

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE  
PARK COMMISSION  
Village Hall Auditorium  
9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158  
October 1, 2013  
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Clyde Allen, William Mills, Troy Holm, Cindy Schwab (Alternate #1) and Jim Bandura. Steve Kundert was excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Director of Public Works; and Ruth Mack-Stoner, Executive Secretary. No citizens were present.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Michealene Day:

We're going to bypass our minutes of the last meeting, and we'll be able to look at them next month. We didn't quite get them done yet for this meeting so we'll review two months next month.

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I have nothing to report at this time Madam Chair.

- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
  - a) Receive Friends of the Park Presentation.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, Kate Fields will be doing a small presentation this evening on the friends of the park. So I'll introduce her and welcome her to give the presentation.

Kate Fields:

I'm Kate Fields, and I'm a horticulture instructor at Gateway Technical College. I am a Pleasant Prairie Village Resident. I am on the Recreation Commission, and I'm the organizer of the walk, grow and sew program. So maybe you've wandered on the trail and seen our garden over there and the fenced in area. And John and his staff have been just awesome and super supportive in helping our efforts there. And it's been a really fun and popular program to work with some people over there.

And I actually worked with Michael about a year or two ago on a survey that asked residents of Pleasant Prairie what kind of recreation they would like with their park and rec department. And one of the things they identified was gardening and nature programs and music. And so we did some music this summer which was really successful and a lot of fun if you went there. And so the walk, grow and sew program and the community garden that we have over there was sort of the testing area. But we'd like to possibly create a friends of the parks group with sort of this core group of people that I've been playing around with all summer.

And they're interested in things like possibly building or creating an herb garden. They're interested in herb gardening. They're interested in flower gardening and possibly planting some perennial beds and maybe adopting a spot in certain parts of the park. Some of them are interested more in trees and natural landscapes and prairies and things like that. Some of them identified things like memorial trees. They'd like to be able to sponsor a tree and have a brass plate by it or something. They'd like to see like tours through the new nature trail that I think you're dedicating it soon, this weekend. They'd like to have some program where somebody goes around and tells them about the plants and maybe the history. So more broad based recreation programs outside of the building into your parks.

So my first step is to come and see if that seems like something you'd like to pursue because I would like to help make that happen as best I can. But I also will need to go back to the RecPlex and say, hey, we need some programming here. We need somebody to help us get this whole thing organized and rolling. So we have to somehow bring these two pieces together. So that's about what I say.

Michealene Day:

Thank you for coming in and telling us a little bit of what you do. Does anyone have any comments or questions at all?

Troy Holm:

I believe Racine has a similar program going on, and it's been pretty successful. So it's something that I would definitely entertain.

Mike Pollocoff:

I just might add the group that's doing the music in the park, the Arts Council, is just a couple members from the Rec Commission, a group of citizens who really kind of embraced that and started running with it themselves which has been really nice. They did really well with their first event. I think they're sitting there with like \$16,000 in the bank from what they made from their event. And it really kind of provided a base. They're starting to plan some other things they want to do as far as arts in the community and things that people are doing. It's amazing. We had volunteers coming out of the woodwork that wanted to be able to do that.

I know that helps the staff in a lot of respects because in a way we're not facilitating the discussion, but they come to us and were able to identify things or needs that they have that we can help them with or we could do. If we can achieve the same kind of results as far as parks it does a couple things. I think it helps public works rather than us being the ones identifying things that we want to get done and doing it, it gets more people in the community involved in saying where do we want gardens, all these things that are talked about that I think is a good thing. And it doesn't cost the Village anything. And it gives people an opportunity or a venue to take care of that and get involved in it.

Kate Field:

The RecPlex is great with sports and kids and kids' activities. But what about if you're not necessarily into sports. My sporting days I'm walking as fast as I can but a wider variety of recreational opportunities would be nice. And I work with a lot of different community groups and gardens, and I can't take this on by myself. I definitely need this promotional power and marketing, and that's the piece that I think is missing is that organization, the marketing the promotion which made that Arts in the Park so successful. So if we had a little help in that are I think we could get a lot of volunteers and a lot of people together to start small and make some things happen.

Michealene Day:

So then are you asking for volunteers to help you in your endeavor because it really would not be a Parks Commission part of their scope of what we do because the Recreation Commission does recreational programming.

