

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
October 7, 2010
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Thursday, October 7, 2010, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Monica Yuhas, Steve Kundert, Troy Holm, Jim Bandura (Alternate #2) and Cindy Schwab (Alternate #1). Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen and William Mills were excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; Tom Shircel, Assistant to the Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Director of Public Works; and Ruth Mack-Stoner, Executive Secretary. One citizen was present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Michealene Day:

Before we get into the next session of our meeting, we have a new alternate that I'd like to introduce to the rest of the Commission, Cindy Schwab. Would you like to tell us a little bit about yourself and we'll introduce everybody else.

Cindy Schwab:

Okay. I work for Grow Rite Landscaping. I'm a certified arborist and I have an under grad degree in parks and recreation and one in urban forestry. I'm just kind of passionate about outdoors and about parks and things like that.

Michealene Day:

Welcome. And, Jim you want to introduce yourself to Cindy?

Jim Bandura:

Hi Cindy. I'm Jim Bandura. I work for Walgreens in the facilities planning department, and I am coordinator in their department. We build the new stores, remodels, etc. So the construction field is my bag if you want to call it that.

Michealene Day:

And I'm Mickey Day with DK Contractors. And I've been on this Board for over two

decades and I Chair the Commission. Welcome aboard.

Monica Yuhas:

Hi, Cindy. I'm Monica Yuhas. I serve on the Village Board. I'm on the Community Development Authority and I also serve on the Park Commission. I work for an accounting practice in Kenosha, and I've lived in the Village for 15 years.

Troy Holm:

Hi Cindy, nice to see you again. Troy Holm, Trustmark Insurance Company. I'm an actuary there. I, too, started out as an alternate with the Park Commission about two years ago. Nice to meet you.

Steven Kundert:

Welcome. My name is Steve Kundert. With the exception of you, I was the newest or am the newest member of the Board so I'm glad not to be the rookie anymore.

Michealene Day:

Terrific. Back to our agenda.

3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2010 PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monica Yuhas moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the September 2, 2010 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 6-0.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

All we ask is that you come up and speak into the mic and please give us your name and address please.

Mike Schmitz:

My name is Mike Schmitz. I'm at 9525 River Road. I came before you guys about a year ago with some concerns about the Des Plaines River natural area and the possibility

of a trail running down my property line. John Steinbrink reassured me that there's no plans for that trail going down the property line. I'm here today because I guess the agenda has something that's got to do with what the DNR plans are for next year. I complained about a trail going down my property line, but now this year there's like absolutely no trails anywhere over there for anybody to wander around and enjoy the area. I'm just kind of wondering what is going on with that as far as planned trails and stuff like that.

And then I just have one suggestion as far as down by the cul-de-sac at the end of River Road, if possibly we could put a garbage can or something down there, chain it to one of the posts or something like that so that maybe somebody might see the garbage can and start throwing stuff in the garbage can instead of just on the ground. That's all I've got.

Michealene Day:

Thank you, Mike. John, I don't know if you could address the garbage can or any of his other concerns.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, I can, Mike. John Steinbrink, Director of Public Works. I do remember having conversations with you in years past. There is a trail that's planned to go from the end of the cul-de-sac of River Road on to where the bridge is. And I think the main concern was that it follows your property line towards the river and that's still the case. That really hasn't changed whatsoever. Probably the only maintenance that you're going to see and we actually address in one of our items this evening is where the fire break is going to be, because we are looking at doing some prescribed burns in the area as a part of the management.

As far as the garbage can I normally don't put garbage cans at the end of cul-de-sacs because then they become spots for mattresses and other things that kind of build up. So maybe that's something we can address about potentially doing, but normally we don't because then I end up having to put one at the end of every dead end road.

Mike Pollocoff:

They're almost magnets. I think when we get to the point when the trail is actually constructed there, and the purpose I think at that point would be for somebody on the trail to have a place to dump something, but it wouldn't be on the road where people could stop and empty out. They'd probably still try to stop and empty stuff out at the end of the road. But we've done that in the past and I think Carol Beach is probably the area where we've done it the most. We're almost at the point where we need a roll off there because once you put something there then everything starts going at a remote site. But when the trail does go we're going to want to have trash cans along the trail before you get to the

road so it's really meant for the trail users and not for somebody that's just looking for a place to dump.

Michealene Day:

Does that address some of your concerns?

Mike Schmitz:

Kind of. I assume most cul-de-sacs aren't right at the edge of a park is my thing. And people are parking there specifically, eating their lunch or whatever and throwing it out the window. Most cul-de-sacs in Kenosha are just that, cul-de-sacs, where as this is more of a parking area for a park. I understand it would be a magnet, but the place is already kind of a magnet for dumping. I'm basically dragging everything back to my property and throwing it in my garbage can. I'm just looking at not having to drag it so far. And the fact of maybe people would be more apt to use the garbage can or a garbage can.

Michealene Day:

Thank you, Mike. Anyone else have any comments? Okay, thank you. Maybe you could come more than once a year. We like comments from the citizens.

Mike Schmitz:

You don't get many out here.

