

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
Tuesday, August 7, 2007
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Kathleen Burns, Michael Russert, Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen and Monica Yugas. William Mills 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 AND APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2007 PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**

Michealene Day:

In your packet that was e-mailed to you there were the minutes of June 5, 2007 Park Commission meeting minutes. Did everyone have a chance to review them? If there are no additions or corrections, can I have a motion to accept?

Michael Russert:

Motion to accept the June 5, 2007 Park meeting minutes.

Rita Christiansen:

We have to abstain as we were not present.

Kathleen Burns:

I'll second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Motion passes.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

5. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

That's new isn't that, on the agenda?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We went through with the Village Clerk, Jane Romanowski, and she had instructed us to update our agenda to be more current with some of the State statutes and some of the wording on the agendas. So we are going to have Park Commission comments now.

Michealene Day:

I understood that I guess just to clarify we used to be able to bring up subjects that weren't on the agenda, and then we were told we couldn't bring up items not on the agenda. We could ask to have it put on the agenda for next month but it had to be items that were pre-determined to talk about. What exactly would this Park Commission comments be then? Would this be just, hey, you did a great job at the meeting or what exactly is that going to be involved in?

Mike Pollocoff:

If you think back, you used to have an item on your agenda called such other matters as authorized by law.

Michealene Day:

Correct, that's what I was talking about.

Mike Pollocoff:

And the Attorney General said you can't do that anymore. What was happening in a lot of communities, not Pleasant Prairie, but people, boards or commissions or councils would actually enact legislation under such other matters as authorized by law and the

public didn't have notice that there would be consideration given so that had to go. Then there was a twilight zone where the AG said you're not allowed to talk about anything that's not on the agenda so the comments came off.

Then there was another opinion that was sought by the League of Municipalities where they said there's always dialogue that happens, citizens come in, they ask questions, you can't answer back or if you want to make a statement about things there was no way to do it. Well, now we have what is permissible is Commissioner comments. It's just that Commissioner comments can be just about anything, but they can't be anything that's going to create an action where the commission would say we want a flower bed parked over at Midwest Highlands. The public should have a right to know that you might be taking action on something that they might want to have input on, and if you do it under comments then you've bypassed open meetings.

So what Board member comments and Commission comments are meant for is to comment on anything that you feel is pertinent that you want to talk about or talk amongst yourselves about, and it might lead to an action, but if it does lead to an action after you've had some discussion it should be only to direct staff to bring something back so that it goes through the agenda process so that it's noticed in a proper way.

Michealene Day:

I think that's a good addition. Thank you.

Mike Pollocoff:

We do it on all of them. Village Board we put it at the back of the agenda because it ends up getting kind of lengthy sometimes. This Commission doesn't really have long agendas so I don't think it's a problem. So feel free to say what you want.

Michealene Day:

I was not able to, I was out of town and was not able to attend Pleasant Prairie Days or the dedication for the veterans memorial. I don't know if any other Park Commissioners were there. If they wanted to make a comment at all it would probably be nice to put it in.

Glenn Christiansen:

I thought the veterans memorial dedication was really a wonderful thing to be there for. I was fortunate enough to be there with my father and the rest of the family and my nephew and my brother who all served in the armed forces. To see the veterans there and the ceremony. I think after all the times we discussed it and so forth we did a really fantastic job with what we did. I think it's always going to bring attention to the

memorial that is tied to the ballparks over there. I think back over how many times we talked about it and how we ended up where we did it's rather remarkable. I'm glad it took as many times as it did because I think we came up with the best plan. I'm very pleased with the whole outcome of it. And what's also nice is it could be expanded upon in the future. I don't know if anybody else has any comments.

Rita Christiansen:

I just wanted to thank John and staff and all those involved in the process. I know there was a lot going on, a lot of other details to attend to, and they managed to very—it was beautiful. The day was beautiful, the sun shined and it was very hot and I thought we had a very good turnout so thank you to staff and John. Appreciate it.

Michealene Day:

Anybody else?

Michael Russert:

I was fortunate enough to be there, too. Just to echo Glenn and Rita's comments it turned out really nice, and I think the different armed force groups that were there really appreciated the dedication and what we did. Thanks to the Parks Commission and the Village staff.

Monica Yuhas:

I would just like to chime in and state that the service, the presentation was wonderful, but it was also neat to see the women from Milwaukee come down, the veterans, and to present the flags and to have Eric Clark's family present and to raise the flags. It was very touching and very moving. I heard that through many residents throughout the day that were at the ceremony. It was done very well.

Michealene Day:

As usual you guys have done exemplary work. Thank you. Anyone else have any other comments about anything at all?

Michael Russert:

I have one comment. Fishing at Lake Andrea the last couple weeks, I was just wondering is there at all been talk about putting a light by the launch for people who launch or take the boat out after dark, to light the launch?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There hasn't been any talk about it but that's something we could put in our capital budget plan to light the launch. One of the issues that we do have out there is that we don't have power yet around the north side of the lake. So at the time when the ball field pavilion and the lights out there are constructed we can make sure to have We Energies put a transformer somewhere or at least a meter socket close enough in the planning process so we could put a light there. I think it's a really good idea, especially since some of the times in the early spring and late fall it does get dark rather early in the evening. So it's something we can definitely have in our future plans when the electrical service runs on the north side of the lake.