Mike Pollocoff:

What RecPlex can do like they did with the Arts Council is help market it and get it promoted.

Kate Field:

And maybe we'd have like a group friends of the park, and maybe at least some of you? Cindy, I know Cindy a little bit so I'm looking at her. Maybe some of you would be on that commission and help identify opportunities. And then somebody from the Recreation Commission we could get those two groups together to work on, since it's recreation and parks. And then there's other people in the community that certainly might be a core group of people that I've been working with and some other people that are in the Village.

Michealene Day:

So would they be entertaining then increasing this Arts Council or another --

Mike Pollocoff:

It would be another group. I think the things that the friends of the park would be doing would be happening in parks. I mean it would be in a way community based recreation. And RecPlex has some of the wherewithal to help facilitate getting that going. We don't have somebody on staff that has Kate's experience. And John has some people, too, that have some horticultural background and maybe they could help. But I think it's getting people together and saying what do we want to do? There are people interested in a lot of things whether it's gardening or -- we've had some people approach the Village they'd like to work with the Village on some projects to clear some of the oak savannah we have, get those cleaned out.

There's a whole list of different projects that people want to work on, and we really haven't kind of created a forum for people to come and say here's what I'm interested in or here's what I'd like to do. And it just would help to have somebody from the Park Commission or some bodies, more than one, kind of give that policy view of what they're doing or what they're approaching. The Arts Council just took off on its own, and there was only two people from the Rec Commission that was on it.

Michealene Day:

So how would this be structured as far as authority or what they can and can't do because they are a council, not a commission or part of the Parks or Planning Commission? I mean they would still have to -- whatever program that they want to do they'd still have to come before the Commission or to the Village Board to have it sanctioned?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. So in the case of the Arts Council their idea was to have a summer concert and pick the date for it. They worked out what kind of concert the Music in the Park ended up being. They brought it to the Rec Commission. The Rec Commission approved it. They Village Board did only because there was going to be alcohol there. They had to

approve it and that was really it. Neither the Rec Commission nor the Village Board got involved in designing or developing or planning the project. They really just evaluated what a group of citizens wanted to do to make sure it was compliant with existing policies and laws. And in the case of the Arts Council that was something a couple of the Rec Board members were able to help them facilitate saying I don't know if we could do -- because they did have some crazy ideas and that's okay. To get them out there and everybody finds out why they're crazy, but they had some really good ideas that nobody really thought of before. That's why it's good to have somebody from Parks on there. Parks is so expansive as far as the uses that we have in the Village, it really covers a wide area.

Rita Christiansen:

So I have a question. So Kate, in regards to the top two items that you think would have the most interest do you have an idea of what they would be that the citizens might like?

Kate Field:

Well, I think the walk, grow and sew or the community garden was really successful when we had somebody to help promote it. We had about 50 people the first year so that was a pretty good crowd. So I think we need to stick with that and keep that growing and going. And we had some horticulture therapy going on there that John did some beds with so we could do some programming with handicap people or physically challenged people. So that would be an interesting piece to put in there. Would that be super popular or is that a community service? I don't know. I'm not promising \$16,000. I think also a lot of people are interested in the idea of planting flowers and some perennial beds, doing some perennial planting maybe in the front of the RecPlex or somewhere. So I think those two or three might be a good place. Children's programming, maybe something in the summer like the pizza garden, we'll plant a garden and then when it starts to get ripe then have a summer camp and have the kids pick it and have them make pizzas.

Rita Christiansen:

So it sounds like you have a couple ideas as far as how logistically to make them happen. I mean everybody has different skill sets. So I'm a little confused. So you need volunteers from the Park Commission, that's what you're asking for, to attend a meeting and say here's the top three things we'd like to do for 2014 and how can we partner with you to make that happen?

Michealene Day:

I think we also have to -- and while the RecPlex is a great facility we have many, many, many parks that I would hate to just concentrate on just that one park. I mean there's

other parks that could use some sprucing up as well.

Kate Field:

Sure. Well, you just have to start somewhere and small and work from there. And I think the sprucing up of it is one part --

Michealene Day:

Well, I'm just using the word sprucing.

Kate Field:

But it does need to have that recreation or educational component to it, too. Yeah, definitely we'd love to see it expand into other parks. We talked about Ingram Park, I think, John.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct.

