

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
September 5, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Monica Yuhas, William Mills and Jim Bandura (Alternate #2). Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Troy Holm, Steve Kundert and Cindy Schwab (Alternate #1) were excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; Tom Shircel, Assistant Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Director of Public Works; and Ruth Mack-Stoner, Executive Secretary. Eight citizens were present.

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

Michealene Day:

In your packet you were given the minutes of the meetings from the previous meeting. If there are no additions or corrections can I have a motion to accept?

Monica Yuhas moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the August 7, 2012 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 4-0.

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Michealene Day:

We ask that you please state your name and address for the record, sir.

Dick Ginkowski:

Thank you. Dick Ginkowski, 7022 51st Avenue. I'm here tonight with my wife Judy and daughter Galena, and we're here in support of a presentation that you'll hear in a short time from Tammy Conforti who is here. Tammy works with my wife at Whittier School. My wife is a special education teacher and works with handicapped children, children with disabilities. And, quite frankly, the subject that Tammy will be presenting on tonight, and I wanted to point out the Village connection because I'm the person that

encouraged Tammy to reach out to Monica and to John and talk about this particular project.

Quite frankly it was one that I hadn't given much thought to in the past. I always thought that we did provide accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities. I was kind of surprised to find out that that was more of an exception than the rule. I know that the Village has been involved in the planning process and a master plan for Village parks, and this seemed like the right time to bring this up especially since it had been presented to the City Park Commission very recently and apparently has gained some support there. But obviously these are things that don't stop at the City limits.

And, in fact, I did see on the agenda tonight when Tammy was listed as a City resident but she does work at Whittier School with special education and disabled children. So I encourage you tonight to please give your support to this. My wife and I believe in this. We have supported it financially. They do have tax exempt opportunity for donations, but it's something that, quite frankly, I can't figure out why we didn't do quite some time ago. And I'm just saying that honestly because it's something I hadn't given thought to and I'm sure others haven't.

But once you hear the presentation it's sort of the concept is a no brainer. Obviously the question is how to make it reality, how to get the pieces in place perhaps through public/private partnerships, other things that may be available to get something moving and to bring this as part of the overall master plan for the Village parks which also happens to be on the agenda tonight as well. So it seems to be very timely that this subject is coming up. Thank you so much. I do appreciate your attention to this. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Thank you, sir. Any questions. would anyone else like to speak?

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Inclusive accessible playgrounds presentation**
 - Tammy Conforti, City of Kenosha resident**

Michealene Day:

Tammy Conforti, I'm looking forward to hearing your presentation. Thank you.

Tammy Conforti:

I'd like to thank Richard for giving you a little bit of the background of the project.

Michealene Day:

I'm sorry, can you bring it down a little bit. Sometimes we have trouble actually hearing it.

Tammy Conforti:

Okay, is that better?

Michealene Day:

Better, thank you.

Tammy Conforti:

I would thank you first for allowing me to speak with you tonight. My name is Tammy Conforti. I was born and raised in Kenosha. I'm an educational support professional, and I have been working in special ed for the past 16 years for KUSD. I came here tonight to share my vision of creating an inclusive accessible playground for children of all abilities. Unfortunately the vast majority of playground equipment currently available denies children with disabilities the opportunity for exercise, entertainment and social interactions. The American Disability Act defines disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. So I would like you to keep that in mind during the presentation. Disabilities aren't just what you can see. A lot of disabilities are unseen.

I'll explain the terms of what inclusive and accessible mean to you a little bit so you can get a better understanding of the vision that I have. Inclusive playgrounds are specially designed so that children with disabilities can have equal opportunity to the individual pieces of equipment as their non-disabled friends and siblings. This equipment is strategically placed so that children can play side by side. If you look here on the poster here's an example of playground equipment that is placed side by side. There are high monkey bars here and low monkey bars here. I know these pictures might be a little hard for you to see, but I wanted to point that out. And when you get an opportunity you can maybe go and look at them a little bit closer.

Another example of this would be that there's a variety of swings, different types of swings. And if you see in this picture here there's two different types of swings. And if you notice they're co-mingled, they're right next to each other. The children with disability may need the high back swing, the children without maybe don't need it. The nice thing about having them co-mingled and not separate is the fact that parents are supervising their children. And if you have one over here, one over there you have to figure out who you're going to watch. So that's pretty important when you're talking about inclusive and arranging your equipment.

Overhead rings and monkey bars are also various types and are located side by side. Teeter totters and merry-go-rounds are specially designed to accommodate all children. Double slides of various heights and lengths go all the way to the ground. You can see a couple of these. This slide here goes all the way to the ground to there's not a drop off at the end so children wearing leg braces don't just collapse at the bottom. There is another slide here and here. They go all the way to the ground to the surface level. That's pretty important when you're considering what slides you want to buy. There's tons and tons and tons of catalogs. And if you do any research at all they will send you tons and tons of catalogs. You put your name in there and they will send you stuff after stuff. Every day we're getting stuff so that's readily available.

These playgrounds are great because they create options for facilitating parallel play, like I said children playing side by side. Slides should face north and east to avoid direct sunlight. Non-plastic slides should be considered because they do not produce static electricity which may cause damage to cochlear implants worn by children with hearing impairments. The plastic slides give off a shock, and that shock can sometimes do damage to them. So that's why you want to have alternative slides whether it be metal, or the wooden roller slides are really great for kids.

The inclusive playground should also have a separate play area, this is missed a lot of times, that is developmentally appropriate for children under three. And this particular picture this little area here this is for the teeny tot kids so they have a place to play, children under three. And it's safe and it's all low to the ground. Sand and water areas are great for children because they provide that sensory play experience. Rocking equipment that moves in multiple directions should have high back rests, foot rests, hand rests and supportive seats. There are so many companies that carry ADA accessible playground equipment, and they have consultants. If you have a question they have consultants, you call them, they clear it up for you, you can ask questions. They pretty know, they've sold these before. So they're very, very helpful. There, again, they'll want your personal information because they'll call you back.

