

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall, Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
Tuesday, February 6, 2007
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, 6:00 p.m. Present were Rita Christiansen, Michael Russert, Glenn Christiansen, Alex Tiahnybok, William Mills and Kathleen Burns. Michaeline Day was excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Superintendent of Parks; and Ruth Mack, Clerical Secretary.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.**
- 2. ROLL CALL.**
- 3. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

Rita Christiansen:

Has everybody had a chance to review the meeting minutes? Can I have a motion on the floor?

Kathleen Burns:

I move we approve them.

Rita Christiansen:

Motion made. Do I have a second?

Alex Tiahnybok:

I wasn't here so I can't comment.

Michael Russert:

I second.

Rita Christiansen:

Motion made and seconded. All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Rita Christiansen:

Opposed? Being none, passed.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss fish stocking history of Lake Andrea

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Good evening. It was brought up to staff's attention that they want a little bit of history on the fish stocking history of Lake Andrea, what kind of fish have been put in by the DNR, what kind of fish have been put in the Village and what our plan is moving forward. So I brought in both of our park foremen here this evening, both Kevin Meyers and Leroy Uhlenhake. I'm going to have Kevin Meyers talk a little bit about some of the fish stocking history in Lake Andrea and he can entertain any questions that you may have.

Kevin Meyers:

Kevin Meyers, Park Foreman. What you see what we have there, I just actually got all this information from years past, the stuff that we stocked in, and the DNR continually stocks every other year. I was told by the DNR that the fish that they stock is northern, walleye. The reason they don't stock bass, crappies, bluegills is they're self-supporting and self-sufficient. They reproduce in masses. The walleyes in an inland lake are less likely to reproduce and also with the northerns the reason those are in there is to keep the other fish populations down.

Rita Christiansen:

So they eat them?

Kevin Meyers:

Yes. This is just an overview of the last few years since 1997, the fish that we had stocked previous me being here when the lake was first announced and when we first started stocking. As far as fish go, I know the yellow perch if you notice in '97 there was

600 of them. Each one is different. I don't know if you guys have a sheet that shows—it shows the different sizes, whether they were 3 inch that were put in at the time. But I know just from guys that I've been talking to the yellow perch now are up to 15 inches so they've grown. They first started out putting hybrid bluegills in, and now the last two years they put bluegills in they were just a normal breed, it wasn't hybrid. So they're just basic. The hybrids tend to get bigger and faster where the normal ones don't get as big and quite as fast. Other than that, I'm willing to answer any questions.

The DNR they're stocking every other year. I think it's on odd years. I had just got a thing from the DNR that stated that they did a study last year. What they do is shock the lake. With that lake being it's not a glacier formed lake, it's a manmade lake, they don't have the right counts that they're looking for. With a lake that's spring fed when they do electrifying something with the lake itself it doesn't, how do I want to put it.

Rita Christiansen:

It doesn't hold the charge?

Kevin Meyers:

When they do an electric charge to it, it doesn't hold the conductivity in the water where a glacier formed lake does. So they might have five, six, seven fish and that's it in the study. They're showing fish there but they're not getting the counts that they want to look for.

Rita Christiansen:

Can't use the fish finders? Don't they have the ones that you see?

Kevin Meyers:

Yeah, but then you don't know what size. What they usually do is they shock it. What fish float up they measure size, weight and then throw them back in.

Michael Russert:

The results of that shocking survey?

Kevin Meyers:

The guy's name is Doug Walsh. He was supposed to send me the information. And the information he sent me had nothing pertaining to what they found that time. But I believe, and I'm not sure if I have it in my papers here, the first time they did it was back before 1997 or around 1997, and they had a total of 7 fish that they actually showed. It

was northern, bass and bluegill, so there was a total of 7 when they did that whole lake, and that's when they found out that doing the shock test it doesn't work properly in that lake. They haven't done any other studies.

Rita Christiansen:

Kevin, is there any idea how many fish on average are taken out of the lake every year? I'm sure there's not really a way to—

Kevin Meyers:

I don't know for sure. I can tell you this, that there's a lot of ice fishing there and if you went there about a week ago it was a little shanty town. There was about 15 or 16 shanties fishing there and what they were catching I don't know.

Rita Christiansen:

Opportunity for a fishing derby. I'd like for the record to note that Mr. Mills is present.

Michael Russert:

Kevin, is there any plan on the Village restocking perch, bluegill, crappie?

Kevin Meyers:

If I had a chance I would have photocopied the sheet I got from DNR. They said with them stocking that basically more or less like no need for the Village to stock because they feel that the bluegill population, perch, crappies and large mouth bass are self-supporting, that they reproduce in mass and that they're doing well. I guess that's not to say that we can't, and maybe he didn't give us the nod saying no you can't stock. Maybe that's something to look into in the future.