Kate Field:

Yeah, so the possibilities are endless really. We've just got to start small and have some successes and then build from there.

Rita Christiansen:

So you'd try perhaps to put an announcement out on the Village web page to say we're going to have a meeting and here's what we're looking at for 2014. We'd like anyone interested in this to --

Kate Field:

I tried to get some programming in there this spring, but it seemed like it just got inserted sort of at the last minute. And then there were some fliers put up. I don't think people really saw them. So I just think it really needs the dedication of a person or somebody. When you see the promotion and marketing that happened with Arts in the Park I'm thinking, man, if we had half that we would have had all kinds of participation. So I think the next step is to convince Carol and Chris that this is also a good idea and that they want to devote some resources to it, because they're the ones who really are going to find the -- I'll help them find the person to help get this going. But then it's really the ball is in their court as to whether they really want to pick up on it.

Rita Christiansen:

Kate, who are the two people you mentioned?

Kate Field:

The director of the recreation and Chris Finkel, that's who I worked with with the programming.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, but for the Arts, the Music in the Park the people that did that were who?

Mike Pollocoff:

On the Arts Council Carol Wilke sat on the council from RecPlex and so did Greg Scheppler.

Rita Christiansen:

So they were very successful, what you said, financially and otherwise, and it sounds like it was really enjoyable. So maybe a good idea would be to go back to them and debrief with them what process they went through for all the advertising, etc. Take those lessons that were learned, and then how can you implement that into the one or two things that you want to be successful for 2014.

Kate Field:

Well, they certainly know how to make a successful event. They do a lot of those kinds of events and they're very successful. And so theirs is a one time event where this is sort of some ongoing programs, too. But they know how to get these things done. so that's just the next step is to go to them and say, hey, would you help with this, are you interested with helping with this.

Rita Christiansen:

Or can you tell us how you make your event so successful.

Mike Pollocoff:

My thought we can have RecPlex do that and take over to have them manage the friends of the parks, but I think it would be good some people from the Parks Commission because this is all going to land -- even though RecPlex is managing the program or promoting it or marketing it and finding somebody that can staff it, this is going to

happen in the parks. If you guys want RecPlex to do it they'll do it.

Michealene Day:

Well, I guess my question is I'm a little confused because way back in the early years it was recreation and parks. And then it got separated, and there was a clear line in the sand that said the Rec Commission is going to handle recreation programs, all recreation programs. Not the RecPlex but recreation programs. And the parks was going to be the Parks Commission was exclusively parks and development of parks and that kind of thing. So volunteering is one thing and I think that's great, and I'm not going to say I'm going to get on your council, but I will help or go to the first meeting. But if this Commission on the parks takes over are we not overstepping our scope of what we're supposed to do and become what the recreation commission is supposed to do? I'm not just saying the RecPlex. The Recreation Commission is supposed to handle all recreation.

Mike Pollocoff:

And they do, they do. I mean in a lot of communities this would be community based recreation not recreation center type recreation. But in Pleasant Prairie there's two things that are a little unusual. Recreation is a behemoth. It's a \$10 million a year enterprise to operate and manage the RecPlex. So they crank out a lot of programs. And they use the parks for their programs.

What the Recreation Commission really came to grips with as part of the recreation master plan was that we would be -- and the surveys bore this out as done by the consultant. We would be a lot more successful to the extent that we involve more citizens in planning or getting involved in community based programs that would involve recreation. And what has happened really is the Recreation Commission had gotten siloed so all they really thought about was RecPlex. And then at one point all they really thought about is the director doing a good job. And we kind of lost focus on what are we trying to do. That kind of led to the split of the two.

I think when you look at the surveys and the park plan, the master plan for that, it had the same results. If you look at what the citizen surveys were telling us we want to get involved in community gardening, farmers markets, preservation of the open spaces. And these were all things that people were interested in doing. And so from a policy perspective do we want to have the Park Commission just deal with that solely and have John report here's what I'm doing, or do we want to open it up and make it available for citizens who want to get involved and do something and not have it be in such a structure format as the Commission. Because you guys can only act in a certain manner, it's got to be a noticed meeting, have to go through a whole process to do what you do. And that's by law. But there's a lot of citizens that aren't interested in doing that and that's obvious by who comes to meetings.