Accessible is a little bit trickier to define. Access to a playground means that there's concrete pathways that lead to the playground structure itself. Access to equipment pieces refers to the surface that is under and surrounding the equipment. For a playground to be truly accessible for children, grandparents and parents with disabilities it must be flat, smooth and shock absorbing. Grass, sand, rocks and wood chips are really not an option if you're having an exclusive play area. Because if you have wood chips you've just made it not accessible to a lot of children. I'm going to have Ruth show you a little example of an inaccessibility issue. So we'll just have her play that.

(Video Shown)

Tammy Conforti:

Okay, we can stop it right there. As you can see her journey to use the slide is very arduous. She dragged herself through the wood chips, got up to this play structure, got her legs straight to go down a slide that she cannot access by herself. She has to have an adult. It does not allow her to have any independence so it kind of excludes her ability there.

Accessible play structures should have wide ramps and double rails. They should have flush transitions and turnarounds. And transfer platforms are included as they are used by children to transfer on and off individual pieces of equipment. Crawling equipment such as tunnels should be located lower to the ground to allow easier access for everyone. Jumping equipment should be varied and provide challenges. There should be a variety of access routes to go on and off the equipment. This helps challenge all children to learn a different set of physical skills and problem solving skills.

The facilities around the playground need to be inclusive and accessible also. Fencing should be constructed and should be considered as it provides safe boundaries and protection for the children. Trees or other shade elements help to provide extra shade as some children have trouble regulating their body temperatures. Benches should be included, and they should be securely mounted and strategically positioned allowing optimal opportunities for adult supervision. The benches that you have should be open on both sides to allow people to transfer in and out of their wheelchairs or for them to park their wheelchair next to the bench. So that's somewhat important, too.

The restrooms must be located within a reasonable wheelchair or walking distance. Stalls, sinks, toilets, grab bars, changing tables and drinking fountains must meet ADA regulations. Restroom doors should be regulation width and open electronically. There's a couple playgrounds that I've been to that do not have a pathway to the bathroom so it's grass. So you're trying to get your wheelchair through the grass to access the bathroom. Sometimes when you get in the bathroom it is ADA accessible, but there's a lot of times there's a steel, weatherproof door which there's another barrier. So you've encountered two barriers to get to the bathroom and one to open the door once you get there so then you can use the facility. So that's kind of important, too.

Picnic tables are usually included in most parks, and the picnic tables should have extended tops on them. And you'll see when you look at these pictures there there are some extended top picnic tables. They need to accommodate the height of the wheelchair and peoples' knees and their toes. Pretty important to be able to fit all your parts in there when you're trying to access the table.

Parking lots should really be accessible, too. You don't want to have any manmade barriers or any other type of barriers there. They should be free of any barriers at all. And they must be conducive to safely entering or leaving the park on foot or in wheelchair, keeping in mind that some vehicles are equipped with electronic lifts. So you

need to be kind of careful where that lift is going. Like on street parking or near a road you're asking that person to unload on a road. It's not really safe. Concrete paths must be flush and connected to all park areas including playgrounds, pavilions, picnic table areas, restroom and parking lots. So it's access to and around and in. It's access to everything, really important.

Inclusive accessible playgrounds are unique and specially designed so that they can be used by children of all abilities. These playgrounds can help to generate revenue as they are heavily used because of all the amenities that they offer to families. Families travel to these destination playgrounds, and they spend their money in the surrounding area. They also rent the pavilions for special occasions, birthday parties, weddings, whatever, those type of activities.

That pretty much includes what I was going to say. I hope by sharing this information with you today it has increased your awareness of this issue. As your budgets allow please consider purchasing inclusive and accessible pieces of playground equipment in the future. It may be possible to apply for local, state and federal grants that promote the well being of children. Also, as equipment gets old or gets damaged, replace them with new accessible options. To aid you with this I have included a list of playground manufacturers that you may find helpful when making purchases in the future. Let's work together and create playgrounds that include all children. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Tammy, you have brought forth some very interesting information to this Commission. I had no idea non-plastic slides could cause damage to cochlear implants.

Tammy Conforti:

I didn't know that until about two months ago. It's new information.

Michealene Day:

Right, and as we are working on our parks plan and developing parks you are right and correct in that this is very timely information as we're trying to plan and develop our parks and do make it inclusive for all people. Thank you very much. Does anyone else have anything else they'd like to add or ask Tammy?

Monica Yuhas:

Tammy, I saw in the paper there was an article about your project. Have you been getting a lot of support in the City with this?

Tammy Conforti:

Yes, I have. I started going to some meetings, and I needed to find out how they do things. I went to some Park Commission meetings, and I went to some City Council meetings. The first couple times I just went to see how the meetings went. I'm not a meeting person, I'm not a public speaker, so I just needed to see how the politicians play together and that type of thing. So I did go, and that was kind of my research phase. And when I was prepared to actually approach them on this issue of inaccessibility and inclusive I went around and I took pictures. And what I found was really sad, and it started to bother me more.

And I prepared a little five minute citizens comment piece. And a lot of the aldermen and a lot of people wanted to hear more about it, so they gave me an opportunity to do a presentation which I did. And that's where some of those articles in the news came out. So I've been spreading awareness for about a month and a half, and I'm going to continue doing it in front of anybody who will allow me to speak. I've been invited to multiple places, and I'm just going to keep doing it.

I don't believe this was intentional. I do believe it was an oversight. I don't think it was supposed to be that way. But I think the more people that are aware of it the more that we can make a change. So that's really been my goal is to bring the awareness piece to people. So if you're going to spend money spend it smart I guess.

Richard thought it would be important if I mentioned to you that the City is actually considering starting a playground, and they're looking at sites and looking at pros and cons and cost factors and what type of equipment that they would be interested in having. And I'm trying to encourage them not to do the same old, same old. Don't necessarily do what you have been doing. So I've been kind of working through that piece a little bit with them. I'm not an expert on playgrounds, or I really have no expertise at all. I just really think this is important, and I just want as many people to know about it as possible.

Michealene Day:

I really think you've done a great job making people aware of not even – just because you're not aware of different items that may be needed or required or be great to have. So I do appreciate it. We're in the process, and I think that will be a great asset to have.