Michael Russert:

And then when you originally stocked did you have the DNR recommendation on the numbers and species?

Kevin Meyers:

Like I said I wasn't around, but talking to people that were I believe they took into effect the—the guy that raises the fish and he just figured out it's a 104 acre lake and figure out how much it can support, how much we can put in. That's why we put in fat heads and shiners at the time so the walleyes and northern—there were northern existing in that lake before we started stocking so they were quite large at the time and they put those

minnows in there for feeder so they would less likely feed on the bluegills which I'm sure they still did but at least they'd have a little bit more of a chance to live.

Mike Pollocoff:

One of the issues when we started stocking initially was we had a difference of opinion with the DNR with respect to walleye. They didn't feel that the lake would support walleye and we did. Over time it's proven to be a very good walleye lake. It's ideal with the gravel bottom and spring fed. It really lends itself to it. So we went back and forth for a couple years doing it. The lake had been populated by birds, by people throwing fish in there, so it was kind of a random stocking that occurred when the lake was filling up. Their first inclination was to chemically treat the lake and kill everything in there. We chose to work with what was there. One thing we wanted to introduce was walleye. They finally came around and realized that was a good environment for it.

Rita Christiansen:

Kevin, did you say they're going to stock this year, the odd numbered year?

Kevin Meyers:

Odd years they do it, yes.

Rita Christiansen:

And any idea when they plan on doing that?

Kevin Meyers:

They usually do it in I believe March. Usually the ice is not on. So the first time the ice leaves I think that's when they usually stock. Last year when I contacted Doug I had told him any time they stock just give us a heads up. I'd like to be there when they do that. But a lot of them depend on what they're stocking. I believe the walleyes last time they stocked they were just fingerlings, about an inch and a half long. I don't know what the success rate is on that. I want to say it's below 50 percent.

Rita Christiansen:

I know one time they had put Christmas trees out on the ice to use for protection. Are you doing the same thing?

Kevin Meyers:

We're going to that again this year. Being that it's an old gravel pit it didn't have the

structure. There's quite a bit in there right now, but being it's a 104 acre lake it could use a lot more. Year after year we're going to continue until the point where we believe that there's enough structure to hold those little fish so they have a chance to grow.

Michael Russert:

I know there's cribs right off the RecPlex. Are there any other locations or do you have plans?

Kevin Meyers:

They're all over. I know you're probably looking for a map, right? I do have an old map that showed where the fish cribs were set, what kind of fish cribs. Most of them are Christmas trees. I've heard of a couple 40 foot trees that were sunk over near the boat launch area. We actually just pulled three of them out this year. And the only reason we pulled them out is they were too shallow as the water subsided with the drought or boats were hitting them. They were too shallow so we pulled them out. The trees that were stuck in them are still there but we had to pull those out for right now. Not to say in the future we don't put them in deeper water where we don't have that problem. At the time we didn't but when the water level drops three or four feet now you're right on top of them. So we'll continue putting Christmas trees down. I found out that's all it is, just a matter of getting a permit and I believe it doesn't cost anything. It's just the DNR wants to be aware of where we put the structure and when. There's a certain time of the year you can't, I think it's March 15th and May 15th. That's usually spawning for certain fish so they don't allow us to put structure down then.

Rita Christiansen:

Any other questions?

Kathleen Burns:

Now the DNR just does this as a service to Pleasant Prairie? Is there a charge for the DNR to stock?

Kevin Meyers:

The DNR basically regulates the waterways. We own the property around but they regulate the water. When I was looking in years past we were trying to make it a so-called trophy lake where the Northerns would be a bigger size limit, the bass would be a bigger size limit, the walleyes, less bag limits on bluegills. But I guess that pretty much got shot down.

Mike Pollocoff:

We wanted to treat it as an urban fishery where you can restrict catch and release until you get the average size of the fish up to a certain level. The DNR at that time, and I think it's still the case, they're reserving those for lakes up north and some other specific lakes. They really felt this was a good fishery for everybody to use. Really that was kind of one of the key factors where we pulled out of the stocking of the lake and we let DNR stock it because if we're going to let the fish population grow to a larger size then you guys can put the fish in and we won't anymore. But they do that at their cost. The difference was when we were putting in from '97 through 2000 when we were putting the fish in we were putting in larger fish. We were putting in three to four inch walleye and bluegills. I forget what size they were.

Kevin Meyers:

Bluegills were three to five.

Mike Pollocoff:

And the DNR puts in fry. So you lose more fish. I mean you're still going to lose some fish of the bigger ones but you've got a better change to jump start the population with it and getting it going.

Alex Tiahnybok:

I have two questions. One actually was asked. Are we getting charged back in any way by the DNR for the stocking?