Michealene Day:

No. We enjoy having citizens participate in the process. Come more often. Thank you.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Receive and discuss the DNR 2011 management plan for the Des Plaines natural area.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and the rest of the Park Commission, on the screen shown above you will see the project area of just one component of the Prairie Springs natural area which is generally located just to the northwest of the wooded area and Lake Andrea and just almost due south of the end cul-de-sac and River Road.

A little bit more in detail, and you can kind of see this area right up here where I'm flashing the mouse is the cul-de-sac area and the River Road. So the area that we're

looking to do some work on in 2011 as part of our management commitment that the Village has with The Nature Conservancy will be in the spring to go through and do two controlled burns on tract one which is just under 20 acres, and it's really just south and west of the cul-de-sac. And then on field two or tract two it's 18.8 acres just to the south and east.

The Village has been working with the DNR and other organizations through grants and anyplace that we can get our hands on a little bit of funding. And we've gone through and taken out invasive trees and species. And we do plan on cutting some fire breaks in this fall yet and probably within the next couple weeks because now the weather is conducive for that. And so when the time comes in the spring we can do our burns. Our burns will be done with the DNR being the lead for these burns utilizing some of our certified park staff, our fire department and any certified volunteers that we can develop over the course of between now and spring.

This field was last burned in 1993 by The Nature Conservancy before it was like given over to the Village, and it's been part of our maintenance responsibilities that we haven't been able to do over the last 17 years to go through and take care of this to really bring it back to more of a natural area. And so Lori Artiomow, I guess it started when we had a grant about four years ago, and Lori Artiomow who is an environmental biologist went through and developed the actual plan for this, did some survey of the areas and actually did a really great job with that. Now we're just following some of those plans and making sure that it's in conjunction with our commitment or our conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy.

So we do plan in the spring on burning tracts one and two which is just under 40 acres, and then also doing brushing on fields three and four on there also. So that's really just some of the first phases to some regular management and maintenance which we will be doing. So the plan will be in 2012 to burn tracts three and four and move on to other tracts within that area. Then once we burn it probably we'll be burning it every other year. And then once it gets under control we'll be burning every three to five years on some of these tracts just kind of based on the need of the area there.

Michealene Day:

Are we going to publicize when we're going to burn so that local residents or people driving down aren't worried?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we will. We'll make sure we have something in our Village newsletter on the areas, and we'll probably be going door to door just to let people know the day before or day of. Wind conditions are a very important factor when burning because once they shift they need to call it off. So we will be working with the residents and we will be sending out

some notification just to keep everyone up to speed with what's going on in the area as far as that management and more so the burnings as they happen and take place.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions for right now?

Troy Holm:

Where is that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'll go back a screen. This is Highway C, here's I-94 and then River Road or 114th. The cul-de-sac is here so tract one is this general area and tract two is kind of this general area. So it's still to the north of 165, west of Prairie Springs Park. And the bridge that was constructed is actually over in this general area, comes over and is here. And then our next grant that we're hoping to apply for will extend the elevated boardwalk bridge from here about 400 feet over to the white area which is an upland area that does not flood. Then we'll have a continuous path from Highway C down River Road into Prairie Springs Park and then eventually continuing that path all the way down to the Kenosha County Bike Trail and Lake Michigan as funds and monies area available.

Troy Holm:

This is where Mr. Schmitz lives?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe Mr. Schmitz lives in this general property right over here.

Michealene Day:

Do we need a motion to accept this or is this just informational?

Mike Pollocoff:

We need a motion to approve.

Jim Bandura moved to approve the Des Plaines Natural Area Management Plan: Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 6-0.

Michealene Day:

Item b) on the agenda is tabled until next month, until November.

c) **Receive and recommend approval of 2011 Wisconsin Marathon Agreement.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Park Commission, I believe this will be the third year that the Wisconsin Marathon will be coming through the Village of Pleasant Prairie, and more specifically on the path as shown above in the Carol Beach area. It's been a very successful race in the past. It's been a very low impact to the Village staff. And from what I understand with the residents in there that it has been well received. So we are looking for approval of the course that follows down Lakeshore Drive and then comes back to the north along some of the back roads, 3rd Avenue, 4th Avenue all the way until it gets back to 7th Avenue again.

It really has no impact on public works. The company brings their own cones. They take care of all the traffic control per MUTCD so they do a great job with that. They do have the need of some police department staff for blocking off roads on 7th Avenue and 116th and some of the more major areas. And then there is an ambulance that is available in case they need it for any medical emergencies that may come up. So the estimate based on the prior several years is \$788.02. So I would recommend approval of the course as is shown on the attachment in your packet.

Michealene Day:

I understand then this race will be May 7, 2011 it says on the agreement.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

Any questions or comments about the agreement?

Troy Holm:

Does the marathon itself pay for the public works and police department and fire and rescue?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, it does.

Steven Kundert:

You mentioned it's been generally well received by the residents. Are there any negative comments or concerns on record from the previous two years?