Monica Yuhas:

Thank you, Tammy. Dick, thank you for putting Tammy in contact with me and with John because it's an eye opener to all of us. And as we do plan we need to be smart about how we're planning.

Dick Ginkowski:

I believe it was Sunday in Port Washington [inaudible] a group actually having a site visit to the Port Washington facility.

Tammy Conforti:

I have invitations I can leave with you, and it's to see one. It's to see one. I mean the pictures are okay, but when you see the joy on the children's face and you see children of all abilities playing side by side, and these playgrounds they're so unique because you can get therapy on these playgrounds. You can get stronger on these playgrounds. Everybody wants kids to access technology, access technology. Well, if you can't isolate a digit and your finger strength isn't what it should be, then you're not going to be able to do those things. If you can't hold up the weight of your own head these playgrounds it's kind of like a step backwards in a way that it's where they start. Play is where kids start, and it's very important for children to play. And if we can give them a play for them to grow and get stronger we really should do that.

Michealene Day:

A better understanding for all children to understand the needs of all children as well.

Tammy Conforti:

Right, and these playgrounds are for everybody starting at about a year old when they can walk all the way up to the 99 year old grandpa who maybe had hip surgery or some other disability himself. He can bring his grandbabies here because he can navigate the area. Very important. We have a lot of veterans coming back missing limbs. They have children, they want to play with their children. They can't be running around on wood and sand. They need that surface. So that's really super, super important. That's how it includes everybody with that surface.

Michealene Day:

It's not just handicapped children but older adults.

Tammy Conforti:

Right, their parents, their grandparents, their daycare providers.

Michealene Day:

Thank you very, very much.

Tammy Conforti:

Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions for Tammy? Thank you very much.

b) Review Master Park Plan 2012 - 2016

- **Table of Contents**
- **Introduction**
- **Background Information**
- **Conceptual Plans**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Park Commission, we've been spending the last couple months going through and reviewing different chapters, updating them, and last month I believe was a very successful meeting. We went through a few chapters we had rewritten the staff. Jean Werbie and Tom Shircel really took the lead with that. And we tried to write them using the same theme and concept as some of our other plans that CD works on.

So I'd like to go through and continue the same as we did last month and take some of the items we have listed with the table of contents, the introduction and the background and go over a couple conceptual plans. And then if the Commission has any comments or changes or additions we can address them. Then when we do produce the final document back all those changes will be ready for you. So if it's okay, Madam Chair, I'd like to start off with our revised table of contents.

Michealene Day:

Sure, go ahead.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And if the Commission has any questions about that.

Michealene Day:

In your packet there was the table of contents. Did anyone have any questions, suggestions, comments about the table of contents?

Monica Yuhas:

It looks good. It's crisp, it's clean, it's easy to read, and that's what we've all been striving for.

William Mills:

No comments. I thought it looked good, too.

Michealene Day:

Yup. So if you want to move on to the introduction.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And then at chapter 1 we have the introduction. I guess the only thing that we still need to add on there, and I apologize for not having it on there, is adding our mission statement if that's an appropriate place. So staff will make sure that we have – and I believe we found the mission statement buried back in one of our old Park Commission meetings. And it is important to have that as part of our updated Park and Open Space Plan. So we'll make sure we add that. I'm not going to go through and read all of this unless you'd like me to.

Michealene Day:

No.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If you have any questions on the introduction, anything else you'd like added or subtracted. And this is really a rewrite of some of the stuff that we had done. And like we had said last month also, we had so much red ink on the document we had thought that it may be better to just kind of start off from scratch and take a lot of the themes and ideas that the Commission had and incorporate them into our revised in that same writing style that our Comp. Plan and some other documents that the Village Board has adopted.

Michealene Day:

I think you guys did exactly what we asked you to do. Mike, did you have a comment?

Mike Pollocoff:

Yeah, I think there might be one appropriate insertion under chapter 1 introduction. In the third paragraph in the second sentence where it says furthermore, the policy recommendations and program presented in the plan will guide the acquisition, preservation and development of lands and parks, recreation trails and other open spaces in the Village to meet the needs of a growing, changing population including those with special needs and handicapped. I think that takes us through what we talked about

tonight and puts it right in as a major component of policy development.

Michealene Day:

Perfect.

Mike Pollocoff:

That's my recommendation.

William Mills:

Good idea.

Monica Yuhas:

John, going back to the mission statement, how is that mission statement?

Michealene Day:

Fifteen years?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, I believe it's pretty old. It's before I was actually on the Commission. So I don't have an exact date but I can find it for you for the next meeting.

Monica Yuhas:

Can you bring it to the next meeting because maybe that's something we need to update as well.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That we need to update, okay, most definitely. We'll make sure that that's an agenda item to do a formal review on our mission statement.

Michealene Day:

It was one of the very first things that we did when I started on the Commission, and that was 150 years ago. It's been a long time.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, Trustee Yuhas, I'll make sure that we that as an agenda item for October.

Monica Yuhas:

Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Other than the inclusion of Mike's comments, everyone is happy with the introduction? Okay, chapter 2, background information.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We kind of went through the same thing with the background information and took a lot of the common themes that we had talked about in our first review that we had an updated them and obviously put them in the same format that we had in the other documents within the Village. And I guess I'll be open to any other. We can go through this page by page, paragraph by paragraph or however you'd like to address that.

Michealene Day:

I thought it was fine. The only comment that I have is from Rita Christiansen. She had sent an email, and she had asked under natural cultural resources we have Chiwaukee Prairie/ Carol Beach versus state referenced Chiwaukee Prairie. I would suggest using Chiwaukee Prairie in the reference, the map number, paragraph 7 line 7 has only Chiwaukee Prairie listed. So I don't know. I didn't notice that there was any inconsistencies here, but I thought that was her only comment.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, if I can get a copy of that I can try to incorporate that.

Michealene Day:

That was the only comment she or Glenn had was that the state called it Chiwaukee Prairie and whether or not we wanted to do it that way or not.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, we can work with Jean and Tom and make sure that we call it appropriately, we address it in our plan.