Mike Pollocoff:

No.

Alex Tiahnybok:

That's just a service of the State?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yeah, the State does that.

Alex Tiahnybok:

The other one just out of curiosity is what's the depth of Lake Andrea?

Kevin Meyers:

I believe the deepest spot is around 45 feet. I would say on average along the shores on the north side is probably 6 to 8 right now. But there's structure going in with weeds and stuff like that now especially along that north shore. But you get in the middle there's not much down there.

Rita Christiansen:

Any other questions?

William Mills:

Regarding summertime events, since you said DNR regulates the water, do we have to go to get permits to have some summertime events on the water from DNR?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, we don't. But when we received the grant to build the launch on the lake, we stipulated at the time we took that grant that we would, in fact, encourage events and we encouraged boating. The Village at that time imposed a no wake rule basically. That upset a lot of people because they have a lot of boats that people want to get their boats out there and run and water ski. But you have to remember it's still a gravel pit area, so what happens is you get tremendous erosion when we have watercraft in there. We went back and forth on that so they agreed with us based on the soils around the lake that we'd go with no wake. But one of the things they do want us to do is open it up for events where at least at certain times there are things that are going that make use of it. The boat lobby really drives the rule making at DNR so it has that flavor to it. But everybody recognizes it. If you just look at Lake Andrea we had to put a lot of rip rap along the south and the east shore just from the wind. If we didn't control the wake of the boats we'd be like an empty pit just like it was before. We'd just be pouring rocks in there.

Rita Christiansen:

Anything else? Kevin, thank you for coming in and Leroy thank you for coming. . Keep up the good work. We appreciate it. Great job.

Kevin Meyers:

If you guys need anything just give me a holler.

Rita Christiansen:

I'd like to take a moment to have Mike or John introduce our latest member.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We were very fortunate to hire a new clerical secretary in the public works. Her name is Ruth Mack and she comes over from the Lakeview RecPlex and we're very excited to have her on board in public works. Actually this is her first day on the job and we make her work late.

Rita Christiansen:

Just let us know if we're not talking into the microphone. Welcome aboard and we're very glad you're here.

B. Discuss Phil Sander's Memorial

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

A couple of months ago we had talked about the construction and the type of design we would have for a Phil Sanders' memorial located by the Prairie Springs Park sign on Terwall Terrace and State Highway 165. As it shows on the slide ahead, we're looking at doing a small parking stall, maybe something around four or five stalls with a small monument sign. Some of the things we're looking at on the monument sign would be some of the lettering that we have on there, the size, the shape, the contours and different stuff of the sign, having the text and a portrait and a map. We had talked about some of the different possible images that we could project on the sign that would represent Phil Sanders and everything that he stood for, and also have a location map that would be to the south of 165.

We brought all the information that we had from our last meeting to Partners in Design Architects and they came up with this type of a design based on the dimensions and the information that they had given us. It's very similar to a lot of the other concrete structures that we have. It's a concrete base with some sort of a granite top with maybe some bronze plaques or something that would weather well and last a long time. I guess I would entertain any sorts of comments that you guys have on this actual monument structure. Then at future meetings we can talk about the exact wording and the exact pictures we can do and budget constraints that we might run into with this also.

Rita Christiansen:

John, are we talking about possibly putting some wild flowers around to dress up the area where this is going to sit if that's the decision?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We could definitely landscape around here. I would feel that it would be appropriate to have landscaping that is conducive with what Phil Sanders had worked on his whole life.

Actually we'll probably have Kevin Meyers who is also our landscape designer for the Village so he would come up with some sort of a landscape plan that would compliment the site.

Rita Christiansen:

Purple coneflowers, the prairie flowers, that kind of thing. Anyone else?

Glenn Christiansen:

I think that looks very nice.

Kathleen Burns:

Having the river rock is really pretty. That just looks really like the local river rock. Very nice.

William Mills:

Very nice design.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, I'll pass that along. Maybe for our next meeting we can work on some of the text we had. I know I had worked with Mr. Christiansen a little bit about some of the text and I'll work with him over the upcoming three weeks to prepare something for your review for the February meeting.

Rita Christiansen:

Very good. Nice job. Any other things?

Michael Russert:

One question since we're on memorials. Is there anything more about the veterans memorial? We talked a couple months ago about it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That was something that we did plan on having on the February agenda. We've been having a hard time with the holidays with Christmas and New Years and everything else and vacations and weather on having the local VFW President come to our meeting. So we are hoping to have him without any scheduling conflicts for our March meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Alex Tiahnybok:

Motion to adjourn.

William Mills:

I second the motion.

Rita Christiansen:

Motion made and seconded. All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Rita Christiansen:

Opposed? Being none, we are adjourned. Ruth, welcome aboard. Thank you again.