

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
August 7, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Monica Yuhas, Cindy Schwab (Alternate #1), Steve Kundert and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2). Troy Holm and William Mills were excused. Also present were Tom Shircel, Assistant Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Director of Public Works; and Ruth Mack-Stoner, Executive Secretary. One citizen was present.

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

Michealene Day:

In your packets you were sent the minutes of our past meeting. is there any corrections or additions? If not, could we have a motion to approve?

Monica Yuhas:

Motion to approve.

Jim Bandura:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Monica Yuhas moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the June 5, 2012 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 7-0.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

I'm sorry, could you come up to the podium because it's recorded and state your name and address please.

Carolyn Henry:

Carolyn Henry of Pleasant Prairie. Just a suggestion because this has been a wicked summer with the heat and all. Could we with foresight establish a tree keeper group authorized or checked out by master gardeners of the County Extension Office? They have a bunch of people there, and maybe they could help us with watering the trees because we're going to lose some, aren't we Mr. Steinbrink? Aren't we going to lose some trees?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There is a possibility. A lot of the trees that are established and have a good root system those are pretty good. They may be stressed and leave early. It's hard to tell with some of the new ones what's going to happen. As long as they do a proper water and maintenance plan with them they should be okay. But there is always a possibility any dry season.

Carolyn Henry:

I live walkable from Fire Station #2, and there were some nice trees planted on the parkways on that one or two blocks that are owned by the Village. Also I walk from H to St. Anne's Church to Prairie Ridge Boulevard. You replaced the trees that were planted poorly a few years ago. I'm a tree person, so I just wish I could help more. But tree keepers it's just a thought to keep in mind because the climate change is for real. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Thank you so much. We'll look into it. Thank you. Any other comments?

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Review Master Park Plan 2012 - 2016**
 - **Goals Objectives and Standards**
 - **Policy Recommendations and Programs**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Park Commission, first I'd like to make a clarification on a statement that I had made last month with Clerical Services that were provided. It was not the fault of Peggy who does the transcription that they were not done. It was a combination of staff not being able to have everything ready. So I wanted to make sure that that was stated in open session.

And the second thing here getting back to the agenda, staff met a couple times with Ruth, myself, Tom and Ms. Werbie to go over a lot of the comments that we had over the last couple meetings, taking my notes, everyone's notes, Rita had provided us information, any notes that we had taken over the course of the last two meetings. Trying to take it at a big table, put them all together and make some sense out of them. The one common theme that we had was that there was a lot of discrepancies in the writing styles. And so what we ended up doing staff was – we spent a little bit of time at first trying to rewrite where we said this paragraph move it here, rewrite this, change this statement, move this word around. We ended up basically rewriting a lot of it because the writing styles are really so different from what I think we're used to seeing in a professional document and what we had had. I don't mean to say that it's a bad job that was done by Public Research, but I just don't think it's very consistent with our comp plan and a lot of our other reports.

So in your packet you received like a new Chapter 5 I guess I should say, the goals, objectives and standards, the introduction, the definitions, the goals and then policy recommendations. So it was staff's thought that we go through and review the ones that were sent to us or that were included in your packet versus going through a lot of the things that were in Chapter 5 starting on page 77. With the thought that the writing style is very consistent throughout this document, and so maybe just to save a little bit of time we tried to rewrite it, do a formal review on it internally for staff, and then have the Park Commission go through and make their comments on that.

And so I apologize if anyone had taken a lot of time going through and marking up which I'm sure you all did the original document, but we thought it would be best to go through and make our revisions and so we spent a little bit of time doing that. And it was our goal to take a lot of the themes and a lot of the information that we had but write it in more of a format consistent to our comp plan and some of our other reports.

Jean Werbie really is the professional on staff that's the expert at doing that so she had the lion's share of the work. She did an excellent job with it, and I think that she did a great job. So we can go through and review it either way that you want I guess, or we can do the ones that we had sent over, and then if there's anything that's missing with comments that they had in Chapter 5 starting on page 77, I guess I'll just kind of leave it to you how you'd like to proceed with that.

Michealene Day:

I think, and I'll ask what the rest of the Board feels, but I do believe that the Commission was not terribly thrilled with the writing style and the work that was done on the plan, and we did ask for staff and Ms. Werbie to help us rewrite it. I guess it would be my opinion as this replaces Chapter 5 we use the documents you've provided and review those, and if there's any corrections or additions we replace these documents with Chapter 5. What does the rest of the Commission feel?

Jim Bandura:

I'm in agreement because, like you say, the writing of the report isn't all that clear, and after going over what was presented to us I believe it's a lot more clear, and I think going this way and reviewing what was given to us in the packet I think that would serve us better.

Steven Kundert:

I would agree. To go back and go through the already corrected section is probably a little bit redundant, and just to review the resubmitted information would be sufficient.

Monica Yuhas:

After reviewing the new materials that were provided it mirrors what the Village does with their writing. It also goes hand-in-hand with the comp plan. And a lot of times when you're applying for grants they're going to look at the comp, they're going to look at this. So I'm in favor of taking this and incorporating this and using these documents in the future.

Rita Christiansen:

Agreed.

Glenn Christiansen:

I agree.