Rita Christiansen:

John, what are the park hours? I thought it was dawn to dusk?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The park hours for the road around the back side of the lake are dusk to dawn. But there are a lot of times in the evening when there's people on the lake that are fishing after five or five thirty or something like that.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments? Thank you.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss design options for playground equipment for Pleasant Prairie Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the projects that we worked on last year was developing the Master Park and Open Space Plan for all the Village parks in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. And one of the parks that we had a plan for was Pleasant Prairie Park located on Bain Station road and 014th. We have the plan and I apologize for some reason I have a black screen so I've got to turn around. This is the mater plan that we had developed. You can see where the playground is off of 104th. It's actually up at the top right part of your screen where it says playground up there. Right now there's kind of a—that's really the area where the house is that we had just razed about the last month or so. So we're actually relocating the small playground that we have that's just north of there at the area that's identified by the tennis courts and constructing a new type of playground with a small parking turnaround that's located just to the east of that.

So the purpose of this item on the agenda is to detail out what kind of amenities would you really like to see in that playground? I believe that the age of the kids that we have

are anywhere from three to four years old up to maybe ten or twelve years old. A lot of time it's the older brother or sister at a softball game or they will be at a soccer game once we construct the soccer field there and their younger brother or sister are there and they're playing.

Right now one of the concerns I hear from a lot of the residents when I'm at the game is that it's so far away they really can't see the kids. The parents still want to watch the game but they don't want the young three or four year old to be around the corner by the trees in the bushes. So we're going to take out some of the undergrowth, open it up so it's a very visible area and develop this playground area. So we do plan on putting this in the capital budget for 2008. I guess we're just looking for some input from the Park Commission on what sort of amenities we're looking for.

We do have a company that we've worked with in the past and we took some of the pictures of some of the playgrounds that they had available on their website that show what the slides are, what the monkey bars are and everything else. I can go through these and we can input afterwards and acquire a list, meet with the companies over the next month and develop some sort of a playground that really fits the needs for what we're looking for at that park.

Michealene Day:

John, before we go too far into this, years ago when we were going into and looking at some of the playgrounds and the equipment, there were concerns about what our insurance company would allow and not allow and some are very expensive. For instance, the merry-go-round thing that we all used to play on insurance companies don't want anything like that. All the stuff you're going to show us tonight these are all acceptable to our insurance company?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Everything that we're going to show you this evening will be acceptable to our insurance company.

Michealene Day:

Okay. I just didn't want to say, oh, we want this and they say, oh, I'm sorry you can't have that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I remember as a young kid playing on the one that goes around-

Michealene Day:

Then you jump off.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, you won't be seeing any of those. This is a small set. You can see how they have a little running area, a couple of slides and some steps on there. Probably one of the smaller ones. It really doesn't have a lot of monkey bars, a lot of active amenities for them, but it kind of shows you where they've been going with playgrounds over the last five or ten years. Everything is plastic and coated. You're going to see how the bars are spaced less than four inches apart to make sure everything is safe. Here's one of the versions of what they have. Here's one a little bit more elaborate that has some more climbing features on it. The slides are a little bit twisted. They have a little rock climbing wall off to the side, some monkey bars to the rear.

Michealene Day:

Are we still having vandalism problems out in that area? I mean is this something while we consider these different things is vandalism something else that as we're looking at these we should be concerned about.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Since the Village has acquired those properties off of 104th, razed the homes and really opened up that park area where it's really not so secluded in the back anymore. Probably back five or six years ago there was just a small path that went to the back, couple of homes. Everyone had the privacy bushes and shrubs all the way around there so it really was a secluded area as you were back there. So as the Village has acquired all those properties and opened it up the vandalism has gone right down really to where it's almost non-existent. It's much better than it has been in the past.

Michealene Day:

So that would not be an issue here where we'd be spending a lot of money repairing things that people are going after with a baseball bat which we had five years ago?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. I mean I can't guarantee that there won't be any vandalism. But anything that there would be has been significantly less than what it's been in the past without a doubt. Any of the vandalism that we've had recently has just been a spray painting, and a lot of these plastics are made in such a fashion where you can take the graffiti remover and spray it and it wipes right off. So it has been working. That's a great point to bring up.

This is a little bit more elaborate one. You can see that they have different features with some of the little nest for the kids to swing on and the slides in the rear. This one is a little bit more tube function where they run through the tubes. They have a double layer of the slides. You can see the rock wall again on the side. Here's another one a little bit more compact. But it still really has all the features with the tubes and slides. A lot of these are geared towards the younger kids because I think that's a lot where you're going to have the younger kids in there while the older kids are playing sports. This one is a little bit more spread out. It has some different features for the kids to climb and have fun and do what they have to do to be active.

Michealene Day:

Do we have enough room to do something spread out like that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we do.

Michealene Day:

So space is not an issue?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's plenty big. And these areas aren't really as big as you would think. If you do something in an area like 50 by 50 you can get a really large playground in there. We definitely have enough room to accommodate anything that we're looking for. I'm not saying we have an unlimited budget.'

Michealene Day:

But size wise none of this is an issue?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct. Here's one that's a little more elaborate also. It has the spiral slides and monkey bars. A couple of little roof canopies to keep the kids out of the sun. This one is a little bit smaller one with some climbing bar slides. Then we have our low cost budget option of just some swing sets. We can actually add some swing sets as a part of this. You can really mix and match anything that you want to do. If you're looking to have a tube slide we can have some slides or maybe some sort of climbing apparatus. I believe that's the last one. I'm not sure if there were any ones that jumped out at anyone. But I thought it was kind of important to show you what some of the new play equipment looks like. I know it's a lot different than what I was used to playing on as a kid. They've

come a long ways to make sure it's safe for all the kids.

Mike Pollocoff:

The one thing I'd recommend against is the one that showed the tubes where the kids can crawl in there. We have that RecPlex and they crawl in there and they poop in there. Once they're out of site there's all sorts of little things that go on in there.