Michealene Day:

Did anyone else have any comments on the background information? Hearing none,

other than we're very impressed with the amount of work you guys did in the short amount of time, you took everything we asked and did it quite well. Move onto the Conceptual Plans.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, what I'll do for the Conceptual Plan is I'll just go through them one by one as we have them listed in our table of contents. And the first one, and a lot of these are ones that we've gone through before already, but they're new to the plan since we completed it in 2006, so that's why we're just going through it a little bit more. The first one we have is our concept of Ingram Park. And since the time that we've acquired the land we've been able to go through and put the gravel road in, we have dug the pond how it needs to be dug, we have a walking path around the pond. We created a sledding hill with the spoils from the pond. And we have a small pond inside the dog park with some rolling berms around there, and a path that ties it into 89th, all the way to 89th and into Whittier off of Cooper to make it accessible to some of those subdivisions back there.

And so all that stuff is done. We plan on doing the final seeding in the open spaces, but the seeding there's actually grass growing on the pond and on the sledding hill, and we're hoping to have the sledding hill open this winter. So we're actually very excited about that. And as part of the budget for 2013 we're hoping to complete the dog park. And really all it needs is just the fencing on there. So we have the parking ground.

And if you go to the next page it kind of shows a grading plan of how the pond is going to be dug and the contours of the sledding hill. So keep in mind the closer that the lines are together the more steep of a slope that it is. And so on the north side of the sledding hill up towards the right you kind of see in that little area is really like the main sledding component for some of the older kids, like some teenagers, younger twenties that are a little bit more adventurous, goes a little bit faster. And then going down to the south side or the ones that I would be going on I'm a little bit slower, a little bit safer to go through. We did go through and we installed the bases for our light poles, and we may have to wait until next year to have those operational just based on budget constraints. But at least all the infrastructure and the concrete trucks were driving up there to have the [inaudible] tubes and the conduit put in so that when we do have the lights we'll make sure we put in LED lights, energy efficient and stuff like that.

Michealene Day:

Are you marking these like black diamond hill and the bunny hill?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'm sure that we can go through and name some of these appropriately. I am working with a young Eagle Scout that wants to build some benches around the walking path

around Ingram Pond which I think will be very nice. He's proposed to do six benches around the pond itself. We started some fish habitats and crates in the base of the pond. The pond at the deepest spot will probably be about 23 feet deep. There's probably about eight feet of water in it right now. So it really has been a dry year. We were very fortunate at the time that we did because we were able to do it without any bypass pumping, without any wells, anything like that. We were able to get right down there with our trucks and our machines, and we did it with all in-house labor. And even some of our part-time park staff that have CDLs we had them drive trucks. It was a very short run so we were able to do it very cost effectively. And we're very excited to open this up to the public this winter and in the near future.

Michealene Day:

As we're building these benches would it be something that we could maybe build as they were talking about the open sides so that they would be also –

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Most definitely. Definitely this would be a perfect opportunity to incorporate something like that. I am still in the planning stages with the young Eagle Scout. I'll make sure that we do make mention of that. That's a great point, thank you.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions?

William Mills:

Just amazing progress I think seeing how much work has happened at Ingram Park. I know two boys of mine have noticed the big sledding hill and are already excited.

Michealene Day:

Next thing they'll be wanting a snow making machine, right?

William Mills:

Exactly.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, we're definitely very excited about having this open to the public. I was talking to the Village Administrative about maybe doing some sort of ribbon cutting this fall, something like that, once the grass has established and it's been mowed and it really

looks nice then. We actually did some really neat things. We got our fire department involved. They took a lot of their pumper trucks and they watered the sides of the berms and they practiced with their big tanker trucks and kind of saddling water back and forth and spraying it with some of their new guys. So we got to kind of incorporate some other departments to help out and train and to get the grass established a little bit quicker. So it worked out very well. Does the Commission have any comments or anything in Ingram Park they'd like to talk about?

Jim Bandura:

It's really overall, I know we're going to reference these things in the documents, but there's nothing really indicated the reference on these. Are you going to like see illustration one or something like that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We'll make sure a part of when we're done. What we're going to do in the rest of our documents and figures and maps. We'll make sure when we're all done – and keep in mind all these are going to have pictures and references and figures. And we're not going to go through and number them all until it's all complete. But, like you say, this may be figure 1A or 2B or 5A or however it falls in the plan. But that is a great point. It's something that we are intending to do for your final review.

William Mills:

John, are you intending to update the larger concept that we have here because of the fact it does not show the sled hill? Or, are you just going to bring the two together?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I do believe that it is a good idea to actually show the sledding hill on here. So we can work whether we do it internally with our GIS or externally to show it. Just at this time frame all I had were the one CAD file and then the one that we had before. But I think incorporating that would be a great idea for showing the sledding hill. We had to make a couple of changes to the pond. As you can see we kind of had to push it a little bit to the west. We Energies has an easement on there that they did not want us including on it. So that's kind of why it's a little bit straighter up on the east side. We wanted to make sure that we did not include any of that on their access easement onto those power lines. So we can make sure that we kind of reference that in a document for your final review.

William Mills:

It's really nice, though, these being concepts and how close it really is, reality to what the concept was. Just the fact that the pond is a little more straighter than what was drawn

here. It's great to see how close we came to concept here.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you. And that's one of the great things about having this plan because since we started this plan in 2006 we were able to acquire land and actually build and construct Creekside Crossing Park, Village Green Park, Ingram Park pretty much exactly how it's laid out on these plans. And so it's very nice for administration and community development when a developer wants to come in and say, alright, you're coming in for the subdivision but there's a neighborhood park plan, here's how it's located, here's the layout, here's how things are going to be. Here's what you have to provide as a part of our development. So we were very fortunate to have a Commission that's aggressive on adopting these plans and a Village Board that allows us to do some of the funding for it.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions or comments on Ingram Park? Then, John, how is the Pleasant Park and Open Space Plan.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

For the Pleasant Prairie Park and Open Space Plan we did do a couple things. We were able to go through and acquire several properties on 104th Street. We built some of the soccer that you had shown about, we extended the parking lot. And we did make the smaller parking lot up to the north. For things that will be future budgetary items are improvements with the tennis courts and the skate park potentially, and also acquiring the land for an additional dog park or potential disk golf course off to the west component of it.