Cindy Schwab:

I agree as well.

Michealene Day:

Okay, well, that was unanimous. Great, terrific. So do you want to take the lead then?

Tom Shircel:

Can I make some comments, Madam Chair and Commissioners?

Michealene Day:

Sure.

Tom Shircel:

The first one here is the goals, objectives and standards. And I was going through it, and just to brief the Commission, that introduction appears to be a brand new introduction. And then when you get into the basic definitions just so the Commission is aware those were taken right out of 2006-2011 existing park and open space plan. And then as you get further down the goals were taken actually from the Village's 2035 Comp Plan. Then when you get into page 2, the standards, which goes all the way through the rest of the document, those standards are taken right again from existing park and open space plan nearly verbatim. So just you're aware of that.

Michealene Day:

And that's what you were complaining about.

Tom Shircel:

So I just wanted to brief the Commission on that.

Michealene Day:

Because that was exactly what Rita was having issues with was last meeting was that the standards weren't exactly jiving in this document as with what we had been using. Okay, thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And so I guess we can start up with the introduction. If anyone has any specific comments on the first paragraph with the introduction we can alter that at this time or approve them and move onto the next section.

Michealene Day:

Anyone have any comments?

Tom Shircel:

Madam Chair, again, the sentence toward the middle of that paragraph beginning with the word because I thought it read a little bit awkward. I sort of rewrote it. Did you want me to read that into the record?

Michealene Day:

Yes, please.

Tom Shircel:

The way I rewrote it, it says the 2035 Comprehensive Plan provides an overview of the park and open space facilities as a integral part of the community-wide system and includes objectives and standards which address regional, community and neighborhood as well as open space facilities in the neighborhood. So I just made some edits to it to make it what I thought read a little better. I can give those to Ruth if the Commission agrees.

Rita Christiansen:

I agree. The word because I didn't care for that at all.

Michealene Day:

Okay, yes, please change unless someone has an objection. Terrific, thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And then the next component was our basic definition of goals, objectives and standards which is very consistent with our comp plan, very consistent with our other park and open space plans. So we kept that. And then we went through the goals. And we did meet as staff to go over our goals, our objectives and our standards and then to make sure that we incorporate those as new programs or as capital items in our budget that we have moving forward throughout the year. So I guess if there's any questions with the definitions or starting off with the goals.

And we can go through the goals one by one if you'd like, and the first goal is to provide a sufficient number of park, recreational facilities, open space areas to enhance health and welfare of all Village residents and visitors. Protect the many natural, historical, archeological sites and other archeological resources in the Village that contribute to the Village's history and it's quality of life. Preserve and enhance the Village's natural resources, park and open space sites. Provide a comprehensive system of parks and open spaces to enhance the quality of the environment and life to allow the residents adequate

opportunities to participate in resource and non-resource oriented outdoor recreation activities.

And so the goals really are the broad statements that we have. The objectives are a little bit more specific than the goals, and then the standards are the way that we measure how well our facilities are meeting the needs of our objectives and our goals. So we tried to tie all that together going through all of these.

Tom Shircel:

And then like I mentioned those goals were taken right out of our Village comp plan so they sort of mesh those two documents together.

Michealene Day:

Okay, any questions, corrections, additions? Hearing none so far.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, so I don't know if I want to go through and read the entire document.

Michealene Day:

No, no.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I guess we can just start off on page 2 of there's any comments on the objectives or the standards for goal one. And so there's five objectives and two standards on that page.

Michealene Day:

I believe we're good.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And then on page three we have standards three and four for our neighborhood parks and for our school parks.

Tom Shircel:

And, again, these have not changed from the existing park and open space plan.

Michealene Day:

Okay.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And then standard number five on page four is our special open space areas that we have. And then that continues onto page five with number six, seven and eight. So we did not go through and number any of the tables until the document is complete, then we'll make sure that they're all concurrent throughout the document. So basically just the basic definition of goals, objectives and standards. And then if there's no other comments I'll move that we make the few edits that we have taken from staff and Commission and move onto the specific objectives and the year's matrix spreadsheet in the second document.

Michealene Day:

Except for under introduction the one change made by Tom, everyone agree that this is acceptable?

Voices:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

We're good with it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And then concurrent with the first document that we have on page two with the objectives, identify, acquire and provide land for quality outdoor public recreation sites and adequate open space in the Village, the second document goes through and lists out each of the programs that those objectives will carry and then a priority by year. And some of them are ongoing programs, and other ones are something where we're going to go through, do it one time, fund it, complete it, and then it will be complete then move on from there.

And so I guess on the first page with objective one we have the first three programs and then a year which we're hoping to present to the Village Board prioritizing which ones can go through and make these happen. So we did do an update to the Pleasant Farms Neighborhood Plan. And keep in mind a lot of this stuff, a lot of these programs are not done by myself or Ruth. A large lion's share of the planning happens by Jean Werbie and Tom Shircel. And so one of the things that really wasn't very clear in the original plan was a lot of the stuff that's done behind the scenes. There's a lot of work that has to

be done that I'm not included with but Jean and Tom do and Mike Pollocoff to go through and plan everything up. And so when it comes to this part it's already done and ready to go and then come over from construction and maintenance. But we thought it was very important to go through and include a lot of the work that happens beforehand by other staff and include that in the plan.

