a pretty decent map for our bike and ped plan. That's really staff's plan for this map. And then if there's any other comments obviously based on it, we can make those before we wrap this up in December.

Then the final component of it, which I'll probably e-mail out in about a week to the Parks Commission so you'll have like three weeks to review it before our next meeting, is the actual bike and ped plan document. So anyone that's on the steering committee should have received that probably a week ago. And we kind of want the steering committee to go through and make whatever comments that they have first and then staff recommendations, and then we'll send that off to the Parks Commission for their approval or changes and revisions.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions about the map and the work? Any questions on any of the bike path at all?

Glenn Christiansen:

I have one little comment I would like to make. In our last meeting the question came up, and maybe you recall it, John, where we talked about—somebody asked you the question about the surfaces of some of these off road trails like off from the Des Plaines River. And you said something about doing it with wood chips and that. Would it be possible to add language in there as say and/or gravel. Maybe it never happens, maybe the funding somewhere along the line would make it possible, but it's mentioned in there so it doesn't make it harder to access? I don't always understand how these grant things work.

Wood chips are better than dirt, gravel is better than wood chips. Wood chips can burn. Gravel once it's laid and compacted typically stays in place and then it becomes a rather low maintenance item. But I also realize like what we were saying is, yes, it is expensive. But that would be the only comment I would have is if we could possibly change that language just so we don't maybe create a problem for ourselves later on if we were writing for a grant, so that we don't limit ourselves.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that makes great sense. And I do agree with you. I would probably not recommend any wood chip paths at all. I would really like to see the gravel at the bare minimum just from a maintenance standpoint and rain.

Glenn Christiansen:

Maybe I misunderstood.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So I will agree with that. Even with the trails that we have in the woods I'd like to see those all as gravel at the end of the day. So I'll make sure that we make a comment in the draft plan itself to address that.

Glenn Christiansen:

Okay, very good, thank you.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments? A motion then to accept the trails plan update?

Jim Bandura moved to accept the Bike and Pedestrian Trails Plan update: Seconded by Monica

Yuhas. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Discuss and Approve December Parks Commission Meeting Date Change

Michealene Day:

Last month we had discussed changing the Parks Commission meeting dates. I see that's on our agenda, Item c.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There was a conflict with the Village Hall for our next Parks Commission meeting, and so we're looking at doing an alternative day. And since we had already approved Thursdays for the 2010 year, we had thought that possibly we could change it to a Thursday of either December 3rd or December 10th based on the Commission recommendation for that.

Michealene Day:

I know, Jim, you had said the 3rd was better for you. Is there a day that was better for staff?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Either one really works. The 3rd is fine with staff if that's what the Commission recommends. I have no problem with it.

Michealene Day:

How's the rest of the committee? Is the 3rd a bad day for anyone?

Monica Yuhas:

I'm in favor of the 3rd.

Michealene Day:

Hands showing I guess the 3rd is okay with everyone? It's unanimous so, yeah, December 3rd is terrific.

6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Anyone have any comments or suggestions?

Michael Russert:

I have two comments. One for the 2010 budget, when is that submitted to the Board for review and approval?

Mike Pollocoff:

It's gone to the Board. They approved last night the budget to be set for public hearing. That's going to happen on November 23rd. John probably knows off the top of his head what was funded and what wasn't funded in this year's budget. And we based that off the small working session we had with the Commission on the budget projects, pardon me, the capital projects.

Michael Russert:

So I guess were all the capital projects approved?

Mike Pollocoff:

No.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The light at the boat launch was not approved. The picnic benches and shelters were not approved, and there was one other one also that was not approved. So I believe that none of the new programs that we had in the Parks Department were approved. It was a pretty tight—actually, the Emerald Ash Borer program was approved for \$50,000, and that really took a big chunk. As everyone knows there was an Emerald Ash Borer that was found in a trap on State Highway 31 and 50. So as a preventative measure the Village Board authorized us to go through and do a quick initial survey of how many ash trees that we have within the Village right of way. Staff went out and found about 1,100 ash trees within Village right of ways. Some of them are structured ones in subdivisions and other ones are just out at the parks and Lake Andrea areas.