We have gone through and we built a playground. We actually had the Tremper football team volunteer as a part of community service, and they provided the labor. The Village Board provided the actual capital, and we were able to complete the path and the playground and the parking lot and the soccer fields and the playground. And so we have made some improvements, and it's still just a guideline. I really don't have any other recommendations or changes to the plan at this time minus what we had just spoke of.

Michealene Day:

It's a little off course here, maybe it's not what I would ask but I will anyway. I took my granddaughter and we went to that park, and they had a couple of signs up there that there was tick infestation, there were a lot of tick issues. It's kind of like a big yuck for me is ticks.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Any time that you get in areas that's close to where there is potential for ticks, and there are some areas where the residents are very sensitive about the ticks.

Michealene Day:

You put that sign up there for that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We have gone through and posted it at times just to make people aware. It's nothing that we feel is really dangerous that would discourage people from going to the park. Just take your standard precautions. Just do a check when you're all done. Use some bug spray with Deet or something like that that may distract them from going through and jumping on you. It's more just a public awareness.

Michealene Day:

That was very good because it made people aware that there might be an issue. I didn't see it at Prairie Springs. I just saw it there.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

As we see it we may go through and make notice based on resident issues or complaints.

Michealene Day:

Okay. I think, again, been around Pleasant Prairie, Prairie Springs Park here for prairie parks here, Pleasant Prairie Park where we used to have all our ball park games and everything else, and it's quite different.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It used to be really the main park in Pleasant Prairie.

Michealene Day:

It was.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Kind of set back behind some homes and a neighborhood bar, and it's really kind of changed the look. Really it's much more user friendly to a lot of the population that it serves. And every time I drive down 104th almost every time I see somebody parked in

that north parking lot playing on that playground. So it's very exciting to see that it is being used on a regular basis.

Michealene Day:

It really is, it's nice to see. I see that there's a shelter planned again?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

We took the old one down due to vandalism, correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I don't believe that there ever was a real shelter.

Michealene Day:

No, it was like a bathroom and they had a concession stand or something.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The bathroom is still there. That structure is still there. It's a little bit more towards the west where the baseball diamonds are. We don't use it as often because that's really turned into our soccer complex for Pleasant Prairie. And so the RecPlex has structured it where all their baseball is really being played at Prairie Springs Park, and then all the soccer is being played at Pleasant Prairie Park. And it's really worked out well because then I guess for maintenance for staff for setup we can keep all of our soccer equipment in one area, and we can keep all of our baseball equipment in another area and not spend the labor or the time running things back and forth or beating up the grass. These grass fields are really good for one sport, and once you start doing baseball and soccer we found out it's very expensive to keep it up to the standard that people expect.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions or comments on Pleasant Prairie Park? Village Green Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

As you may have noticed if you've been out there, in the past year we've gone through and we have graded the entire park per our grading plan which was developed. So you

can see the shape of the soccer field, the baseball fields are 100 percent complete and have grass growing on there. It will be a future improvement to have nets, backstops, stuff like that. We do have the path that comes in off of the Devonshire Subdivision up to the north that ties into the woods and all the way down to Cooper Road where basketball is located on there. And so we were able to go through and construct the path that kind of ties in an access from Devonshire to the north and Village Green to the south, actually kind of the southwest.

And we went through and we constructed the playground also. So the playground was just complete about a week ago, and so we have a playground in there. It's very nice. And maybe next month we can do a little bit of a presentation, some pictures on what it is. Chris Lopour has some press releases on it. But we do have a playground that is complete there and access to it from the north and from the south. And the grading is complete, and the seeding has been done and the grass is growing as we speak.

Mike Pollocoff:

This may be a playground where we still need to put in a durable surface at the playground similar to like what we have at RecPlex with the bricks or the blocks that are rubber. But I think we have some room, this would be one place where we could make this playground more accessible and inclusionary and have that double up as a park. Right now, like John said, it's kind of ready for use for people to get out there, but the gravel and the millings for the path they need to sit for a year or something like that before we can really think about getting them paved and hard surface so somebody could get out there and have access from both parks.

But this is kind of hard to tell the scale but this is really a very large park. This is a very large area. And I think all those paths that the trails are going through there we need to think about getting those things done, doing the clearing slowly but surely and making those a hardscape path so somebody can get through there in a chair or ambulate if somebody has some restrictions on it because it's a really nice area. I think once it opens up a little bit more it's going to be subject to a lot of use. And it's important to realize, like John said, we don't get this stuff done all at once, we just keep working at it and keep improving it as time goes on. But I think this was one of the parks where we have the opportunity to make some changes or additions, it's not like changes, but some additions to the plan to make it more accessible.

Michealene Day:

Perfect.

William Mills:

Do the trails already exist through the woods?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There are some four wheeler trails right now. Actually when we went through and modeled where the trails go we tried to follow the existing four wheeler trails that just local kids, adults had done back when it was a farm field. So we tried to go through and kind of map out where it was. So a lot of the clearing is kind of there. This is really a perfect project for an Eagle Scout troop where you can come and get 10 or 12 kids and a couple adults for a weekend to do some clearing, some brushing and stuff like that. Community service work really works out well.

And keep in mind also that as part of our bike and ped plan the one main path that we really wanted to get done sooner than later is one that ties the Kenosha County Bike Trail into the Lakeview RecPlex. This is actually a component of that trail. Granted, it's a small component but it's still a start. So we made sure that it had a foot of gravel base, it's 10 or 12 feet wide. And so at least we have it in from Cooper Road to the Woods. And then like Mike had said we can get some time to get it through the woods and then eventually get it across 39th as part of our 39th Avenue reconstruction coming up in the future. And as development happens to the west as Dabbs Farm and some of those Stonebridge areas are developed just to make sure that they include this trail as a part of it. And then eventually hopefully in our time frame we'll be able to enjoy this all the way from Prairie Springs Park all the way down to the Kenosha County Bike Trail.

Monica Yuhas:

John, is there a way on these conceptual plans to indicate how big of an area the park is as far as acreage goes? Because if you take Becker Park and you look at Becker Park's drawing it looks enormous. It makes Ingram Park look small. And most people aren't aware where these parks are in the Village. And if they go looking Becker Park they're going to maybe blink and go right by it. Where if you go by Ingram you're going to see it. I don't know in the past what has been done with master plans. But if there's a way that we can reference the size or acreage.