Tom Shircel:

I think when John and Jean Werbie and I sat down and went through this and Ruth, the first column there is listed as priority. I think one of the questions we had for the Commission was do you want to keep that column, and do you want to rank these as high, medium, low like they did on page 84 of the Public Research plan? Or, do you want to dismiss that column completely? Do you feel that's necessary to have that column and prioritize those?

Monica Yuhas:

Here's my thought. If we prioritize, which is great to have that priority, but it's also based on money and what's available. And right now we know every year budgets get tighter and tighter and tighter. And I think when you prioritize when someone looks at it that isn't involved in the document they assume that that number one priority is going to get done because it's your number one priority. So my feeling is not to have any priorities listed, and when the funds become available they're brought to the Commission and we discuss it at that time.

Michealene Day:

Or even in the case where we may have something prioritized as two and something as one, and then a grant comes through and we can do two but not one, so then people are going to say how come you did two and you didn't do your first priority. So I would agree with Monica take the column out.

Tom Shircel:

Those are great points. People would look at that and, like you said, it's prioritized as one and in the year 2013 it's not done and they wonder why. I think that's a very good idea.

Rita Christiansen:

It definitely allows us flexibility based on what you both said to move things around accordingly.

Michealene Day:

Funds and grants.

Rita Christiansen:

It doesn't lock us in.

Michealene Day:

So the column could come out.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So we will make that edit and the next time you see it, it will be deleted. And then objective two is to prepare marketing information and educate the community about park and recreational opportunities and facilities available in the Village. I went to the Village website and I clicked on the parks and actually looked, I'm sure the Commissioners and other people have done it also, and it's actually a very poor representation of our park system. It doesn't include all the parks. It has a map that probably is not the best map. It really doesn't have a good array of pictures. If I was just a new resident going on, I really want to be very excited or attracted to go to one of these parks.

So we have had some conversations with Chris Lopour, we are going to work within our budget to go through and get some fliers out. I think one of the things that Public Research a great job on was that survey because we really did get some good input from the community. And one of the things I think we heard loud and clear is that we really need to see where these parks are. So we're going to go through and send one of my park staff out with the camera or Chris Lopour out with the camera, take a lot of pictures. Hopefully it greens up soon. We have a lot of new playgrounds, a lot of nice shots that we can have. At least make it a little bit inviting, make some nicer maps on the website. So actually going through a lot of the things that we have in objective two and trying to chip away at them on a year-by-year basis. And so if there's any one of these programs that you think really doesn't need to be done or anything that you'd like to add we can take those comments at this time.

Tom Shircel:

Madam Chair if I could add one to the first program. I think pursuant to the survey done by Public Research if we could add in that list after music in the park or where have you, art in the park. I think an art fair or festival is one of the priorities that they found in the survey that the residents would like to see.

Michealene Day:

Okay, good idea.

Tom Shircel:

And then further down, the third program from the bottom where it says continue the tradition of promoting and hosting the annual Veteran's Day tribute, John, maybe you can correct me on this, but aren't there some bricks out there that people can sponsor or buy in memory of a veteran?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, there are some bricks and there are some benches. And so we'll make some reference to continue to promote the sale of bricks for the funding of the Veteran's Memorial in remembrance of people that have lost their life.

Michealene Day:

Okay, anyone else have anything in objective two that they would like to add, subtract, correct?

Rita Christiansen:

Fourth one down, various age groups which explain the health benefit of utilizing the Village park and trail system. Is there any way to promote that within healthcare like United Healthcare System or something like that to partnership with them.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's something we can definitely look into.

Rita Christiansen:

Because we do have something right now, don't we have them partnering with us?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe they do some of the physical therapy, is that what you're referring to?

Rita Christiansen:

Right. And so it really would be nice if you could link to each other. That way if somebody clicks on their link it shoots them into our link.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay.

Michealene Day:

And if we're going to be, on the same thing that Rita has, if we're going to be working with schools and special interests to adopt a beach, we might as well utilize at the school the same up above to work with the school kids to utilize Village parks and trail systems as well, too, with the schools.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, I have that edited. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Because further on we're going to talk about go to local grade schools and promote Earth Day. Well, all of that can kind of be combined all together.

Rita Christiansen:

Because the RecPlex also has special needs, equipment, etc., for community members and outside community members, too. So maybe there's something we can do on that end also.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

As a new program on this objective two.

Rita Christiansen:

Yeah.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, I'll make a note to work with the TR group. I'll work with Erin Winch specifically to find out exactly what needs to be done to have that in the plan.

Michealene Day:

Anything else? Objective three then.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The next one that we have is to preserve the Village's natural, cultural and archeological

resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future community residents and businesses. And then we have a list of the programs in here, and I can ask for any comments at this time.

Michealene Day:

Anyone have any additions, corrections? It continues on the next page, too.

Rita Christiansen:

I do have something. John, is there any way we can tie some of the historical information into the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society, somewhere in there partner with them and bring them in also because anything we can do to market ourselves.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure. Was there a specific program that you were referring to?