And that's really what the study told us is we can open this up to more citizens who want to do whatever. I mean there's just a broad range of interests. If they get involved and want to do things the Park Commission would guide that to an extent because they're going to come up and say we'd like to do that. If we want to put planting beds in Ingram Park, if we want to help the fire department with burns, whatever comes up if it's a community garden in another park we'd like to do that. Ultimately they're your parks, that's what your policy responsibility is is to oversee the parks. But if we can get other people involved so they want to do things and they want to do it as a volunteer and they want to get like minded people to help them and become friends of the parks and plan things out that's really what it is.

RecPlex would only help market it and provide a staff person to coordinate to get some things done. That's really what RecPlex did. They're good at getting somebody to get in place to get something marketed. We don't market very well if we don't have a lot of up front time to craft a good message and get it out so it's successful.

Michealene Day:

I guess I'm still a little confused because we're not talking about the RecPlex because it's a private entity. But I'm talking about the Recreation Commission. And then I guess I'm concerned that we're going to be stepping over each other and whose authority and that's my job, that's my commission to do it and now you're taking over rec stuff and you're really parks. So like I said I think coming and asking individuals to come to it, I just don't know that it falls under the Parks Commission. The beds, yes, but any kind of educational program I would think that would be -- I'm not sure. I'm asking.

Mike Pollocoff:

Think of the recreation function in the Village as an operational entity. The parks is a capital entity. The parks are a capital investment of the community, things, land, improvements we own. Recreation is -- RecPlex, we own the RecPlex and the building, but the RecPlex is people and operations and facilitating recreation whether it's playing softball in one of our parks or playing basketball in the gym. So what we're able to do through the rec department because it's not funded by tax dollars and we have no tax dollars, we're under a frozen levy, what we're able to do through the RecPlex is add people that know how to run a recreation program, get it organized, put a marketing plan together, get it scheduled, do those things that kind of create that program. They're providing the operational assistance to get a program for activities that are going to happen in the park. But whatever they do in those parks is not a recreation decision. Like I said it's a capital asset of the park that they're going to be modified, improved, cleaned up, spruced up, whatever somebody is going to do it doesn't belong to the RecPlex. What the RecPlex is doing is providing money and personnel to operationally help this group do what they want to do.

Rita Christiansen:

Is there a recreational park commission?

Michealene Day:

Yes.

Mike Pollocoff:

No, there's a Recreation Commission.

Rita Christiansen:

And that oversees?

Mike Pollocoff:

Recreational activities.

Rita Christiansen:

All recreational activities.

Kate Field:

I almost think of it as like I'm here from the Recreation Commission interested in recreation asking the Park Commission if we can do recreation in your parks. Can we recreate in your parks?

Rita Christiansen:

There's no reason why you can't. I mean there's nothing stopping you from doing that at all.

Kate Field:

Great, yea, super.

Rita Christiansen:

For instance recreation --

Kate Field:

I want to build a bed for [inaudible].

Rita Christiansen:

Absolutely and you've already done it so that's not even a question. I would say the dog park opening is a recreation activity that as a Park Commission we approved, and so there's an example of moving forward. Jim, I'm sorry.

Jim Bandura:

So the way I'm getting it, understanding it is somebody from the group would be a liaison between the Rec Commission and the Park Commission, and we would be asking the Rec Commission to assist us in getting a program going and funding it?

Mike Pollocoff:

Well, what I think what would happen Kate is on the Rec Commission. She could be the Rec Commission that would be on this committee, this friends of the parks. Whatever this committee is going to come up with is going to happen in the parks. If you're comfortable in just letting RecPlex do it that's your option as a policy board. If you want to have some person or more than one person, not more than two, be a member on the friends of the parks to kind of help them get going. And you would be just based on your knowledge of the meetings you've had and the park master plan and some good park planning concepts say this is something I think the Park Commission would really like. Because we don't know what they're going to come up with. Kate's got some really good ideas, but you might get some other people coming up with who knows what.

Kate Field:

And maybe you would know some people that you'd want to invite.

Mike Pollocoff:

So it's really not an either/or. What we're trying to turn lose this opportunity on the citizens to say, here, we're going to help you in different ways, whether it's from RecPlex providing some staff report and some marketing expertise.