Michealene Day:

On the bottom there is a scale.

Monica Yuhas:

But most people aren't going to do that.

Michealene Day:

Some of them are one scale [inaudible].

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We can go through and we make sure to include the acreage of each park on the map and maybe also in another table. And then have one comprehensive map that shows the physical location of where each of these parks are. Now, keep in mind there's other figures and maps that will be included in this plan that we're not reviewing tonight. But we'll make sure that one of them is, here's all of our concept plans, here's a map that shows you physically where these parks are located.

Jim Bandura:

And make a reference on it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And it will make a reference onto here linking it like Mr. Bandura had said earlier.

Jim Bandura:

And I thought maybe a little key plan on one of these. But since you're going to reference it back to a major map I think that would help.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, we'll make sure that we make those revisions, and that will be inclusive through all the maps obviously as a comment.

Michealene Day:

Speaking of Becker Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The next map that we have is Becker Park. Becker Park right now we have the playground in there, and we have a remnant of a baseball field. And it's just showing some improvements. It's showing the hard concrete paths kind of going around a little bit more improving, the play structure, putting in a shelter. That's really one of the common themes that I guess we'd like to do moving forward. If every year we can make a couple improvements to one part, maybe we can do a concrete walkway and a surface on one. Maybe we can redo the fence on another, at least kind of chipping away as we have in the past. That's something I'll bring to the Village Board as part of our capital plan every year.

Michealene Day:

As we make little tiny improvements eventually things get done instead of just waiting to get a big pot of money.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think we've been very successful over the years. I think we've built three or four playgrounds, we've got some grading done, and so we spend as much in-house time and use some of our park resources that we have to make this happen at the lowest cost so we can really get the biggest bang for our dollar.

William Mills:

Maybe something to consider looking forward just a little bit, but when we come out with this Master Park Plan maybe we should in terms of putting on the internet site talk about what improvements we have made during those time frames. Because if you think about it there's been a lot from a Creekside Park perspective, some of the ones we've just talked about. And time goes by quickly, and I think sometimes you lose track of what have we accomplished over the last couple of years.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's a great idea. And I can take the lead and work with our IT department to improve our website and our communication director. Because she does a great job taking pictures and doing press releases. That's something where it happens and then it's kind of done. But taking all those pictures and actually making like a little historical web page thing. Here's the improvements we made in the last five years to the Village parks. Have all the things that show the press release and show the pictures and the use. That's an excellent idea. I'm make sure we incorporate that.

Michealene Day:

Good, thank you. Any questions on Becker? Carol Beach Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Carol Beach Park on 111th just off of Sheridan Road. It really is a nice park. There are a lot of improvements that have to be made out there. It does have a playground, it does have a basketball court, and it does have an existing shelter. But the basketball court is really in disrepair. It could really take some improvements. Just identifying that the parking lot, the hard surface and maybe getting a soccer field or baseball field in here. And even though it may not be a striped field at least it's something where we could even have a couple of goals out there where if kids want to use it as a practice, a neighborhood

team that plays recreation for the RecPlex or a more competitive team that just wants to have a place to practice if Anderson is full, something like that. It really kind of gives them some more options. So it's just kind of showing what we're proposing to have. And the included in our CIP moving forward to the Village Board.

Michealene Day:

Okay, Creekside Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Creekside Park we went through this year and we made the playground on the smaller one to the left. I apologize I'm not keeping up with my slides here. I'm not a good multitasker. There we go. And so we went through and we built a playground and a gravel path coming up into the playground and so we got that. One of the things that we'd like to do I guess moving forward is actually getting a sign identifying it as Creekside Park, landscaping it, Village Green Park, landscaping it. Paving some of these areas and making it more accessible to everyone as a whole. And so right now it is just a gravel path to a wood chip play area. But that doesn't mean that it's something that we can't expand on as we move forward.

Michealene Day:

Any questions? Woodlawn Park?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Woodlawn Park is just north of Highway 50 on Harrison Road. It has a playground, it has some swing sets. It would be nice to make it obviously more accessible with the concrete sidewalks, adding some benches and upgrading some of the playground equipment. So we went through and made those identifications. And like the other parks we'll make sure that we roll these into our CIP plan as approved by the Village Board during the budget process.

Michealene Day:

Lake Michigan Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Lake Michigan Park we spent a little bit of time working with the RecPlex, Carol Willke, Lyn Boehm from the RecPlex that's in charge of the aquatics. And we'll be working with our new aquatic person over there Kevin Milak and really kind of going through. And this is probably the one that probably has a little bit more gray area than others, just

really identifying how we're going to fence it, how we're going to manage it, is it going to be a charge lot. And so we have a new aquatics professional over at RecPlex, and I think he really brings a lot of expertise. He has a lot of experience. I haven't had the chance to go through him yet, he just started a couple weeks ago. So I'd like to take this to him and really just kind of let him take it on, chew it up a little bit and kind of see what he comes up with.

Because everyone knows the issues that we're having out there. Right now it's just kind of an open area in Lake Michigan, it's unmanned. We have issue with the people that are there. We do provide a port-a-pottie, but it's something where it's tipped over a lot. So I guess I'd recommend taking this one, holding off on any major comments until I can have Kevin take a look at it. Because I think he really brings a level of expertise that I don't have as Village staff.

Michealene Day:

I would also encourage him to talk to the close residents of this area, this park. As some of you weren't on the Board at that time, but when we had discussed this with the original park plan and trying to make this Lake Michigan Park more public there were very, very, very many unhappy residents that there was already too much traffic on these roads. They were worried about endangering their children, adding more people down here, Illinois people. Also that's a different issue. So I guess I would like to be sensitive to the needs of the local people there whether or not this is something we spend our short revenues on.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Well, I'm not saying by any means it's something that is going to happen in the next five years. But it is something that we are addressing, and it is an issue. And whether it becomes a beach where we charge and we guard it or we just try to improve it for the public, it's something that we can talk about the pros and cons on it. We could probably have a local meeting honestly just on that.