Rita Christiansen:

Could I see the gray one? What is the twirly thing with the dots on it? The small slide and just to the right of that. What is that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It looks like there's a twisty slide.

Rita Christiansen:

Below the canopy what is that?

Monica Yuhas:

The thing that looks like a medallion with the two circles.

Michealene Day:

Sometimes they're like steering wheels.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I would assume it's a steering wheel that the kid can stand next to it and spin it.

Monica Yuhas:

John, what is a general ballpark as far as cost? It looks like you started out least expensive and worked your way to more expensive.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Anywhere between \$16,000, the first one that I showed you to maybe \$50,000 to the most elaborate. So what that includes for that price is the price of the material and a foreman that comes. So you might have one supervisor that comes with and then you'd have a staff and we would use our park group or try to find a volunteer group or whoever

else wants to be involved with that. So you have one guy that says this has to go here and this has to there, one expert in putting it together and we provide the grunt labor to keep the cost down.

Monica Yuhas:

And what would be going underneath the slide, underneath the equipment? Is it wood chips?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We're going to have the wood chips the same as what we have on Prairie Springs Park in the tot lot area just because it is the most cost effective means to do that. But it's still acceptable by our insurance company?

Rita Christiansen:

Do we need any consideration for handicap children? Or, one that's more friendly? This one looks like it would be more accessible compared to some of the other ones.

Mike Pollocoff:

I don't think any of them are accessible.

Kathleen Burns:

Wood chips make it pretty challenging. Usually the handicap ones have a different surface than wood chips.

Mike Pollocoff:

You need a poured area.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, a poured foam area with that. That's something that staff can investigate and come back once we have a couple of options for you for next month's meeting. You can one that has the ADA, one of the foam, one with the wood chips and explore the different price options that are available.

Michealene Day:

One other question that I have for you, too, we had said when we were all talking about the different pricing groups, realistically, Michael, how much are you going to give us to

spend? If we say we want the \$60,000 model and you say well, sorry, you get the \$12,000 we should even—realistic to think of?

Mike Pollocoff:

Realistically we're going to have to put in something that's handicap accessible so that elevates the prices. So if we can get something in at \$30,000 or \$35,000 for just the hardware and then maybe \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the prep, a poured base, like a rubber, they pour it and then put in some flat little pieces of rubber to give it some strength so you can get a wheelchair across it or somebody can ambulate without tripping. We can still have a swing set. I think we do one of each. Probably we can have Erin Lynch from therapeutic rec, she's been working on picking up a set for the RecPlex. She can give us some prices on some small or mixed use so we can have kids with special needs or mainstream kids get on it. But we need to do that and that will raise the price for the project. I'm thinking \$35,000 for the equipment and maybe \$10,000 for the site.

Rita Christiansen:

Maybe have one where half is handicap and half is non handicap usage or something.

Mike Pollocoff:

You want to make it all so you can do either. Even at RecPlex the therapeutic rec kids go out and it's a little bit difficult but they'll drag a chair over to the swings because the kids like to swing no matter who they are. They'll find a way to get in the right chair and we can make that work. It's just at RecPlex there's somebody there to help you get to that swing. In this park a parent or somebody is going to have to help. If it's not on the padded surface someone has to get to a swing.

Kathleen Burns:

There's a neat piece of equipment at Every Child's Place that can lock the wheelchairs in. You can roll up, lock the wheelchair and it's like a teeter totter thing. Have you seen it over there?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes.

Kathleen Burns:

I know it was a grant that we wrote. That was about \$5,000 just for the teeter totter but that's really neat. And I think other kids can play on it, too. It's not only handicap but it does have the functionality to lock a wheelchair into it and a ramp to get up there.

Mike Pollocoff:

The trick is to get stuff that all kids can use. The hope is that the handicap kids are able to play with the kids with no disabilities. That levels that playing field.

Monica Yuhas:

Question. Would it be possible to do this maybe in a couple phases?

Mike Pollocoff:

Sure.

Monica Yuhas:

Do it one year. Because just through being involved with PTAs, at Prairie Lane we did one area one year and then we fundraised and we did a second section. Bain did the same thing. They fundraised and then they were able to put in the equipment and add on every year. So is this \$30,000 or \$35,000 the first phase or is this the complete budget?

Mike Pollocoff:

I'm looking at that being the complete budget.

Michealene Day:

As Kathy had brought up is there grant money out there for the disabled equipment for them like the teeter totter? We've gotten pretty good at grant writing. Is there monies out there?

Mike Pollocoff:

There is some. For municipals it's like raise your taxes and get it. I think that's why unified they fundraise for them because it's . . . money for it.

Monica Yuhas:

Because basically every school buys their own equipment.

Michealene Day:

We did at Pleasant Prairie. When our kids were little Kenosha Unified barely recognized Pleasant Prairie Elementary and whatever we wanted to do we had to do it on our own

anyhow.

Kathleen Burns:

I agree with the recommendation about the tunnels. Kids really can hide in there or you'll get a more aggressive child that won't let anyone through so you'll hear crying but as an adult it's hard to get through the tunnels.

Rita Christiansen:

That's why I like the slide design because it's so open. You can everything versus everything else I saw.

Kathleen Burns:

I agree, I like this one.

Michealene Day:

I took Tyler to one at the park and he was going through one of the tunnels and he's so darn fast and I'm not as fast as he is and he's crawling through everything and I was trying to grab him. I was afraid he'd get hurt. So I like this one, too. What do you think your daughter would like, Mike?

Michael Russert:

Same.

Mike Pollocoff:

We'll look at the accessible version of that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much for your input.