Rita Christiansen:

A Facebook site.

Mike Pollocoff:

Yeah. And if it's the Park Commission saying these are some of the interests in parks that we have and the park plan says we'd like to do and have some input on it at that citizen level. Because if someone is talking about making a -- if the Commission or the friends of the parks are talking about making some major improvement in the park or doing something we'll bring it to you and let you know it and you see it then, and then you can put your blessing on it or turn it down or whatever. You all have an interest in parks, that's why you're here. If you want to be a volunteer or sit on the friends of the parks committee that opportunity is out there. It's not an either/or. The reality is we have the money one place to do things and we don't have money in the other places.

Kate Field:

And we don't want you to be like, well, what's going on in the parks. Who are those people? What are they doing out there like be a big surprise.

Michealene Day:

So, Kate, you serve on the Recreation Commission?

Kate Field:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

So how many of the Recreation Commissioners are on this friends of the park?

Kate Field:

Well, none so far because we haven't formed it yet. But I've got maybe three or four people that were working with me this summer that said they'd be interested in it. And I know a few more people that I'd probably ask in the community that live here.

Michealene Day:

But I mean on the actual Commission itself.

Kate Field:

None that know of so far.

Michealene Day:

But you're here.

Mike Pollocoff:

Kate is just starting it.

Jim Bandura:

So, again, what I'm getting at this commission, say friends of the parks, they would whether it's one of us sitting on there and a group of other volunteers, they would come up with the ideas of how we could raise revenue in the park?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, not so much raise revenue. The goal of the Arts Council is they want to build a band shell. When they got together and all the citizens started talking we'd really like to have a band shell because we could have all the concerts. We don't know where we'd want it yet but we'd like to have a band shell. Okay. So they decided to have an event, sell alcohol, raise money to get money for the band shell. If you look back at the rec plan there's nothing about that in the rec plan.

Rita Christiansen:

Actually, Mike, if I could interrupt, we actually talked about having a band shell in Ingram Park, correct, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct.

Rita Christiansen:

So when you're talking about that type of facility that's when I think it needs to come to us or to John to say, hey, you know what, this is where we have a planned park --

Mike Pollocoff:

And they would come to you. But what the arts council said is we don't care where it goes. They hadn't read that part of the plan. They just said we want to be able to raise enough money to give it to the Village to put a band shell wherever they want to put it.

William Mills:

So the citizens, I think you talked about this in the past to Mike with the tax situation that

we're in I think you actually even recommended that more of these citizens committees would help out because they did raise money. And that's where I think it then comes into where parks gets involved that that committee, the Arts Council or whatever they're called, they probably don't know that we have this plan in place and a location for it. And so that's where the two kind of then come together, right?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. When they get to that point where it's getting close then we're going to say, okay, where are we going to put it? But I think what was important to those guys not so much where it went is that we raise the money to have it. That was a nice thing. They were excited beyond belief to have a band shell. And everybody that they talked to that night they told everybody this is what we're raising money for, and everybody was like that's a good idea.

Rita Christiansen:

And we had actually when we met with them, I don't know if you were in the meetings, right, remember? We had the discussion and they kept saying do we want to do this and we said that's already planned for this park. Do we want to do this? It's already planned for this park. So there was such a lack of communication and knowledge sharing that I think it caused problems.

Jim Bandura:

And I see where this could benefit. You've got just for instance the Arts Council, and then you have the friends of the park or whatever it's called, and the two councils or whatever talk. And one takes it back to the Rec Commission and says we want to do this, can we do this? And then it's brought back to the friends of the park. The friends of the park come back before us and then present it to us and say, hey this is --

Mike Pollocoff:

It's not that structured. You've got to go to one of these meetings. With citizens coming in they have goals and ideas that they've had because the friends of the park doesn't exist yet. Kate's had enough input with people who want to volunteer for community based gardening or planting beds. Who knows what this friends of the park thing is going to evolve into once we do the efforts to market it and get people to come to it. So they might take off on a whole different tangent for things in the park than we're thinking right now. It could well be just what Kate is talking about.

