

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE  
PARKS COMMISSION  
Village Hall Auditorium  
9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158  
May 6, 2010  
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission was held on Thursday, May 6, 2010, 6:00 p.m. Present were Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Monica Yuhas, William Mills, Troy Holm, Steven Kundert and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2). Michealene Day was excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator, Tom Shircel, Assistant to the Village Administrator, and Ruth Mack, Executive Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE APRIL 8 AND APRIL 14, 2010 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

**Monica Yuhas moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the April 8, 2010 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 7-0.**

Rita Christiansen:

Opposed? Being none, motion passes. The April 14, 2010 meeting minutes, do I have a motion to approve?

**Jim Bandura moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by William Mills. Motion carried 7-0.**

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS:**
  - a. Introduction of New Commission Member, Steven Kundert.**

Rita Christiansen:

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and how you came to be on the Board?

Steven Kundert:

Absolutely. First of all I'd like to just say thank you for the opportunity. I look forward to working with you all to help shape the Village we all call home. A little about myself is I moved with my wife to Pleasant Prairie about two years ago coming from Illinois. Moving up here we were looking for a Village with characteristics that Pleasant Prairie. We liked the open space and the community feel and we're happy to be part of it. I'm even happier to be involved with the Village.

My background professionally I'm in commercial real estate and real estate finance working with Grubb and Ellis Company based in Skokie, Illinois. My background educationally is in economics with a minor degree in environmental science. And throughout my life I've been involved in outdoor activities as well as coaching and other things of that nature. So I thought it was a potentially good fit to come and join the committee here. I look forward to working with everyone.

Rita Christiansen:

We're glad you're here. I'd like to know for the record we have another Parks Commissioner here.

Troy Holm:

Troy Holm just arrived.

Rita Christiansen:

We were just introducing Steven our newest member. Welcome aboard. And we're glad that you're here. I think I speak for all of us. We're here to make a difference in a positive way and leave some type of legacy behind for our children and the families and everybody here at the Village. Anyone want to say any words of welcome or wisdom?

Jim Bandura:

Welcome.

Steven Kundert:

Thank you.

**b. Discuss and Elect Parks Commission Secretary**

Rita Christiansen:

The previous Commissioner was our Commission Secretary. I'd like to ask what are the responsibilities before we get into any type of election?

Mike Pollocoff:

The secretary is not the same as the recording secretary. But Parks Secretary basically attests the signature of the Chairperson on resolutions of the Park Commission. The Parks Secretary is the person who holds the minutes. In the case of litigation or some kind of complaint the Parks Secretary would attest that these are the minutes. The Parks Secretary in the last instance is the third person to chair the meeting if the Chair or Vice Chair is absent.

Rita Christiansen:

So now that we know what the responsibilities are, discussion regarding someone on this Board stepping up and volunteering or being volunteered as the Parks Commission Secretary? Nobody volunteers? I'll be happy to volunteer somebody.

(Inaudible)

William Mills:

I agree.

Rita Christiansen:

I believe I'd need a motion?

Mike Pollocoff:

You need to nominate Monica Yuhas as Parks Secretary.

**Glenn Christiansen moved to nominate Monica Yuhas for the position of Park Commission Secretary. Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.**

Rita Christiansen:

Congratulations, Monica. Thank you for volunteering. Greatly appreciate it.

Monica Yuhas:

Thank you for letting me do that.

## **6. PARKS COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Glenn Christiansen:

I would like to comment on a meeting that I attended last week. There were several of us here who attended the Village Green meeting last week. The first thing I'd like to say is I think it was a tremendous opportunity to participate in something. I found it very interesting. Actually it was a lot of fun to be involved in it. I think a lot of people felt the same way. What was really interesting was the discussion was centered around what developing in a green friendly to the environment energy conservation mind is, open space concepts. Am I leaving anything out? But it was generally around those lines.

I thought it was kind of interesting some of the things that we had to put on the boards from the breakout sessions. I can't remember what all we put on there. The board from my table was tied for the most votes with another one, and I think that was Mike Pollocoff's table where we talked about some wetlands are worth restoring or something like that. And it was kind of interesting that I heard other people talking about such things in that meeting. How many people attended that?

Mike Pollocoff:

I want to say we had 30 and some.