Kathleen Burns:

I like the swings, too, before we close the subject. I just think it's really sad to have a playground with no swings. I don't know how expensive a swings set is, but if there's a chance we can put that in there, too.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

A swing set like this is probably \$1,700.

Kathleen Burns:

I don't know about anyone else liking swing sets.

Michealene Day:

I do, too. Then you'll have one with the baby swing that they actually sit into?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct.

Michael Russert:

John, can we go back to the map of the park? What's the planning to build the walking path around the wetland and the ball fields?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The path right now is probably towards the end of our five year capital plan as far as the park capital goes. There are some other parks that we will be working on in the near future with Village Green Park and Creekside Park and Highpoint Park, all three of those. If there's anything that we can do in house, it's something that we might do, but I guess really we'd have to take a hard look at the elevations that are out there and what it would take. If it's just a mowed path on the existing I'm sure it's something that every time when we mow if it's not too wet we can just go and mow a path out there. But I'd really have to investigate the soil conditions and the elevations and make sure it's not flooding. I know it can get pretty expensive to elevate a path through there and take out the organics. But it's something we can definitely look into.

Glenn Christiansen:

If I remember correctly that's an old peat bog so that's going to be very mushy, organic soil. Putting a trail in there is not going to be easy.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

They do give a lot of grants for trails probably more so than anything else as far as park amenities. Park trails have been the real hot thing recently. So maybe we can look at doing some grants as far as trail systems go. But it would probably be towards the end of our capital.

Mike Pollocoff:

We probably could put a path from the parking lot to the tot lot.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, we can do that one in house.

Rita Christiansen:

John, I forgot if you could review, you have the ball diamonds and then to the left of them what does that say?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's dog park but that's property that we have not acquired yet.

Rita Christiansen:

Then coming down from that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That was a disk golf course back in that area. Neither of those properties we've acquired yet but it is something that we do plan.

Rita Christiansen:

Can we change that to a skateboard park for the kids?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I thought we had a skateboard park identified up in the very top in the northeast corner. There is a skate park identified up in there.

Mike Pollocoff:

In the City.

Rita Christiansen:

I want the kids to have their skate park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And that would probably be another fundraising activity I would assume.

Rita Christiansen:

I'm sure you'd get lots of activity on that one.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions with the park?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'll go through and meet with the vendors and have some more details for you guys for the next meeting.

Michealene Day:

Okay, thank you.

B. Discuss development of Parks Commission Resolution regarding Kenosha County Sheriff's Department patrolling of Lake Michigan waters bordering Pleasant Prairie property.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the issues that staff has brought to the attention, and I believe it's something that we had worked on last year also, was the issue of the swimmers out on the lake, where do they park, how much parking is available for them, and then the jet skiers that are getting a little bit too close to some of the swimmers. So some of the residents that are in the area there have voiced some concern and asked what the Village can do. So we thought the first step would be to acquire some information, bring it to the Park Commission and then the Park Commission can work on adopting a resolution to do whatever we choose to do whether it's restricting parking or who really enforces the issues on the bodies of water.

So we have a couple of images we can show you. Actually, one of the residents that lives right next to the parkland had taken some pictures and e-mailed them to me so I told them I'd show them at the area here. The areas that are identified with the brighter green along side of Lake Michigan are the Village owned properties. Tobin Creek actually runs right through this area here. The foot bridge comes right down. This sandy area here is privately owned. This is currently where everyone is parking, so everyone is parking on the private sand area. We haven't had any complaints from the property owner, but all the residents that are around are concerned because a lot of the cars are single, double and

sometimes triple parking in that area because of its depth. So the Village has been working on acquiring more of these lots as they become available throughout here. So this is the area that we're talking about when we talk about the beach land. This is the area up here. The jetties are down here and the beach area up in here.

Michealene Day:

Can you do anything? If I own a piece of property and I say anyone who wants to park on it you can park on it, can the Village actually say no you can't?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I don't believe we have the authority to regulate private property.

Mike Pollocoff:

We could. It would be a zoning violation to use a residentially zoned lot for parking. But what doesn't show up really well on this map is Lakeshore Drive has a 100 foot wide right of way. So from the center of the road you go out 50 feet which is a significant right of way. When you take the distance between the right of way of Lakeshore Drive and then the high water mark of the lake there's very little land and that's why nobody builds on those lots because what is really left that's buildable isn't there. So there's people that are parking on the lots that John describes, but they might in fact be on the public right of way and then someone might be on that lot. And as long as you have an absentee owner of the property then they don't know what's going on and they really don't care.

I think the other issue is that the land that the Village has acquired and green there the parks department mows that land and keeps it mowed down and cars park on that. Just from a historical perspective, if you think back in '86 or '87 the lake was really high and it was washing up to the road, over the road in some cases. And at that time the Town went to the Carol Beach Association and said, listen, we can't let 1st Avenue go because we only have two ways into Carol Beach on 116th and 91st. If Carol Beach owners want to assume the cost of putting in the revetments, creating an open park there similar to what exists in River Oaks where they have a park by that back road, it's your park and you can use it as you want. The Village will build it, finance it and then the property owners can pay us back over a 20 year period. I think the payment was like \$300 a parcel. They resoundingly said no and it's the Village's responsibility. You have to put it in and at that time the Town Board said if we're going to have to spend public money on it and it's going to come from the tax roll and we're going to create that open space taxpayers have the right to use that space that's there.