Rita Christiansen:

Not really, just somewhere in here to probably find the best fit. And Jean would probably be the one to ask. Because you're talking about preserve archeological sites, inventory in the Village comprehensive plan, encourage educational facilities, museums, maybe the last one, and Village parks to promote the historical and archeological significance of the Village. Something to do with a parallel path or partnership with the Village of Pleasant Prairie Historical Society.

Michealene Day:

If you turn the next page it's on there.

Rita Christiansen:

I'm sorry. Okay, my bad, I missed that. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

I know it's hard because you think it's all on one page. Would that fit?

Rita Christiansen:

Absolutely. Thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The next one we have is objective four. Provide off street and on street interconnected bike and walking trails and related public open space areas that will provide Village residents and community businesses with adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities. And there's a list of half a dozen programs that I can take comments on.

Michealene Day:

Do you think there would ever be a time that we could see some kind of an overhead walkway across Green Bay Road to connect? Green Bay now being so wide it's almost impossible to get across on a bicycle or walking or something that it would be nice to have something to connect east and west Pleasant Prairie together.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I do agree that modifications have to be made to that intersection of Green Bay Road and –

Michealene Day:

Anywhere across Green Bay.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Exactly. In our bike and ped plan there is a main path that goes from Prairie Springs Park to the Kenosha County Bike Trail. One of the things that Tom Shircel is working on along with Mike Pollocoff in our TID is in the revisions to TID 2 is actually going through and putting sidewalks on one side of 95th from H to 31 – okay that's something that was being talked about and the trail also?

Tom Shircel:

Yes.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I know that one of our plans at one time, I mean it's still a plan to happen, it may not happen right away, but actually having a trail on 95th somehow to get from H, an off street trail from H to Highway 31. And crossing the railroad tracks are kind of the hitch on it right now. And funding really is one of the key issues, but it's still the plan to do it. And we're still going to go through and apply for grants especially to make modifications of either push buttons, curb markings, something like that, some additional signage to make sure that it is safer. Because the one thing I see as I'm driving through the

industrial park especially on 95th Street is I see more and more people riding their bikes, more and more people walking. And we really have to provide some sort of a facility for them to do it safely.

Michealene Day:

You just hate to have someone get killed on a bicycle or walking trying to get across Green Bay Road.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I definitely agree.

Michealene Day:

And then they say – then everybody decides oh, my gosh, we’ve got to put some way to get across Green Bay Road after something tragic happens.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I would like to see some sort of a grade separation between there. Realistically in the economic climate that we’re at it’s probably going to be a long shot to get that. I think there’s a better chance to get some lane markings, some signage, some curb cuts, some improvements like that to happen. And we’re always looking for grant opportunities to do something like that. And any way the Village can incorporate that into any other plans we have going on we always try to make sure that we do that. But your point is taken that we do need and we have identified a need for a safe connection between east and west on 31.

Michealene Day:

Okay. I didn’t see it in here, and I know it’s extremely expensive and probably having to work with the State and everything else. I just thought I’d bring it up again.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We can go through and add that as a program to have a connection between the Kenosha County Bike Trail and Prairie Springs Park. One of the things that we’re working on as we speak right now is a component of that trail in Village Green Neighborhood Park. We’re going through, and we had budgeted for a new playground in Creekside Park in Village Green park this year. The Creekside Park has been complete, and it’s 100 percent operational and kids are playing on it. And park staff is building the Village Green Park right now, and that’s in between Village Green Subdivision and Devonshire. To make access from the Village Green side we’re going from Cooper Road and Village

Green all the way down to the woods. So there's probably a 600 foot section of that trail that we're constructing right now. And it's just going to be gravel, but we try to incorporate that from Cooper Road at least to the trail and then tying into Devonshire.

And then eventually we'll take it all the way through Meadowdale as we get development to the west of Cooper Road. Eventually off to Dabbs Farm we'll put that piece in and the crossing to 95th. So I will go through and I will include that as a program to make that connection from the Kenosha County Bike Trail down to Prairie Springs Park as an identified program.

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

Tom Shircel:

Madam Chair, I have one additional program suggestion. There is a program through the Department of Transportation called Safe Routes to School. And the object of that program is to create off street paths and/or sidewalks to get children from their neighborhood to their local elementary or middle school or high school. Earlier this year the Village did apply for a grant. We should hear sometime later in August or September whether we receive that grant. But I thought we could add that in here as another program to apply for grant monies through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Safe Route to School program.

Michealene Day:

Great idea.

Tom Shircel:

And, again, it not only creates a safer environment for the kids, but it also promotes a healthier lifestyle by biking or walking instead of everyone jumping on a bus or mom and dad taking them to school every day.

Michealene Day:

Great idea. Anybody else have any ideas on any programs? Okay, objective five.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Objective five, and it also continues on the next page, is to continue to maintain and provide upgrades to Village's existing park sites and park facilities. And there is a page and change of programs on here that we do have. And some of them are active, some of

them are passive, and some of them are treatment for the gypsy moth and emerald ash borer program. So there's kind of a wide variety that we tried to incorporate through here. And these are really things that we're hoping to see within our CIP program that we have through the budget process. And I can take any comments that the Commission has at this time.