Mike Pollocoff:

We had some on the first year because it just went down Lakeshore Drive and not on the side roads. Then this last year we didn't receive any. The complaints that we did have come out of Unit W. Some of the people I talked to just don't want anybody there. Cindy is a resident there. She might be able to—

Steven Kundert:

But there's been no reports of property damage or anything along those lines?

Cindy Schwab:

It goes right by my house. Usually in running events you see a lot of people throwing stuff. We've never had any trash in front of our house and it's gone by two years now. It's kind of interesting. People in our neighborhood will go out and watch. So I think it's more almost like an event that people enjoy. But it's very clean which usually you don't have.

Mike Pollocoff:

The people in the race it's the same event but there's a sprint and then the long distance. Coming to Pleasant Prairie is the long distance, so we don't get as many runners as they do through the . . . so that group is more seasoned or more experience or crazy but they're doing the long distance.

Steven Kundert:

For what it's worth I've actually participated in this event previously. In terms of how it's received in the racing community it's a very well run event. From that perspective I think they do a good job of organizing. I'm glad to hear there are few negative comments on the course.

Troy Holm:

This is a potential big Boston qualifier, too, just because it's so flat, not a lot of hills. It's a very fast course. It might become popular in the future.

Mike Pollocoff:

The numbers they were at 2,000.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, over 2,000.

Mike Pollocoff:

For a new race that's pretty good.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions? May I have a motion to accept the race as shown, the course as shown and also the agreement with the 2011 Wisconsin Marathon?

Troy Holm moved to approve the 2011 Wisconsin Marathon Agreement: Seconded by Steven Kundert. Motion carried 6-0.

d) Receive and approve 2010 Veterans Day Ceremony agenda.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Park Commission, we are looking for approval of the agenda that is before you. I'm just doubling checking the dates. There's two dates on there, November 11th and November 7th just to make sure which one is on Sunday. So we're looking for November 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. to have I believe what's going to be our third annual Veterans Day ceremony. I know a lot of the Park Commissioners have attended these in the past, and they're normally a very moving event.

It's been a great event. It's been well received within the community, especially a lot of the military personnel that have been showing up. It seems to be one of the more popular ones. One of the nice things about our Veterans Day location that we have is that it is a very popular site. It's right in the heart of Prairie Springs Park. It's right at Veterans memorial ballfield, so there's a lot of traffic that moves in and out of that area every day. So we are looking for approval or any comments or suggestions on the agenda for the November 7th date.

Michealene Day:

I went last year. I don't have anyone in my family that I know that's ever served, but it is quite a moving ceremony. It's pretty hard not to have tears in your eyes after it's done. The professionalism and the non-commercialism that is done here it's quite respectful of the veterans and everyone who has served. I think you guys do an excellent job. I think the whole ceremony, everyone involved, does a terrific job. I think that it's a wonderful thing and just a small thing that we can do to honor our veterans.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much. We would definitely like to invite and hope to see all of the Park Commission there. Ruth Mack is really one of the main organizers of these events. I know she doesn't really take too much credit for it, but she's the person that's making sure everyone is there, making the phone calls, organizing the organizations. So she really does have a heart in this event for the Veterans Memorial.

Michealene Day:

Does anyone have any comments or questions on the ceremony or the date or anything about it? If not, could I have a motion to accept the Veterans Day ceremony agenda as presented?

Jim Bandura moved to approve the 2010 Veterans Day Ceremony Agenda: Seconded by Steven Kundert. Motion carried 6-0.

Michealene Day:

And Ruth, personally, thank you very much.

6. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Anyone have any comments?

Troy Holm:

I do. On the Wisconsin Marathon, one of the things that I like to see is community involvement in the marathons like when you're passing a park or something have somebody be at that park cheering people on. This is a new marathon so there's not a lot of people in these areas besides the people that are standing in front of their house and know somebody and cheer them on, but then the rest of the runners don't see anything.

The runners really, really need, especially out in this area and especially on the way back from this area a lot of support. I'm wondering if we can somehow advertise, oh, we're setting up a tent or sign up to set up a tent at this area for you to cheer on. You can have local businesses do stuff like that. For the Boston Marathon at mile 22 there's a girl's community college there that actually kissed the runners or something like that but it's their spot.

It's really neat and it helps people get through this stuff. So I'm wondering if we shouldn't think of some ways to do that throughout our Village. One, it gets people to run and to do these things if they're more fun. If they're not that fun in this big stretch of land some people won't join it. But I think this is going to be a big race. Like I said, it's a really, really good Boston qualifier with the right conditions and to get more excitement in it. Maybe somehow think of ways that we can get some more community involvement down there. Having a business sit in one of the parks or something, advertise something, the Wisconsin Marathon is happening and we have these spots available for you guys to reserve and be part of it I guess. Get more excitement. I'll look at some things over the next month about what other marathons do and I'll bring it to the next meeting.

Michealene Day:

Appreciate it. It would be nice if anyone else wants to think of something. We have enough time and we could always put something in the newsletter. It's not until May.

Mike Pollocoff:

We do have some idea spots to be along 1st Avenue right there along the lake in the lakeside park.

Michealene Day:

That's a great idea. Thanks, Troy. Any other comments?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Monica Yuhás moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:36 p.m.