And you think back to '86 and '87 you couldn't sell a lot down there. It was a really big swamp at that time. So we go through and create that shoreline buffer there. As soon as

we get done with that it looks great. Then you have all the people building across the street because they have a great view of the lake, the Village pays for the shoreline protection, protects the road, and they've got a view of Lake Michigan that would cost a whole lot more on the other side of the street. Then the housing market takes off and you have a lot of people who have filled in that area and they all want that area to stay open to the neighborhood only. They get irritated when they see Illinois cars down there and I think they get irritated when they see a lot of cars.

You have a point in time where you've established a public policy that said, okay, we're going to spend and at the time I think it was a half million dollars which was a lot of money to the Town at that time, and we cleaned up that whole area there and protected it. The downside was it's a public park. Now, people are saying it shouldn't be a public park or it shouldn't be as big a public park. Just based on the policy direction that we've had from the Board is let people use that area. Don't let them be stupid about it but that's an area where people can park so we mow it so they can get in there.

Now, there are some areas where we've blocked it off with those wood bollards primarily by the jetty over there. The reason we did that is you have jetties that go out on the lake that build up to sand for erosion control, but then also, and you can't see it unless you get over the lake side, there's a stair step of concrete. We took concrete from the Illinois toll way one year, great big slabs. It was a lane section eight feet wide and ten feet long. Then we built a staggered stair step revetment so that when the lake us up and the water washes up the energy of the water kind of dissipates as it climbs those stairs and then it comes back down. Well, behind that stairway we have fill put in there and we have broken concrete behind it and we don't want people driving on it pushing that wall. To get their cars up on it they're going to push that wall back out towards the lake. So that's why we have that area boxed off. And the same thing occurs down 116th Street where we have this same kind of structure. So some areas we don't want cars on it because we don't want the shoreline to be damaged.

But other area where we just have a rock wall which is the case we're talking about for a good chunk of this all it is is we put in blue clay behind the rock revetment. We put in topsoil, seeded it and that's what it is. Now there's this kind of tension between the Village saying it's open space, let the Village pay for it and the people get to use it. People have bought some of the pieces that are shown in gray there. People actually bought those properties from whoever owned it to stop people from parking across the street from their house. If you drive down there, it's kind of weird, but they have little pieces of wood outlining their lot saying stay off of it because it's private property. That's their property. They can't do anything with it other than that.

Michealene Day:

This is only my opinion, but I feel that it is public land and if I want to go look at Lake Michigan I should be able to go down there and park. Like you said, my taxpayer dollars

have paid to help maintain that, and if I wish to go down there and watch the waves come in then I should have every right to do so. Carol Beach doesn't own that property or they're not exclusive. It's public. That means anyone.

Mike Pollocoff:

No different than Lake Andrea or Pleasant Prairie Park. Now, the problem becomes, and the Park Commission talked a year ago or probably two years in a row, about putting buoys out into the lake and then having lifeguards man that beach area. That's expensive. It may have the impact of having Illinois people say we're not going to pay the fee to come there and swim at the beach, which means that's okay I guess if the goal is to keep people out of there but you want them to pay for the park.

But one of the real problems is the Sheriff has been really vocal about saying I am the chief law enforcement officer of the entire County, but that Pleasant Prairie can't enact any fines or citations from the water's edge out, that that's the Sheriff's jurisdiction. So we write tickets when someone parks with a trailer which is not permitted. You can't launch from these areas. We'll write a ticket when that happens on the lake side. But, if somebody goes to whatever the harbor is in Winthrop Harbor and they launch there or in Kenosha and they bring their jet ski down here they can pull up to the beach, pull up to the wall, and pull out their lunch or whatever and they can be there and we can't stop them. They can race around on the lake and we can't stop them either. The only person who has the authority to do that is the Sheriff. We've told them respectfully we think the Coast Guard has some authority but he says no, it's my jurisdiction but they haven't exercised that authority. One of the things is they exercise that authority, they want to exercise more authority than that so we get in that rub.

Right now the Village doesn't have a boat or a jet ski or anything to chase people. I'm not sure what that would help. You can have jet skis on the lake, but what people don't like is some people don't want them to be where the swimmers are and that's reasonable. But if you go to the Kenosha Harbor or any of the ones that you have people swim out there and you have boats and you have jet skis and jet skis run around in the water.

Michealene Day:

Has there been any accidents?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, but if you talk to people there's been many, many, many close calls.

Michealene Day:

There's many, many close calls driving a car, too.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I have images showing the jet skis. This shows the jet skiers coming by.

Michealene Day:

Does anyone really know? They're saying, oh, these evil Illinois people are coming up here. Have they stopped them and said where are you from? They could be Pleasant Prairie residents.

Mike Pollocoff:

They're just going by the license plates if they're parking there.

Michealene Day:

But you're saying jet skis are coming and parking and they have no idea who they are. They just don't want them in their private little area.

Kathleen Burns:

So jet skis can't launch from there but obviously there are jet skis coming from somewhere using that area.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. We don't have a boat launch built there. Again, we don't want people driving down over the revetments to launch their stuff.

Michael Russert:

So is there any public parking?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes. Anything on that green area shown on that map. And there's that one lot. We're not going to fence that lot out. That's the responsibility of that owner. If he wants to put a fence up or she does, whoever owns it God bless them they can do that. But we're not going to fence the private property off.

Michael Russert:

So the Village's standpoint is we don't care for them to park on the green cut grass.

Mike Pollocoff:

No. It's really hard soils. If you look at the picture up there we have the port-a-potty and that tree to the left. We own that land going to the left and then to the right is the property that's privately held. I imagine some of those cars are probably parked within the right of way because that right of way is so big on Lakeshore Drive.

Michealene Day:

So what are you asking? Are we talking that we want to ask the County to be more aggressive in passing out tickets? Is that what you're asking us if we want to make that determination.