Michealene Day:

Any questions, comments?

Glenn Christiansen:

On the third one we're talking about continuing to work with nonprofit conservation groups supportive of implementation methods, control and spread of invasive species and so forth. One of the worst things that's happening everywhere is phragmites. I think it would be a good idea to get it spelled out, phragmites in there, because that one is causing more damage now than almost anything else.

Michealene Day:

What is that, I have not a clue.

Glenn Christiansen:

Everybody sees it all along the highway. It looks like a grass that grows about eight or nine feet tall. It creates a monoculture that actually goes so far as altering the chemistry of the soil after a while.

Michealene Day:

But it looks like a wild grass.

Rita Christiansen:

Tall.

Glenn Christiansen:

It's an enormous grass with a big plume on the top. If you go looking all over the place in the floodplain areas along the Des Plaines River, it's happening down in Chiwaukee Prairie. There are enormous patches of this, and it's not difficult to kill, but it is something that needs to be addressed because the areas that do exist are spreading every year.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So I will add that as a program. And if you want, I can probably insert that between the existing three and four since it sounds like it kind of fits in there.

Glenn Christiansen:

It really is a devastating problem.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, we will go through and add that. Thank you.

Rita Christiansen:

John, a question then. Do we partner with the Pleasant Prairie Fire Department to do the burns here in the Village? Or, are people within the people trained to do that other than the fire department?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We do have staff that's trained. Our fire department with the changing of the guard with our new police chief he's very excited about the opportunity to be involved in burns. So he is sending some of his staff to the burn training. Actually both my park foremen went through the DNR certification class, and they've been doing I believe one or two burns already at Prairie Springs Park. And now the fire department will be involved along with a lot of the volunteers that are certified to safely complete this sort of work. I have had conversations with Chief McElmury, and he is interested and excited to have the fire department included and with all the resources that they have, the grass trucks, the backpacks, the suits, everything else. So they're going to really start taking the lead on this.

Rita Christiansen:

Is that something we need to mention in here, working with them in conjunction with them for burns for controlling invasive species, etc., with the volunteers, any way you want to word it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We can definitely add that in because that is something we are getting into now on a regular basis. And that will probably be something that I'll have checked off for every year. Because it's our goal every year to do one more section of burn in one of our areas.

Rita Christiansen:

Is the fire department or the Village going to make it possible for people to become trained to participate, make it available in some fashion?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think it would be a good idea if I'm hearing you right. And it's something that we have talked about but we did not include as a program is to develop a trained staff, combination of the fire fighter staff and Village residents as a burn unit per se. So I will add that also as a program.

Michealene Day:

The only question I would have about volunteers that are not employees of the Village is there liability issues if someone gets hurt, the volunteers?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We would make sure that we dot our i's and cross out t's before we'd have them out there doing it.

Michealene Day:

I'm just worried about liability.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And I know the DNR has a group that they have already that they use for Chiwaukee Prairie. So I would probably take the lead from Marty Johnson, find out exactly what the DNR is doing and then mimic that.

Glenn Christiansen:

I'm sure you're partially if not entirely aware that the program that they use for training that's required by State law. The only problem is very often the classes are conducted like in Indiana or Stevens Point or something like that, where if a program could be conducted in the neighborhood so to speak, this corner of the State, so somebody doesn't have to travel for five or six hours.

Rita Christiansen:

And spend the night. It's very costly.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You're both absolutely right. I have had conversations with Marty Johnson with the DNR, and he's very supportive of if we can get a large enough group he'll actually hold one here in Pleasant Prairie.

Rita Christiansen:

Oh, wonderful.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

As long as we provide the facility and the people they're more than willing to come down, especially with the amount of acreage that we have to complete maintenance on with the Chiwaukee Prairie, the Des Plaines and other natural areas. So they definitely are in favor of doing that, and that's something that we'll work on as a new program.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you.

Tom Shircel:

I did have one more suggestion for a new program. The Village has been working with the DOT over the last few months to develop a multi-modal transportation facility in Prairie Springs Park. It's proposed to be located just south of Terwall Terrace, sort of south of the existing RecPlex southern parking lot across the street from the RecPlex. So I think we should add that in there. It would be multi-modal in the sense that it would not only handle commuter parking for people commuting to and from work, be it Chicago and Milwaukee, but also overflow RecPlex parking especially on weekends when we have all the events at the facility that we need more parking. So we could probably add that as a program if the Commission would like to add that multi-modal transportation facility.

Rita Christiansen:

Can you describe a little bit in detail what that means exactly?

Tom Shircel:

The multi-modal portion?

Rita Christiansen:

Yes.

Tom Shircel:

More than one mode. In other words, it would be used for commuters who would park and ride. A park and ride lot, number one, the use for overflow parking for RecPlex patrons. Perhaps we'd have some bus service in there whether it be Coach USA which services Mitchell International Airport and O'Hare. They could perhaps have a stop in there. I'm not sure where they go now, I think to the Brat Stop. There's even talk of perhaps an Amtrak platform there at some time in the future. So we've got multi-modes of transportation that could all meet there and serve multiple functions.

Rita Christiansen:

Where exactly are you looking at putting that.