But the survey showed us people don't want to get into the silo thing where they come up and ask you for permission to do something. People want to be able to volunteer to get things done in their neighborhood, parks nearby them or whatever, and have a way for

that to happen. Now, if they're going to change our parks they have to come and ask you guys. But that's not their primary goal. They want to get a group of people that have similar interests get together, and they decide amongst themselves we'd like to volunteer our time to do whatever it is they come up with.

Jim Bandura:

So if one of us off of the Commission here says, yeah, we'll join that group we have authority to say if they wanted to put it in another park, say some kind of flower beds or whatever we could say yeah?

Mike Pollocoff:

No. If anybody from this Commission wants to be on the friends of the park my advice would be on there because you want to be on friends of the park and help them come up with some idea. I mean you'll be able to tell them nobody has ever brought that to the Park Commission before, that would be an interesting thing to hear what they say. Or, we've talked about that or I know that's in the park plan. I mean you can give them information. But I think that would stymie their creative efforts to have one person that would be the ones from the Park Commission to say no or yes. What's going to happen then is they're going to say, you were the guy, Jim, can we do this? Yeah, I think this will work.

Just from watching it happen with the Arts Council it started exploding with a lot of ideas and people were coming up with things on their own. And the Rec Commissioners that sat on that pretty much let them go, and they knew where some of the boundaries were, things that they probably couldn't do. The biggest questions were alcohol and where things could happen but that was really it. But it did come to the Rec Commission to say, hey, we're going to be doing this at the RecPlex, right behind it, and what do you think?

Kate Field:

I think it helps to have professional horticulture in this group like myself and some other ones that I know so that we can work with John especially to make sure that whatever is done is not labor intensive, make sure that it's not a burden on his staff. So they've been really great in getting that garden going. So we talked about make sure the beds are wide enough that a mower can get through and the fencing. So that's an important thing, too, is to work really closely with who's actually going to be out there having to maintain some of this stuff.

Rita Christiansen:

So, Kate, are you having any type of informational meeting that you're going to try and call to start this up?

Kate Field:

No, John asked me to start here so that's what I did, what I'm doing.

Mike Pollocoff:

You guys are in the basement, ground floor. Not even ground floor, basement.

Cindy Schwab:

I definitely would be willing to be on it. It's something that interests me. I think the more community involvement you get into your parks the more you get people to value them and the more resources we're eventually going to have. Right now most people don't even know of any of the other parks. But if we can think of programming that we can bring people into some of these other parks, and even if it's as simple as getting rid of invasive species the Wisconsin DNR will come and do free programming with all sorts of things if a group of citizens request it. So we have something done and bring them in for free and have them talk about that. They do it all the time.

But as a community we don't have anyone to organize that and orchestrate it. But because somebody now went into that park they now feel a relationship to that park and they're more willing to pay tax dollars for it. And we're less likely I think in the future to get money [inaudible] and things like that. And that was actually brought up in the survey and it's kind of basic knowledge. But I do see where some of these things really could improve our parks. I mean realistically who are we fooling, I mean having a band shelter realistically probably in this day and age is a pipe dream. We could sit and say it's in the plan but we had no resources to get that money. Like you said having something like that is really going to help out our parks and help our community and really bring more value.

So I think doing something like friends of the park whether it's people in the community ridding the parks of invasive species that's less that your employees have to do. So now you can put your resources into something more skilled to improve the parks. I mean that's my personal feeling on it. I think it's a great idea.

Michealene Day:

Would anyone else be interested in -- I should talk into the mic, I'm sorry. Anyone else interested in attending a meeting to get it started?

Troy Holm:

Absolutely.



William Mills:

I would attend the first meeting. I'd have to see from there just from a time commitment, etc. But depending on the programs what I would guess would happen is as you have these different ideas people that are excited about those ideas are going to spend their time there. And likewise myself I think it would be similar.

Kate Field:

There will be a core group of people on the council, but then there will be groups that are really interested in one thing or another. But if we have some programming person that helps sort of coordinate all that we can really make some big steps forward I think with it.

Michealene Day:

Okay, so then why don't the four of you get together and come up with a date, and then you could let us know when that meeting is going to be and we can try to help facilitate getting the message out that you're going to be having a meeting.

Kate Field:

And maybe start that meeting and then meet with you or Carol and Chris?

Mike Pollocoff:

Or me and Carol and John.