So we had called up a couple different companies. Mike had done a lot of research and done some work with the DNR, and there is an injection process which has worked really well in Michigan to salvage some of these trees when the Emerald Ash Borer really comes into full swing. And so as a preventative measure to save these ash trees against the ash borer we are budgeting for \$50,000 to go through and treat all the ash trees in Village right of ways. And we also plan on opening that up to any residents that want to be a part of this, and they'll probably be seeing this in an upcoming newsletter. If they tell us how many ash trees and the size that they have they would have to pay for it obviously based on how many trees and the diameter of the tree, but they would benefit by having a large volume discount rate. So a majority of the money for parks went into saving the ash trees.

Mike Pollocoff:

The other item that was funded was \$20,000 for a grading plan for Ingram Park to get that in place.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's correct. So there was about \$70,000 that was approved and it goes for those two projects.

Michael Russert:

My next comment is regarding his—in developing the parks have we ever thought about creating a sledding hill? For example when we do Ingram Park and dig the pond what will we be doing with the fill?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

A lot of the fill material is going to be hauled out by a contractor to use for other construction projects. So I have been in contact with a contractor that's looking at potentially needing around maybe 50,000 or 60,000 cubic yards which is very close to the size of what the Ingram park and detention basin would be. So we would be hauling that off site. But there's no reason why we can't go through and identify the different needs in with that park. And you'll probably be seeing the Ingram Park plan back on the agenda again in December. We are working on the development of some of that grading plan and some of the things that we had talked about in the previous meetings and open house.

Michael Russert:

But in the past there's never been discussion about creating a sledding hill?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No, there has not.

Michael Russert:

Okay, thank you.

Glenn Christiansen:

Just out of curiosity, I think I've asked this question before and I think I forgot what the answer to it was. When Sewage Treatment Plan D goes out of service what will ultimately be done with that piece of land?

Mike Pollocoff:

The plant is going to stay there. We have a lot of infrastructure that runs the sewage through that site.

Glenn Christiansen:

So it will remain as like a pumping station?

Mike Pollocoff:

Well, no. The tanks will be gone, and all the structures except for the building, because we still do lab work so that building will remain there. But the digester, the clarifiers, all that stuff, the chlorine contact basin, all that stuff is going to come out. And we'd be looking to basically take the land that is to the south of the plant, which is the old plant, the old lagoon that's got a lot of fill in that and grass and capping that off.

Glenn Christiansen:

Because there's that large pile of fill material that was removed from under River Road placed there back in '92, and I don't know how many—

Mike Pollocoff:

There's all sorts of fill back there.

Glenn Christiansen:

I remember that hill all of a sudden like, oh, so that's where half of it went. But there's a huge pile of fill material there. And if parts of that were going to be turned into park some day what do you do with the piles?

Mike Pollocoff:

We can cap that off and use it as park and open space, but it's the former wastewater treatment plant, but it's going to sit as a capped area forever because part of that old sewage plant was the activated sludge lagoon that didn't work very well. It's one of the reasons we came up with the plant money back in '67 or '64. So that will stay there. Anything we can find that's somewhat passive that's going to meet the standards for an abandoned plant site that's what we're going to do. We don't know of any problems we have there, but on our permit it's not going to allow us to do anything there other than open space. There is a sledding area. We don't discourage people, but if you've ever seen the 85th Street detention basin, it's on the south side of 85th Street about 43rd Avenue, it's a really deep basin and it's dry. It doesn't have water in the bottom of it.

Glenn Christiansen:

It does not have water in the bottom of it?

Mike Pollocoff:

Well, unless—it's dry.

Glenn Christiansen:

Not standing. It's not permanent water.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. It actually has a concrete gutter in the bottom of it. I know a lot of kids or people sled on that thing. You can get a pretty good run and there's a nice flat area to slow down on it. I haven't done it myself but I've seen a lot of them that use it. So it's probably the biggest hill in Pleasant Prairie. It's going down into a hole, but that's open space that the Village owns, too.

Glenn Christiansen:

That's the tough part when you don't have a hill.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

Troy Holm:

Just a reminder that the Veteran's ceremony is this weekend, Sunday at 1:30.

Michealene Day:

And Ruth has told us that the weather has promised to cooperate, that we should have 60 degree weather. The flag, we did receive the flag so that's terrific.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Troy Holm moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:20 p.m.