Mike Pollocoff:

I think the policy question that you guys need to deal with is if you want to tell the Sheriff since you say this is your area and you're the master of that domain, we want you to come patrol that area and if people are violating watercraft laws cite them.

Rita Christiansen:

Legally do we have that? Are they, indeed, the master of that domain?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yes.

Rita Christiansen:

So will it set some kind of precedent or not, probably not then if we're not responsible.

Mike Pollocoff:

We don't want them to patrol the whole Village. We just want them to patrol the area that they say is there.

Michealene Day:

So I think it would be kind of interesting if one of the residents of Carol Beach has a party and their friends are parking in this right of way and the Sheriff's Department comes and tickets their party friends.

Rita Christiansen:

Technically they can ticket on the land, though. You're talking on the water.

Mike Pollocoff:

The Village tickets on the land.

Michealene Day:

No, I'm saying if the guy that lives across the street as a party and they park over there and the Sheriff's Department comes over and gives them a ticket because they're parked over there.

Rita Christiansen:

They can't. They can't ticket the land, they can only ticket the water. That's what you said.

Mike Pollocoff:

What we want them to do is put their boat in the water from Kenosha.

Michealene Day:

So just the water. So they're not going to ticket the 50 foot easement, just the water you're just saying?

Mike Pollocoff:

Right.

Michealene Day:

Okay, I misunderstood. I'm sorry.

Glenn Christiansen:

Do we know what regulations pertain to the water side of the issue?

Rita Christiansen:

For them what are their regulations?

Michealene Day:

I know a jet ski cannot be within 150 feet of, because my son got a ticket doing this, you cannot be within 150 feet of another boat or person. So if you're within 150 feet which is kind of hard to tell when you're speeding down on a jet ski, but it was a \$300 ticket.

Mike Pollocoff:

We're not really sure what the regulations are to be honest with you.

Michealene Day:

That was just last year he got a ticket.

Mike Pollocoff:

We just say no wake on Lake Andrea so you can't go out there with a motor so it's not a big deal. Part of this is still driven by the residents saying we don't want anybody out there. I think some of it might be realistic where people might have had close calls. If they live in the area and they went down there to swim and the jet skiers are running around. I can see how that's irritating. But there's nothing, we don't have the equipment or a boat to go out and chase after them.

Rita Christiansen:

Do they monitor other parks?

Mike Pollocoff:

They monitor the town lakes.

Rita Christiansen:

Kenosha?

Mike Pollocoff:

No, but they monitor Paddock Lake, Silver Lake, the County does. They do the lakes that are in the towns. They do that.

Michealene Day:

And they have a boat in those lakes. Then what about if you go further north into Kenosha? Does that Kenosha boat monitor Kenosha waters?

Mike Pollocoff:

Kenosha has the Coast Guard monitor theirs.

Rita Christiansen:

Can we get the Coast Guard to monitor us?

Mike Pollocoff:

We can ask them. We can ask who we want, but the Sheriff has always been adamant that he's the chief law enforcement officer on the water.

Glenn Christiansen:

It makes more sense to simply ask them to enforce their laws.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Because one of the issues we have is the residents are coming to us saying that there's a water law being violated but it's not being violated on Village controlled property, that being the waters of Lake Michigan.

Michealene Day:

Just tell them to call the County.

Rita Christiansen:

Why don't they go to the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department and put a complaint in and direct them in that direction. Why would we even need a resolution?

Michealene Day:

Because if that's what the Sheriff is claiming then all residents that complain you would tell them to call the Sheriff's Department and file a complaint because they're the grand poobah of the water.

Glenn Christiansen:

It probably also looks better, though, that we've made a resolution stating that the County should enforce their laws.

Rita Christiansen:

I don't see the benefit. We could put it on our web page or something directing them that any inquiries this is where you go. It would be like telling them here is the grand poobah and here is the information and you need to take it to that step.

Kathleen Burns:

I guess I'd be curious back to the Coast Guard question. If the Coast Guard does the City of Kenosha then there's this imaginary line and then the County does between Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie and Illinois. And then does the Coast Guard pick up again in Illinois? That seems silly to me. If the Coast Guard has the ability to monitor the coastline for Lake Michigan why would they exclude this area?

Michealene Day:

Have they excluded this area?

Mike Pollocoff:

Because the Sheriff has said he's the one.

Michealene Day:

So they do exclude it because the Sheriff has said that.

Mike Pollocoff:

It's like if the Sheriff wants to do it, fine, go do it.

Monica Yuhas:

Has the Sheriff ever been out to this area for any instance, any complaints, any problems?

Mike Pollocoff:

He's been out when there's been some homicides when bodies have washed up from the water.

Rita Christiansen:

I guess my concern, too, is the perception because of past discussions that have been held at the Village in regard to the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department and the Pleasant Prairie Police Department. I have a concern and it is, indeed, as Kathy pointed out the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard then. Direct them to the Coast Guard and let the Kenosha

County Sheriff deal with the issue of this is my area. I'm worried we're going to blur the line so to speak.

Monica Yuhas:

Can we find that out? As a Commission can we find out truly whose jurisdiction it is and then that would give us a little more—

Mike Pollocoff:

Jurisdiction is it's a federal water. It's the jurisdiction of the federal government. But the State says we have overlapping jurisdiction for three miles.

Rita Christiansen:

Then I guess I would push back and say why even have a discussion because of the fact that that's between the Coast Guard and Kenosha County and we can only manage the land part of it.

Michealene Day:

Almost like you're getting in the middle of—

Mike Pollocoff:

The intent is if the Park Commission wants to go on record through a resolution saying we want, and it could be the Coast Guard, we need enforcement on the waters.