Michealene Day:

I'm just saying local residents, I can imagine local residents wanting to pay to walk across the street and use their beach. That's all I'm saying is I think we do have to pay attention to the neighborhood.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I can make sure that we work with Kevin on this. And this will probably be one that even if we just come up with a conceptual and not quite finish it off. Like I say there really is a lot of work to be done on this Lake Michigan Beach really more so than any other one.

This is something where even if we don't have it in or just more of a very conceptual and then we work on it over the next five years developing it. But I think it does warrant a lot of conversation and look at that we're really just not 100 percent on like we are on some of the other plans.

Mike Pollocoff:

There are a couple policy questions that the Board is going to have to deal with and the Plan Commission. Right now in absence of getting any support from the residents around there right now we have the worst of all situations. There's no control, there's no limits, there's no fences, there's no management of it. So now it just gets worse and worse every year because we haven't been able to kind of cross that bridge to say, okay, we're willing to have a park here and we want to manage it so that we only have 70 people here or 50 people here. And we want to charge – not unlike the Lake Andrea Beach we're not going to use that on the tax roll. So if people are going to use it they're going to have to pay for it, and the fee is whatever it is to have lifeguards there to guard the beach, to make sure that nobody gets in that doesn't pay or somebody buys an annual membership. Right now what we're doing now is just compounding the problem because we're doing nothing. Right now it's a free beach for Illinois residents to come up here because there isn't a free beach to the south. This one is free, it's accessible.

Michealene Day:

And our residents do need a free beach, too.

Mike Pollocoff:

I'm not saying they don't, it's just that if you want to manage the beach and have somebody there it costs money, and it's operational money, it's not capital money.

Michealene Day:

Understood. I'm just saying you have to pay to use the beach at Lake Andrea, and so it's nice to have someplace that they can use a beach for free.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right. But this one here I just might add from an historical perspective we got the people in Carol Beach all together in '86 before the Town made significant investments. I mean we really poured a lot of money in that area to, one, shore up this park in particular to save 1st Avenue. Because back then the lake was taking the road.

Michealene Day:

Oh, yeah, I remember.

Mike Pollocoff:

And the question was posed to the people of Carol Beach to say we'll do this, and if you guys want this to be a beach in a recreational area that you guys can use for yourself, then we would be willing to structure it as River Oaks Beach where they have an association and they would help pay for it. But the downstroke was you have to help pay for the project. If not, if we're going to use general tax dollars to do this then everybody gets to use it. And the overwhelming and vociferous vote was that we pay enough taxes, we're not paying any more, we're not paying for this, you should pay for us and you should get it done.

So that's kind of what set us on that path where we spent the money, made the improvements, and so at that point the feeling of the Board was all the taxpayers should have opportunity to access these beaches and be able to use them. And over time as people have taken advantage of being able to build a house right across the road from a shore protected beach, and now they want to have that shore protected beach be restricted as to who goes there. It just gets a little tough. At the end of the day the public did pay for it, and they paid for it for total public use. They didn't pay for it for private use.

Michealene Day:

I agree. Anyone should be able to use it.

Mike Pollocoff:

It's a real conundrum. It's just that as much as you'd like to have free things for people the budget doesn't give us the opportunity to just staff stuff up and offer it for free. We can do it here, but right now we don't do anything here. Put the portable toilet up and kick them out after dark and that's about it which the residents don't like that either.

Michealene Day:

No, no. I just have talked to so many people that got mixed marriages so they have households of 6 or 7 or 8 kids and they want to go someplace, and everywhere you go it's \$50 here and \$50 there or \$75 there. It would be nice to spend a day at the beach and not do anything but bring your picnic lunch in and enjoy it, not have to pay \$10, \$15, \$20, \$30 to go in to sit at the beach. I'm just saying.

William Mills:

A lot of passion around this topic. Some of the best attendance we had in years when we talked about this park in the past.

Michealene Day:

So it's not an easy issue. Okay, well, I beat that one to death. Sorry. Rolling Meadows Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Rolling Meadows Park is one of our existing parks right behind Village Hall that ties into the Kenosha County Bike Trail. There are some play structures there. There's a gravel path. Improvements would be ultimately paving it and making some improvements to the concrete, getting a shelter in there. We have developed a pretty strong relationship with the construction group at Tremper High School, and they're always looking for one project to do a year, kind of a bigger project in the spring or the fall. And I think that these shelters really would be excellent, excellent projects for these kids to do.

So once we can come up with a kind of a design, just like a standard, a typical section for this neighborhood park shelter, whether it's like a 16 by 16 concrete, some hip trusses, shingles, soffit and then call it a day. I think we could really provide a very nice structure for the neighborhood, and really it's just the cost of materials. And so maybe moving forward we can go through and develop like a typical section for some of these structures and then work with the groups to build them and construct them. And I think that really gives us a better opportunity to have these complete versus waiting until we can hire a contractor to go through and complete 100 percent of the cost of labor and materials.

Michealene Day:

Agreed. Unit W.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Unit W park we had a lot of discussion on back in 2006. And we went through and had a conceptual plan up, we planned on moving forward and making some improvements on there. And then at the 11th hour a lot of the residents from the Carol Beach Unit W area came out with a very strong objection to it. And so we'd still like to keep the plan on file. We think it's a good plan. We think it really fits the neighborhood well, and there may be a day when a couple people move out, a couple new people move in, and they say, you know what, I'd really like to have a neighborhood park. And the maybe the tides will change and we can move forward. At least it was a good plan put together. We'll keep it on file. And if there's every a time when somebody wants to have a park at least a lot of the legwork is complete for them.

Michealene Day:

Wasn't the talk that we already had a park so put this over by the one off of Sheridan Road and not put it behind somebody's house or something.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I believe they're very afraid of some of the negative connectivities that they were presuming that would happen with kids being out there after dark and stuff like that. Either way they decided against it, and the Board agreed to put it on the back burner. But I still think it's a good plan, and maybe one day someone else would like to use it, so we'll just keep it as part of our plan at that time.

Michealene Day:

Agreed.