Tom Shircel:

I'm trying to describe it for you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's just east of the new cell tower and south of Terwall Terrace. If you take the access of the RecPlex where the turnaround loop is and you'd keep going straight it would cross the creek, that general area just west of the tracks and east of the new cell tower on the south ball diamonds.

Tom Shircel:

North of 165 sort of in that triangle area, right, if you can picture that.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you.

Michealene Day:

I did read about the Amtrak. Is that something that looks like it –

Tom Shircel:

That's in the very, very, very early stages. That's a federal government thing. I'm sure there's plenty of hoops to jump through for that. So it's a thought. We're thinking about it.

Rita Christiansen:

Tom, isn't that area over there where you're talking doesn't it have a lot of reeds and wetlands.

Tom Shircel:

There are some environmental features, like you said, wetlands, floodplain. That's where the DNR comes in. so we need to work cooperatively with them. Whether we can mitigate those wetlands or work around those wetlands it's still a work in progress.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you.

Steven Kundert:

The Amtrak development set aside, and excuse the question, but what are commuters riding from there?

Tom Shircel:

What they'd do is it would be a typical park and ride lot where they'd meet at a lot near the interstate. They'd jump in one car. A car pool, right. And we found out that there are many, many people who are already using the ball field parking lots on a daily basis to commute. They'll meet there, they'll leave three or four cars there, they'll jump in one car and go to Milwaukee or Chicago on a daily basis. So that area is already being used as a park and ride facility. So we got together with the DOT and hopefully we can make this come to fruition and happen that we'll have this park and ride lot there.

Steven Kundert:

That makes more sense.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Where is the nearest park and ride at right now?

Tom Shircel:

There's none in Kenosha County to my knowledge. There's one in Racine County at Highway 20 I believe.

Rita Christiansen:

There's one off of 11.

Tom Shircel:

I think that's the nearest one.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So 165 would be a good fit then.

Rita Christiansen:

Absolutely.

Tom Shircel:

Typically the DOT will locate those adjacent to the interstate. But the thinking was it's a pretty quick distance, a pretty quick commute from the main line of I-94 to Prairie Springs Park. There's one traffic light at Culver's. So they thought that was a good idea. This way we sort of kill two birds with one stone. The commuters are using it Monday through Friday and then during the weekend when the RecPlex needs it, so it would be a win-win situation for both the Village and for commuters.

Michealene Day:

Correct, especially when there's events or on the weekends it is very crowded trying to find someplace to park.

Rita Christiansen:

So there would be no way, if there was, say, an event in Chicago and someone parked here, if we had a major event here like the Danskin or whatever, you're not going to be able to prevent people from using that parking lot because it's DOT park and ride, right? You can't close it off.

Tom Shircel:

Right. The DOT would require a certain number of dedicated parking spots for commuters, exactly, yes.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the things that we have thought about in our staff meetings is most of the commuters are using it Monday through Friday. Our special events are Saturday and Sunday. So hopefully the commuters are using a lot of it during the week, and then the Village is using it for special events during the weekends.

Steven Kundert:

This doesn't have to be included in a program mention, of course, but if something like that were to be developed I would personally want to make sure that there's restrictions on overnight truck parking and that sort of thing.

Tom Shircel:

That's a great thought. I think we'd like to see the same thing, right.

Michealene Day:

Any other additions?

Rita Christiansen:

I guess when you get to the point where you seriously talk to them about implementing, I would like to be invited to those meetings. Because right off the top of my head that I'm not going to go into I have some concerns. Okay.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions? I guess we're done with that section then.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So then the section we just completed was our objectives, and then it listed with the programs with the timed priority. The final one that we have are our policy recommendations and program implementation which takes the same objectives, but then it has the policy recommendations for each of those objectives to really have a nice flow. So we have the introduction, the basic definitions, and then we start again with objective one, and we have the policy recommendations for that objective. I guess I'll start out with any comments on the introduction or the basic definitions as provided on page one.

Michealene Day:

I think it was well written. Thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And so the first one that we have for our policy recommendations and programs for objective one is, again, to identify, acquire and provide land for quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space from the Village. And then we have a list through I of programs. I guess I can take any of the policy recommendation comments or program comments for objective one.

Tom Shircel:

I guess the only comment I would make, again, is the programs listed here in this document are the same programs listed in the document we just discussed. So any comments that the Commission has made or that the staff has made here be implemented into this document as well.

Rita Christiansen:

I have a question. I notice that culled out specifically under I is future expansion of Village Green Neighborhood Park, but there's no other cull out of any of the other parks. Through this whole section here you say continue to acquire open spaces, but you specifically cull out the Village Green Neighborhood Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

With the Village Green Neighborhood Park if you look at our park and open space plan, the original map of it, that park is a community park that's in the center of that bike connection from Prairie Farms Trail to Prairie Springs Park. And I do believe that there is some more land that needs to be dedicated to the Village as development occurs. I believe it would be the west side of Cooper Road, the north side of the fence line, that first area. So I think that's what the reference is.

Rita Christiansen:

It says that but I culls it out specifically for that particular park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes.