Kate Field:

Should we just have a big meeting first with all those people?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yeah, three of us and --

Kate Field:

Three of us, what about Carol and Chris?

Mike Pollocoff:

Carol for sure.

Michealene Day:

So then just let us know when that meeting is?

Kate Field:

Through email?

Michealene Day:

Sure, that would be terrific.

William Mills:

Mike, not to bring difficulties into this or anything, but there's only so many people on the Commission can attend, right, then it's a quorum? I'm not sure what --

Mike Pollocoff:

If it's more than two then we have to notice that it's a public meeting, establish a quorum, keep minutes.

Michealene Day:

Even though it's not a Park Commission?

Mike Pollocoff:

You're all appointed officials.

Jim Bandura:

But that's where the idea of the council or the friends of the park comes in where we could have four or five members on this?

Kate Field:

No.

Mike Pollocoff:

By virtue of your office you hold there's certain things we have to do with you when more than two of you are at meeting. I mean the first organizational meeting I don't think it's a big deal. But then I think amongst yourselves who is really interested in

staying involved with it.

William Mills:

And as we know some of us travel, etc. So maybe if we have the meeting two out of the three of us will be able to attend.

Rita Christiansen:

Maybe have one person as a backup.

Kate Field:

Well, I don't expect meeting more than once a month or so just so you know.

Michealene Day:

Thank you so much, Kate. I appreciate you coming.

Kate Field:

You're welcome. Thank you for your support. And thank you guys so much for coming and speaking on my behalf or our behalf. Great, thank you so much.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Review and Approve Program for Dog Park Opening.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and members of the Park Commission, the Park Commission has worked really hard over the last years and developed a couple of Master Park and Open Space Plans. And it's really exciting from a staff standpoint to have had the opportunity to be a part of this park where it's been donated, we've been able to row the parking lot, fill the pond, even before that do all the visioning meetings that we had hosted here. Have Mr. Ingram here himself and actually watch him draw where he'd like to see his pond and some of the amenities that are in there. And actually have the capability to make it all come to fruition. Very exciting.

So we're at a position now where the Board has funded the paving of the entranceway and a parking lot. It's been striped. We have some parking lot lots, some security lights, and we have the dog park fencing all in place right now. So we're, again, I'll say very excited to actually have the first dog park within Pleasant Prairie. I think it is the perfect location for a dog park. There's a lot of people that are using it already just with the little bit of press that we've had out there.

So I would like to, one, invite everyone to the grand opening of the Ingram Park Dog Park this Saturday, the 5th, and go over the agenda that we've put together. We're looking at having some opening remarks by our Village President. The Pleasant Prairie Police Department Canine Unit will be doing a demonstration. Also some presentations by Dogs of Endearment and Waggin' Tail Resort. There will be some dog treats provided by BJ's Pampered Pup Bakery for the dogs, and then some human refreshments meaning things that we can eat as people that will be very delicious to have there also. And there will be some dog park licenses available onsite.

So one of the things just to clarify. You need to have your Kenosha County dog license with rabies tab up front before you go there. And then you can purchase the Pleasant Prairie dog park license either at Village Hall anytime during working hours or on that Saturday during the even, but they are two separate tags. The Kenosha County dog park tag will not get you into Ingram Park. It's a separate fund, entity altogether. So we definitely are very excited to have this. I think there's been a huge demand from the community for this, and I'd like to comment the Park Commission for all their hard work that actually allows us to have this coming on this Saturday. And I guess I can open it up to any ideas or suggestions that you may have for the event this Saturday.

Rita Christiansen:

Nope, I'm just really excited. I can't hardly wait for this to open. It's going to be wonderful. Great addition to the community.

William Mills:

I agree. I remember Rita and I being in the same breakout sessions with some of the kids at the first Master Park Plan, and them drawing where -- I forget the park where the original idea was to put the dog park, but it's great to see especially in these economic times, budget times that we've done as much with Ingram Park as what we've been able to do.

Michealene Day:

Alright, well, hopefully everybody can come.

**b) Review and Approve Program for Prairie Farms Trail Opening.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Again, Madam Chair and Park Commission, we've very excited to open up really a major trail that we have within Pleasant Prairie. This trail connects Prairie Springs Park to basically the west side of the Village all the way down to Highway C as an off street trail.