Michealene Day:

We don't care who does it, somebody just do it.

Mike Pollocoff:

If we want the Coast Guard to do it or the Sheriff to do it.

Monica Yuhas:

Why don't we invite both of them here at the next meeting. Invite the Coast Guard, invite the Sheriff and discuss this.

Glenn Christiansen:

I personally if I had a choice between who is going to exercise jurisdiction I would prefer

the Coast Guard. My experience has been in years past when it comes to around Pike's Creek when there's a reason to tell people to get out of the water or to go down there and do something about a situation the Coast Guard simply does it. They're there. They take care of it. They move on. They come back if they have to. And if the Sheriff's Department is doing nothing about something that they're claiming jurisdiction over I personally have more faith in the Coast Guard doing it because they have the manpower. They have the boats, the equipment in all weathers for that matter. I think it would make the most sense to simply call on the Coast Guard.

Michealene Day:

Do we even have the authority or the right—you got in my construction industry you have laborers and operators and the laborers claim this is theirs and the operators claim this is theirs. Actually as a manager of the company those two have to battle it out. I can't say I'm going to go with the operators instead of the laborers. I can't make that determination. Those two bodies that are both claiming that work have to fight it out. So can we actually be the person to say, hey, we choose you? Do we have the authority to choose one or the other? I mean we could say as a Commission you two fight it out but one of you guys have to be the one to do it.

Rita Christiansen:

Or even a recommendation perhaps to think about maybe for next time put on the web page questions or concerns regarding this area, water or however it would be worded, please contact the Coast Guard or the Kenosha County Sheriff.

Michealene Day:

What is the Coast Guard's take on this?

Mike Pollocoff:

Just to kind of back up to answer your question first that might help. We have home rule authority. We decide what happens in the Village and nobody else so we can ask whoever we want. When there's a fatality in the water the police department always calls the Coast Guard. That's our source. That is a real big source of contention with the Sheriff. It makes them crazy that we do that.

Michealene Day:

So we already have a precedent that we use the Coast Guard.

Mike Pollocoff:

It's just the Sheriff has said I'm the chief law enforcement officer on the water and we've kind of said, well then, fine. I think that's what the Coast Guard said, too.

Glenn Christiansen:

The Sheriff's Department you never see them on the lake in all the years of boating. I've never seen a Sheriff boat out on Lake Michigan. I've seen them on the inland lakes. But they also don't have the resources or the equipment for Lake Michigan. All other capabilities really fall on the Coast Guard and they train for that.

Mike Pollocoff:

If you'd want we can at the next meeting have the Coast Guard come and describe for us what the--tell them about our problem and what we're dealing with and get some feedback from them.

Rita Christiansen:

I would welcome someone to come. I don't want to get into the position of he said/she said because of past issues we've had in the Village. So I would be interested to see what they can offer and then if we need to have the Kenosha County Sheriff's.

Monica Yuhas:

I think they should both be here. They both have jurisdiction. They both need to present their case and they both need to tell us what they're going to do and how they're going to help solve this problem and how they're going to do it. With what equipment, if they're going to have people, what the response time is going to be with something like this. I think they need to go on the record and state that.

Kathleen Burns:

Did I understand you correctly, Mike, and maybe I just didn't get it, the Coast Guard said fine if the Sheriff wants to do it that's okay with us, only meaning that if someone wants to take part of your workload and they say they're going to do it then go ahead? So if we set up a forum such as Monica suggested will both parties think they are vying to do this in a positive way or will the Coast Guard say--

Michealene Day:

I don't care, I don't want to do it.

Kathleen Burns:

–okay, if the Sheriff’s Department wants to do this that’s less work for us and we’re fine with it and go for it?

Mike Pollocoff:

That doesn’t happen in the City and it doesn’t happen in Somers. It just happens in Pleasant Prairie.

Monica Yuhas:

And I would like them to go on the record one way or the other saying that they’re either going to patrol this area and they’re going to do what they’re elected to do, or give it to someone else.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right now one of the issues that we’re having is there’s nobody patrolling it and there is evidence of a problem out there and we’re just trying to keep the ball rolling.

Monica Yuhas:

If they’re authorized to patrol it and they’re not doing it that’s a problem in itself.

Kathleen Burns:

But have they been called to do it? That’s the question.

Mike Pollocoff:

We’ve referred calls to them, PD has.

Monica Yuhas:

That’s why someone from the Sheriff’s Department should be here to answer those questions why they’re not responding to calls.

Rita Christiansen:

But yet they’re insisting it’s theirs.

Kathleen Burns:

And another question, is it possible to put something–I mean whose responsibility would it be, for example, if you put something up there that said this is no wake, regardless of–I

don't see any type of signs at all. So if you are on a Skidoo and you are trying to maintain the 150 yards and you have people swimming out there—

Mike Pollocoff:

We can't regulate the waters.

Kathleen Burns:

So you can't even put a sign.

Mike Pollocoff:

We can but we can't enforce it.

Kathleen Burns:

Would that be a Village purchase of a buoy or something that says no wake zone or slow no wake or caution, swimmers or something to that effect, that signage?

Mike Pollocoff:

We could buoy the beach area if we designate a beach area that we're going to have swimmers in and sign that and guard that. The Coast Guard lets the City do it and I'm sure they'd let us do it. But, again, we could say you can't bring floaties and things like that into the water with you, but anything else beyond that we'd be relying on the federal rules on the lake. I'm not sure what the County has adopted as far as rules on Lake Michigan.

Kathleen Burns:

But if it was an unguarded area but just marked is that feasible?