Glenn Christiansen:

It was really kind of refreshing that there were that many people who all felt strongly along the same lines. It was kind of nice to see people talking like that in all the different respects related to it. So what I was wondering, up until perhaps about two years ago we were having meetings over at the Prange building with regards to wetland restoration, about restoring wetlands over in the Des Plaines River on Village property and the area targeted for the open space area that Jean Werbie had worked on and has been working on all these years to be part of the Des Plaines River bottom lands area. Now we haven't had any meetings in quite some time. I'm wondering if the Parks Commission could have an update on that. Could we put that on the agenda for next month to discuss it and a way we could get the meetings started again.

I've talked to a few of the people that were participants of those meetings, one of them being Don Reed from SEWRPC, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Marty Johnson from the Department of Natural Resources, if not one,

sometimes there were two gentlemen there from Ducks Unlimited. I know at least at one or two of the meetings there was a representative from Fish and Wildlife Service. They all were very enthusiastic about the opportunity to try to do some restoration work on the Des Plaines River and that included them putting up money to bring about one of these projects. In these times where it's hard to get money to do much of anything, if you can get somebody to put the money up to do something along with the fact that it's moving it forward, the work on the Des Plaines River, and it also would help greatly with management and restoration down there, down in those lowland areas. I'm wondering if it could be possible if there's some way we could start discussing this again and see if we can move it forward.

Mike Pollocoff:

Sure. I'll get it on the next agenda.

Rita Christiansen:

Thank you. Anyone else have comments?

Mike Pollocoff:

Although I'm not a Commissioner, just to follow up on what Glenn was saying about the Village Green, sustainable Village Green, I think the Parks Commission along with as JJR starts rolling up their working on the park plan, that's going to be a more intensive planning effort probably than we did on the master park plan. It will be a lot more refined. It's going to be a significant park on the east end of the Village that I think a lot of people aren't anticipating will take place. But it will fit in with the sustainability aspect that I was looking for. I thought I'd let you know that more work is coming on the way and these two item meetings will be a memory of the past.

Jim Bandura:

Do you have the next meeting scheduled?

Mike Pollocoff:

For that group?

Jim Bandura:

Yeah.

Mike Pollocoff:

No. I know we're meeting every week on it. I think we're going to be meeting in two weeks to put JJR to work on this. What they've done so far with parks along with some of the engineering work that's taken place. I think that will start getting things kicked off.

Steven Kundert:

I have a request if possible. Mike, maybe this is for you. But would I be able to get a copy of the JJR proposal that was referenced in the minutes from last meeting?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes. Do we have your e-mail?

Steven Kundert:

You should, yes.

Glenn Christiansen:

There were two comments that the gentleman who was let's say running the meeting that evening that I thought were rather interesting to say the very least. I liked his comment about the light bulb and the fish, how he tied our impact as we live. We have an impact or a footprint we put on the land that in many ways we don't really appreciate. I thought that was really quite an interesting thing for him to start out early in the meeting and say to everybody. That kind of tied in with the whole character of the meeting.

But the one thing he said a little bit later in the meeting that really struck home for me and why the Des Plaines River has always been so important was when he said that two of the most globally endangered ecosystems are oak savannahs or was it savannahs and tall grass prairies. The Village of Pleasant Prairie for its size probably has more acres of that than probably 99.9 percent of all the townships in the nation. There are probably few places that have any let alone to have pieces of it. The stands of oaks that we have are somewhat degraded to say the least. There's at least a couple of them that still qualify as degraded oak savannahs. The belief is that there are no intact oak savannahs left, only a few that are heavily degraded. But that's why that one at the end on the west end of Lake Andrea has been regarded as being an important piece of woods and why The Nature Conservancy was always very interested in it until they decided to pull out of the area because it still has a representative plant community under it. That's the big difference, it's not just a collection of trees. It's the plant community that grows underneath it. I'm looking forward to having a discussion on the Des Plaines River.

Rita Christiansen:

Could we possibly have an update on the Ingram property next time?

Mike Pollocoff:

Sure.

Rita Christiansen:

And is there any movement at all on Momper's Woods?

Mike Pollocoff:

No.

Rita Christiansen:

Anyone else have any comments?

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned 6:18 p.m.