Rita Christiansen:

I just find it strange that just that park is culled out and no other park. So I just think that's an imbalance in my opinion because you're saying continue to acquire park and open land spaces, blah, blah, blah under F, and then you're specifically culling out this one. I'm concerned –

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I guess probably because, Ms. Christiansen, the reason we have it in there is that most of the other parks – well, let me rephrase that. All the other parks that we have as parkland are either complete per our plan or just on the plan. The Village Green is really the only specific park that is just – because it's partially on Devonshire, partially on Village Green and partially on the old Simon Group property, that little triangle that they have, like I say, west of Cooper, north of that fence line, that's really the only park that's not 100 percent per our plan. So I think that's why we culled it out in there. Where the other parks per the plan either -- we have all the land for Creekside Park. We have all the land for Prairie Springs Park, per se, but Village Green Park is the one park where we have 80 percent of it and we just want to make sure that at the time when development happens that everyone is aware specifically we need something for Village Green Park.

So we still need 100 percent of Dabbs Farm Park, the Estal [phonetic] property, 100 percent of those we need, and I think that's what's really covered in H. But just to make it very clear that when development comes by a developer doesn't say, well, there's already a park there. Well, no, we actually need to expand this park to put the trail to have the space per our plan.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay. It helps me to understand if someone asks me a question so thank you for explaining that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think it's a great question, and that's what this is about is clarifying this for staff and for the Commissioners. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Anything else between A and I? Under programs, one, two and three. Hearing none, policy recommendations also on page two and three through I again.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And so that gets us into objective two then, three quarters down on page two to prepare marketing information, educate the community about park and recreational opportunities available in the Village. And then we have the policy recommendations and the program that we would work with to implement that objective.

Rita Christiansen:

John, just to be clear, this should mirror what we just went over. So any additions that where Tom suggested or any one of the Commissioners, yourself, etc., should be integrated into this section.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. It will mirror, and it will be a little bit more in detail than what the second document that we had reviewed.

Monica Yuhas:

And you will add art in the park under program one?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That is correct.

Rita Christiansen:

Integrate anything, right.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So the art in the park, the ones that Mr. Christiansen had made reference to, the ones that Tom had as programs will all be incorporated into this for the next review.

Rita Christiansen:

Don't we also have some gardens that we started this year, too?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We do have a community garden.

Rita Christiansen:

That might be a good thing, educational, I don't know, just thinking.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And we'll make sure that's included.

Rita Christiansen:

Somewhere.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Somewhere in there because it has been a very popular function this year.

Rita Christiansen:

Yes. We could even include about watering the trees and what to do in the case of a drought that we're suffering.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If I can add to that, I do believe that watering the trees is something that's very important. Something that we see on a regular basis which is really bad for the tree is properly mulching a tree. A lot of people do the volcano mulch where they ramp it up and it's on the base of the trees and it's really unhealthy for it. It sheds the water off versus capturing the water and letting it in. So maybe we can do something on education on tree health and just include that as one of our programs through our newsletter.

Glenn Christiansen:

I have a thought about what we're talking about because it all ties together. One of the things I've noticed out on the west side frontage road it always kind of struck me as odd, and I looked at the trees that the State planted on the southwest quadrant of I-94 and Highway C. And I looked at those trees that they planted on the embankment, and I thought to myself you're trying to deal with a very significant small prairie remnant and instead of wetlands that were engineered in some ways what they did out there is another subject entirely, but I think they did some real damage over there. But then they plant trees along the highway that are totally incompatible in time, soft maples and stuff like that.

And it always struck me as why do we not look at native species that are very specific to the area first that tends to be more drought tolerant because of how they grow. You create other problems because some of these trees are sensitive to these kinds of issues like climate change or whatever and drought. But they also have the cross-over problem of spreading seeds into an area that you're trying to protect. And when you plant things right next to a native prairie that can spread you're just creating a heck of a mess for management down the road to tie it altogether.

Rita Christiansen:

So add that as part of the educational program is why it's important to have native species

versus maybe faster growing because it looks prettier and people get a quicker result because we all want to get the internet and get that quick result. But at the end of the day when you look down the road it's more drought tolerant, etc.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It almost seems like we need to take that a step further and make sure that a review of the right of way trees at our planning processes during construction that we have those. And I know the Village has a list of accepted right of way trees in the Village. We have that list, it's available, we give it to the architect designing the right of ways. And as long as they use those types trees, okay, they're covered. But maybe we need to take it a step further and look at what's around it as part of that review. We'll try to go through and develop some language. And not so much on, and I think education is important, but if you really want to do that you want to make sure you hit it at that design stage of the planning process. So we'll draft up something accordingly. And I'm not sure if it really fits into objective two, but I will find a home for it somewhere in this document.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you.

Jim Bandura:

John, can we control that, especially when the DOT is doing it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We do reviews on DOT roads within the Village of Pleasant Prairie. So we do reviews on Highway 50, we did reviews on 165 and the frontage road, we sit in construction meetings and stuff like that so we do have a say with that. And we can take this information provided and make sure that it passes through. The process now is there's a list of approved trees for right of ways. As long as it's in there we're good to go. And just on paper you really need to show what's next to it, down the road or anything like that. So we can include that as part of our review process. I'll even speak with the Village Engineer to make sure that he's on board with that for the next time we do a review. That's a great point.