Mike Pollocoff:

We could do that. The problem is there's so many people down there, whatever we put down there and if it isn't manned, someone is not there, it will be gone. That was one of the discussions I had with former Trustee Tiahnybok is putting buoys down there is going to be great that day you put them down, but I can tell you the vandalism rate down there as soon as you put something out there to take it's gone.

Glenn Christiansen:

And the storms down there

Michealene Day:

I'm just asking because I'm not really sure, I get involved in all these stupid legal things at work, but if you start buoying things out right now we're not life guarding it and we don't have to check if it's safe swimming as far as chemically or if there's too much bird poop or whatever in the waters and stuff, if you start regulating this then it becomes a pretty financial hassle to us, too, isn't it?

Mike Pollocoff:

You assume some responsibility. We already do sample that on an ongoing basis. We have recreational immunity so if we create a swim beach with nobody there you swim at your own risk. The Village can't be held responsible for it. Wisconsin's got a pretty strong law for that. But we do have health responsibilities and if we do know that there's sewage discharging in the lake or sewage coming from someplace down into the lake we have to be able to tell people about that. We'd be negligent if we didn't do that.

Rita Christiansen:

So if you invited the Sheriff's . . . and also let Carol Beach residents know then they could voice their concerns in regards to the water traffic and the Sheriff could address the concerns to their response. Then we could deal with the land portion of it and that may be able to give us more information on what we need to do for the next step.

Mike Pollocoff:

I'd be more than glad to do that if you want. I just want to make sure we structure the discussion that we're talking only about Lake Michigan and we're not talking about anything else in the Village.

Michealene Day:

Yes, just Lake Michigan.

Rita Christiansen:

But that would allow them an opportunity to voice their opinion and concerns . . . and what has been the response. But you would have to direct the conversation and keep it only on Lake Michigan.

Monica Yuhas:

Are you saying just the Sheriff's Department then Rita?

Rita Christiansen:

No, you could have both here. It wouldn't matter. But I think it's important that you have the residents that are down there saying this is the issue and we have a concern, attend the meeting. Offer it out to them so then they have a voice and their concerns are aired.

Michealene Day:

Can this be my next comment off the record?

Rita Christiansen:

No, not until the end.

Monica Yuhas:

But I would like to see the Coast Guard and the Sheriff's Department here. I would like them both present.

Rita Christiansen:

That's what we said, correct, yes.

Michealene Day:

Is that what this commission would like to entertain is have a meeting before we do any resolutions?

Monica Yuhas:

I would.

Mike Pollocoff:

You need a motion.

Michealene Day:

I guess I'm asking an opinion here what everybody asks for if this is something before I let the motion die. Does this sound like something that you guys would like? So then let's have a motion. I'd like to entertain a motion.

Monica Yuhas:

I make the motion at our next Park meeting we invite a representative from the Sheriff's Department and a representative from the Coast Guard to discuss the water issues facing the Village with Lake Michigan.

Michealene Day:

I have a motion. Is there a second?

Kathleen Burns:

I second.

Michealene Day:

Any more conversation on it? All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Opposed? Motion carries. The only amendment I might make on that is if they can't make this next meeting in one month it might be hard to get everybody notified, especially if we're going to ask Village people it might be—I don't know if we can get them all here.

Mike Pollocoff:

If it's posted it will be on a Wednesday because we're off cycle because of Labor Day.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It will be on September 5th, a Wednesday.

Monica Yuhas:

That's also the first day of school so you may not get many people here.

Mike Pollocoff:

You could juggle your meeting to another day.

Monica Yuhas:

I think to be fair to the residents it may be better. It would be better to move that date–

Rita Christiansen:

To the following Tuesday?

Kathleen Burns:

Or could it be in October? I mean by September the boating season is over basically. I'm just thinking if that's not a good day for this discussion would giving it an extra month? I know September is a busy month.

Rita Christiansen:

Mike, are you looking for something sooner than that?

Mike Pollocoff:

Only to the extent that the residents want something done. By September 4th really the boating season will be done by the, but at least we go into the–if the Sheriff is saying he wants to take care of that it gives him time to staff up and buy boats or buy what he needs. Or, if it's going to be the coast Guard then they can say what they want to do. But I think at least the residents, whether it's September 13th or whenever you change the meeting dates at least they would know at the end of the season that next year it's going to be handled.

Michealene Day:

I'm not in favor of changing the meeting date. Like you said it's Wednesday. Everybody knows that it's the first Tuesday of the month.

Mike Pollocoff:

The Board will be meeting Tuesday.

Michealene Day:

Because of the holiday we get moved down one day.

Mike Pollocoff:

That's your call on how you want to do it.

Rita Christiansen:

October?

Michealene Day:

The next following Tuesday I'm out of town.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'm at a conference also.

Michealene Day:

On the following Tuesday.

Rita Christiansen:

October?

Michealene Day:

So we either have to do it the first week or move it to October. So I guess the next Tuesday is not an option.

Rita Christiansen:

So October.

Michealene Day:

Is that too late?

Mike Pollocoff:

No. It gives them plenty of notice to get here.

Michealene Day:

Then it will be October.

Mike Pollocoff:

The regularly scheduled meeting in October.

Michealene Day:

In the meantime I think the website, since he's saying that he's the grand poobah, that it should be addressed to him and all the phone calls should be addressed to him beforehand.

Mike Pollocoff:

We do that.

Michealene Day:

I know you are.

Mike Pollocoff:

But we'll modify the website if it doesn't say that.

Michealene Day:

Any more discussion you want to have on that?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Rita Christiansen:

I make a motion we adjourn.

Glenn Christiansen:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Thank you all very much.