

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
August 5, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Thursday, August 5, 2010, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Monica Yuhas, Steve Kundert, William Mills, Jim Bandura (Alternate #2). Troy Holm was excused. Also present were John Steinbrink, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works; Tom Shircel, Assistant to the Village Administrator; and Ruth Mack, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE JUNE 3, 2010 PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

Rita Christiansen moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the June 3, 2010 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Steven Kundert. Motion carried 7-0.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizens were present.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Receive and approve the annual compliance monitoring report from The Nature Conservancy with respect to the conservation easement on 443 acres of land located in the vicinity of the Des Plaines natural area.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and the rest of the Park Commission, we received a letter from Jerry Ziegler who is the Land Steward of The Nature Conservancy. It's in regard to the Des Plaines River annual compliance monitoring. On an annual basis a representative from The Nature Conservancy goes out and monitors the area to see what improvements have been done, if it meets their expectations of what was supposed to be done as part of the agreement that the Village has with The Nature Conservancy.

I can read a component of this in for the minutes:

“Mr. Steinbrink, On July 2, 2010, I completed the annual visit to monitor compliance with the terms of the conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy on 443 acres of land in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. The property was inspected on foot and by vehicle and the land use practices observed are consistent with the agreement.”

“Your response to my request on Aug. 25, 2009, regarding incursions by ATVs from the end of the River Road cul-de-sac exceeded my expectations. So often, I see that solutions to problems on our preserves and easements are mostly successful but that part of the problem lingers. In this case, your installation of a locked gate at the end of the cul-de-sac appears to have eliminated the problem since there is no evidence of any ATV tracks in the area. The fencing adjacent to the gate appears to have contributed to the solution.”

“The removal of trees on village property adjacent to the Protected Property has not only improved the ability of police and conservation wardens to monitor the area but also has improved the view of the wetland for visitors.”

“And the addition of ‘No Hunting’ and ‘No Parking Dusk to Dawn’ signs are also welcome.”

“Thank you” and we ended up signing that and returning back to him. So just to report I can answer any questions that the Commission may have on that.

Michealene Day:

Any questions or comments? Thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you.

b) Receive and discuss Des Plaines area management activity report.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, Madam Chair and the rest of the Commission, I believe it was at the last meeting Mr. Christiansen had asked for an update on what some of our Des Plaines management area activities are. I am in correspondence with Marty Johnson. He’s one of the representatives from DNR. We do plan on scheduling a meeting within the next several weeks. Because of vacations and everyone’s prior commitments we were not able to meet unfortunately before this meeting, so I’ll probably have more of an update that I will

add to this report.

In 2009 some of the management activities that have been taking place—well, first, on the screen in front of you it kind of shows the project area that we have. The project area is the area that's highlighted with the yellow circle here. Some of the items that were done in 2009 is we did brushing in field one which is just to the west or the southwest of the end of River Road and also on field two which is just to the south east of the cul-de-sac and River Road. We ended up mowing brush, mainly buckthorn, and we mowed a fire break, installation of a locked gate and some signage installed at the end of the River Road cul-de-sac.

Then beginning in the winter of 2010 we did some herbicide treatment. And then we're hoping to get some more brushing done in fields three and four which is the woody area just to the southwest of where field one is identified up on the map. We have repaired some fencing at the end of River Road cul-de-sac, removing some trees and installing some more signs.

It is a plan in 2011 management activities to do some more herbicide treatment, do some fire breaks and do our first burns in the area and continue the fire breaks and burns in 2012.

Over the past winter we did have two of our park staff, both our park foreman, Leroy Uhlenhake and Kevin Meyers go through the DNR burn certification classes. So we do have two people on staff in the parks department who are certified to burn but they are lacking experience on it. And one of the projects we're looking at or one of the capital projects or new programs we're looking to propose for 2011 is to develop a burn team of qualified people whether they're part of other organizations that burn in the Chiwaukee Prairie, DNR staff or any fire personnel or trained personnel. And so I will give you another update based on our meeting results with Marty Johnson as soon as we have that within the next several weeks.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Any questions or comments?

Glenn Christiansen:

The only question I have, part of The Nature Conservancy property that has always been overlooked, and I'm not going to explain why, but it's probably the most critically in need of management portion of this property is what was once formerly known as the Moore property directly west of the road just north of the project boundary shown on the map. In other words directly north of field one.