I've been on it many times as part of development and planning and everything with this trail. We've run our triathlon on it that we had, the Pleasant Prairie Triathlon, the 10K component of it, ran on about three quarters of the trail. It was extremely well received by all the athletes that ran on on it. There's been a lot of people that have been walking on it, hiking on it, even going off the trail. A lot of interest with what's outside of the trail like Kate Fields had talked about, some of the natural areas, some of the wetlands and some of the natural plants and the native plants that are out there.

So I thought it would be very important since we just got that trail completed about a month ago where it goes all the way through to Highway C, and we're working with Kenosha County to get an off street trail from Highway C down to the Interstate. We've already worked with the I-94 construction where there is an off street trail underneath the Highway C interchange that ties into Bristol. And we're also going to tie this trail into our River Road trail which goes through our natural area over the bridge, over the river, through the woods --

Michealene Day:

To grandma's house.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

-- not really by grandma's house, but back to the park. And so you really almost have like a six mile loop that you can take entirely off trail. The path around Prairie Springs Park is beautiful, but it really is an incredible place to be within the Village. And there's points where you can see no development no power plant, no buildings, no homes, just a natural area. It's very surreal, it's very peaceful. I think it's going to be a very nice addition to it.

So as part of our harvest run that's organized by the RecPlex we're looking at just before that doing a ribbon cutting, doing some brief remarks, having the run and the walk take the entire trail so actually it will be a back and forth. It's a 3.1 mile or 5K which pretty much takes it back and forth from where the trail start to the end of the trail to almost Highway C and back to where it starts again for the finish line. Open it up and just get it exposed to people. We have it printed on some t-shirts. We'll be handing out some water bottles and some light refreshments and stuff like that to kind of commemorate the trail opening. Because there's really not that man opportunities that we're going to have in our time to open such a large trail.

The base of the trail was used from recycled asphalt from resurfacing of our industrial park so we were able to save a lot of money with that. We tried to be as green as we could with a lot of our practices that we had. We worked with the DNR to go through some wetlands and over a creek. And it really is nice. So that's really the agenda that we have. I would welcome everyone to come that also on October 12th. I think it's going to

be a great event. I might even be a part of it. I may not run it the whole way, but I may walk a part of it because it really is a beautiful setting out there.

Michealene Day:

A question with it being held right before the run is parking going to be an issue, or if you just want to come for the dedication is there going to be any issues with getting in and out or parking? Because sometimes that becomes an issue, too.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Oh, sure, absolutely, it's a great question. We're going to have it started by the north ballfield diamonds. So we have those three parking lots on the north side to park for this. They historically have around 150 participants. And so between the parking spaces that we have on and off street I definitely feel that there's going to be enough parking for the event.

Michealene Day:

Okay, because you know when we have the other runs sometimes traffic is an issue.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, sure.

Michealene Day:

Because you don't want to stay for the whole event, you just want to stay for the --

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, exactly, and so that won't be a problem. We're going to make sure that it's not a roach motel, that if you come in to park you'll be able to exit also if you're not interested in participating in the run/walk.

Michealene Day:

Okay, thank you. Any questions? Great?

## **8. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Rita Christiansen:

John, you mentioned just briefly that this is all going to tie into coming down River Road.

Is there any type of time line to complete from the park to River Road?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We applied and have been tentatively approved for a grant to finish the elevated boardwalk. That gets us out of the wetland area and out of the wet area. It's a matching grant. And so the Village Board is in the process of seeing if we can find the funds to match that grant to complete it. And then there will be some path improvements that will have to take place from the cul-de-sac on River Road to where the path ends working with the DNR. It's probably a couple year time line I would guess. If I had to put it in phases hopefully in 2014-2015 we can get the bridge constructed. And then maybe a year or so after that we can permit with the DNR, make sure we are in any natural areas that we're not doing any damage or we do anything that we have to do by the books and then complete that path to have that loop. And I know that that's something that we've been working with for a long time is making that connection out to River Road at this time with the bridge and path through the woods and that. So we're very excited at least to be coming very close to that.

Rita Christiansen:

Great, we'll be glad when it's all completed. Good, thank you.

Michealene Day:

Any other Commissioner comments?

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Troy Holm moved to adjourn the meeting: Seconded by Glenn Christiansen. Motion carried 8-0.**