Michealene Day:

Did anyone else have any questions or concerns to any of the objectives or policy recommendations?

Rita Christiansen:

I don't have any at all on this whole document.

Michealene Day:

I think everyone is pretty happy with it.

Rita Christiansen:

They did an excellent job.

Michealene Day:

And the additions will be put in with the objectives.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the things that Tom has just pointed out is the talk about the community gardens. On page three, program 10, roman numeral X, section 1 it does talk about the community gardens.

Michealene Day:

Oh, you're right.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, good.

Michealene Day:

Tom, you really read the document, didn't you?

Tom Shircel:

I thought it was in there I just couldn't remember where. That was an excellent suggestion because it is successful as far as those gardens so that was a good suggestion.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And I actually wrote add community garden almost over community garden. The next one that we have is objective four talking about the off street and on street inter-connective park and walking trails. I think we covered that in detail. We'll make sure we include those comments in for objective four. Any comments with that?

Michealene Day:

I don't think so.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Objective five, continue to maintain and provide upgrade to the Village existing park sites and facilities which continues on through page eight and the end of this document.

Michealene Day:

I think everyone was pretty pleased with your policy recommendations and programs implementation.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And then there will be two more new ones talking about the Kenosha County Bike Trail and the Safe Routes to School with the staff's recommendations for the programs and policy recommendations.

Michealene Day:

Terrific. Thank you very much for the hard work that staff and you all did.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Jean Werbie really was the driving force behind this. She is an excellent writer, and I just want to thank you for doing the lion's share of the work that she did with this. And a lot of it was taken from the comp plan and other things. But she really does a great job so I want to give her credit for that and Tom also.

Tom Shircel:

Mostly to Jean.

6. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Does the Park Commission have any comments?

Glenn Christiansen:

I have a comment. I talked to you on the phone about the Old Green Bay Jambau Trail

through Momper's Woods. I spent some time on the phone back in June and July with, if you'll forgive me that I don't remember their last names, but Tim and Don from the Kenosha County Archeological Society. Rita and I are both members of the Archeological Society. And because of some of my time spent out in Momper's Woods they asked me if I'd go out and mark the trail north from the driveway going which I did. It's all tagged now for you, John.

When I was out there searching back in late June with Tim I believe, he's the one from down in Illinois, after we got done literally crawling through the brush on a very hot day, there's a lot of rose bushes in there, and many times by thorns, we decided if we could even begin to guess where the trail might have gone north of the woods out into the plowed field. So we spend an hour or so walking around, and we did pick up a bag full of we'll call them historical pieces. Some of them do have very strong indication of being worked by man at some point, stones. And there's a horseshoe and a few other things that we found that come close to about where the trail would have gone out into the field. And we decided it was most appropriate to give those to the Pleasant Prairie Archeological Society until sometime they can be looked at by an archeological and determine if every last piece is something that we can look at. So I have the bag her and I'll give it to you after the meeting.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much. I'll make sure I pass it onto Jean Werbie who is really spearheading that also.

Glenn Christiansen:

We really thought that the horseshoe that we found is quite an old horseshoe.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Especially if you had to be crawling through the trees you know it's not from –

Glenn Christiansen:

This stiff is from out in the plowed field. But crawling out in the brush trying to figure out where that trail went through was not a fun task.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So are you say that it's ready for Village staff to go out and complete that brushing?

Glenn Christiansen:

Yes.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

What I'll probably do is we'll schedule a time to go out there with myself and my foreman just to make sure we're all on the same page on what has to be done. It really is a big deal to make sure that that's in the right spot. I do appreciate your crawling and walking around because I just don't crawl good.

Glenn Christiansen:

My arm is finally starting to lose the marks from it. What would also be nice is at some time in the future possibly maybe do some clearing at the very southern end of it. But that's something to talk about in the future. Maybe complete the whole trail from end to end.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that would be great. I really am amazed with the group out there and what they have done. I've been out there on a couple of occasions. We normally meet in may sometime, we do some brushing and we pick up the brush that's been down there. We helped them do some other clearing. And on the south side of the entrance past the rock when you go back they actually found a little spur that shot off to the west or southwest direction that angled off. And once it's cleared off and open it's so evident that that really is a trail and it really is. I mean it's really exciting to see.

Glenn Christiansen:

I was out there with them a year or two ago, and we were standing at the south end before it turns and one of them says we get to here and then the trail ends, and it's very peculiar how if you walk down the trail you can see how you're walking down a depression and you get to that end and there's nothing there. They said we can't figure out where it goes. I said it goes that way. And they looked at me and said how do you know it goes that way? I said, look, get down and look through the brush. They started looking, and because they spend so much time out there over the years walking through it, and that's how that goes up. But they don't realize there's also another part of the trail that actually parallels around the east side of the boulder. If you look close you'll see that that trail has moved around in the woods. So some day when the woods is cleaned up and so forth you may be surprised [inaudible].

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Excellent. So staff will followup, we'll coordinate a time to meet onsite and take care of that brushing. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Any other Park Commission comments?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Glenn Christiansen moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steven Kundert. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:08pm.