Michealene Day:

Can you show us on that map?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Is this the area that I'm kind of highlighting up on the screen, Mr. Christiansen?

Glenn Christiansen:

Just go down to the white line. Right there.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

This area along here?

Glenn Christiansen:

It's about 200 feet wide perhaps and it runs the full length of that north boundary from the road all the way out to the corner where the line turns south. That is part of The Nature Conservancy property. I don't know how it was overlooked all these years but the Village does own that property. It should have been included in this because, as I stated, I'm not going to say why but that was more in need of management work than any other part of these four project parcels.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, maybe another activity that we can include for 2011 then will be including a survey of the actual property corners. Because I know the couple times that I've been out there it's very difficult to see. It's very easy to see something on a map when you have the lines on the map, but unfortunately those lines are not out on the property. So maybe it will be worthwhile to invest in the survey, and that's something we can pass through the budget and put some sort of pulse or property markers, fenceposts and paint them orange or something like that so we're making sure that we do include all the proper management in the areas that we're supposed to.

Glenn Christiansen:

I would also include that nothing should be done on that property without first talking to Marty Johnson and Lori Artiomow because they're perfectly aware of what is in need and what the concerns on that property are.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, and they'll both be included in the meeting that we're looking at within the next

several weeks. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments or questions?

Rita Christiansen:

John, I have a comment. I noticed now that we can see the river which is lovely, thank you very much, you can actually see people canoeing down the river when you go down the cul-de-sac which is nice. There's a lot of wood chips there. They're in piles. Is there any way we can use that in the Village and distribute that for use within different parks?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We actually have a pretty big abundance of wood chips, but that's definitely something we can pull off of that site as soon as the ground conditions allow and clean that up. I can add that onto one of the management activities either when it gets really dry or when it gets frozen, whenever we can get the machinery out there. So we'll definitely make sure that we include that.

Rita Christiansen:

Is there an opportunity to spread it where you come up on the bridge or something to help stabilize that land right there?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure. Another one of our projects for fall of 2010 moving into spring of 2011 is hopefully extending that bridge an additional 400 feet. The main component that we're missing is award of a DNR grant that would pay for the material of that bridge. We still have the construction group out at the local high school willing to provide the free labor as they did the other part. So we're just hoping to get a grant. We've talked with several people from the DNR, and it sounds like it's scoring relatively high. So we're hoping to have an answer within the next month or so to find out if we can do that. It really is going to be a nice addition to that area and allow people to traverse over that wet area during most of the times of the year.

Rita Christiansen:

It looks really nice. Everybody did a really good job. Thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

6. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Earlier we were informed of and most of us could not attend the awards ceremony for the Eagle Scout that did some work for us. I do believe, Steve, you attended that meeting?

Steven Kundert:

Correct, I did.

Michealene Day:

Do you want to tell us a little bit about the ceremony? I just found it very interesting. I was sorry I couldn't attend also.

Steven Kundert:

Sure. And I apologize. I had the program for the ceremony and I neglected to bring it in today but I can probably track that down and bring it in for the Commission to see. As I was speaking to you earlier, I was coming from a perspective of not being a Scout myself and not familiar with really the ceremony either for the Eagle Scout award or really the ceremony involved with the Scouts in general. So it really was a neat ceremony to both be a part of and to experience. There were comments from various leaders within the Troop or the group, and really kind of a testimony to the young man's progression through the Scout ranks, and then a description of the actual project that was done. Then speeches by various members of various Scout leaders throughout both the immediate area and the region. Then various awards from the municipality, from the police department, from I believe the fire department as well as John Steinbrink speaking as well as our local State Senator.

It was quite moving. I think it was well served. I did not get a chance to speak personally, but I know that Mr. Steinbrink did represent the Village and our appreciation of the work the Scout did. I would encourage everyone on the Commission that if you do have the opportunity to see this ceremony at some point in the future to go because it's very evident to how much work was put into achieving that rank and the work that went into the project at Lake Andrea and everything. So it was time well spent and, again, our gratitude goes out.

Michealene Day:

Thank you for representing us. We appreciate it. Did anyone have any other park comments?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Glenn Christiansen moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:15 p.m.