Mike Pollocoff:

Although, I might offer a counter opinion. The input that we received from two public hearings was that the residents clearly didn't want a park there. The Commission and the Village are dealing with limited resources. A park plan in order to be a realistic document I think we should take a look at identifying areas for parks that should be improved where the residents want them improved. It's not too dissimilar from what we're talking about on Carol Beach along the lakeshore. We know the people don't want it. I really think it isn't unrealistic for the Board to think about or the Commission to think about the input they received from the previous public hearings and put this back into a natural area. That was really the overwhelming comments from that hearing. It may be the best use of that land and that area is to say the residents have spoken, they wanted to keep it in a conservancy state, that's fine. And we may even look at part of the Chiwaukee Prairie Plan of reverting that land back to DNR conservancy and have it be part of the holding.

Jim Bandura:

How many acres is that, Mike?

Mike Pollocoff:

I don't know.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's actually pretty small. I mean from memory it was like four or five acres I believe. It's a smaller size park for sure.

Jim Bandura:

[Inaudible]

Mike Pollocoff:

If the plan is going to represent out ultimate goals of what we think is doable from a professional standpoint as well as input we receive from the public, it does say this is what people want, this is what we're willing to provide the people, do we want to identify this as an area not to spend resources on, but we're definitely going to keep it in the queue to be done. Not to say that we can't say it's an alternative. Maybe we should say there are two alternatives. One is to keep it in the current state as a conservancy area, and the other one is if we want to develop it this is what it would be. But I think at some point within the next five to seven years we're going to be faced with the decision as they finish acquiring land in Chiwaukee Prairie how much land do we want to put into conservancy holdings and be done. It would be part of the managed property that DNR owns.

Jim Bandura:

So what you're saying is take this and put it in conservancy and then this plan actually goes by the wayside then.

Mike Pollocoff:

When I think of the input we had I don't think it's realistic to assume that people in the neighborhood want anybody else coming into the neighborhood.

William Mills:

It was the best attendance I think we've ever had at a Commission meeting in the seven years I've been a part of it, and it was overwhelming that they did not want the park. So I can see pulling it out like Mike is suggesting.

Monica Yuhas:

So are you looking for a recommendation from the Commission to do so?

Mike Pollocoff:

If you guys want to talk about it or wait and get some of the other members here. But I really think that's a viable option. We like the plans for these things to be utilized to their maximum. But at some point this is not an urban area.

Monica Yuhas:

So we could have it in October?

Michealene Day:

Well, we have a quorum. We can remove it right now as we're going through here so they can finish up with their next section.

Monica Yuhas:

But don't you think the other members should have an opportunity to voice their yes or no to that considering Rita, Glenn, Cindy isn't here, Troy is not here.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the inputs maybe that I can offer also is that if we are going to make it a natural or more passive park would it be appropriate at least to show it as a passive park? I mean just having a trail and not showing the active amenities and redo it but still have it in there?

William Mills:

I think part of the discussion there was around parking lots. Though I thought we had discussed on pulling back on some of the [inaudible] and it was still not supported if I remember correctly. And I think it would be good to have the other Commission members here just because of the fact that Rita and Glenn were also parts of those discussions. And we're trying to remember discussions from a long time ago. I guess it was done during the last comprehensive park plan.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

If you would like, staff can go through and pull some of those meeting minutes and information that we have on record and present that at one of our future meetings in October.

Michealene Day:

I don't know that you need to pull the conversations. We all remember that quite implicitly.

Monica Yuhas:

I was not here. I'd like to – and I don't think Troy –

Jim Bandura:

I think it would be a memory jogger.

Monica Yuhas:

– or Steve.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Alright, but we'll make sure that we hunt some of that stuff up and we'll give it to the Commission. And we'll take some pictures and we'll have a separate discussion on this park as a whole.

Michealene Day:

We'll hold off until the next meeting.

Mike Pollocoff:

Or we can invite them all back to talk to us again.

Michealene Day:

Okay, so we'll table Unit W. Prairie Farms Trail.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Prairie Farms Trail is something that we were able to acquire and actually install probably almost 90 percent of it now as a part of our abandonment of our Sewer D treatment plant. So there is a sanitary sewer underneath there. And above it we have a maintenance trail or the sewer cleaning and sewer maintenance. And it kind of doubles as a really nice bike and ped trail. We made the connection off of Prairie Springs Park.

We have another connection off of Highway H, and it goes all the way down to the floodplain and the creek. This is Highway C. Up top is Bain Station Road, Highway H. So it's constructed the gravel path off of Highway H there is an open connection to Prairie Springs Park just about where the diamonds are on the north side. And it goes a mile and a quarter which is a fair distance up to this area right here.

Our engineering staff and our public works administration is working with the Department of Natural Resources to acquire a permit to cross this creek backwater area here. We were hoping to have it done by now at this time. It's been taking a little bit

longer than I projected. We're hoping to have our permits in place this fall. As a part of our paving program we've actually stockpiled enough granular material to complete this path once we have our permit. So it is something that we may be able to get it done yet this fall. Otherwise it will be a project that we'll push off into spring.

I guess a couple of the discussion points that I'd like to have is if you go to your next item it kind of shows where the access is off of 93rd Place. We do not have the connection between 93rd Place and the existing path around the lake, so that's an improvement that we would have to make. So you can really traverse from the path around the lake, across the road, have some hashing and then get it onto the new trail.

But the discussion I'd like to have is where we would park for residents to the north. So this is actually just south of Highway C. So originally we had thought it would be a good idea to pull them in off of Highway C kind of down that sewer access road and have a parking lot there. But it's a very dark and secluded area, and I guess I'm really not supporting this so much.

One of the ideas that staff came up with is that if we could park people at Pleasant Prairie Park and then develop some on street and off street trails and make that connection, and that really serves a couple of purposes. One of the purposes it serves is that it ties Pleasant Prairie Park in with Prairie Springs Park which is kind of a major landfall to have complete. And then we do have the parking lot, the infrastructure. It's a little bit nicer open, lit area over at Pleasant Prairie Park. And I guess I'm a little bit more comfortable parking cars over there. I would think – I guess I just really don't like the idea of parking right behind that treatment plant that far back. It's a little bit secluded, and it really doesn't have a nice – there isn't enough room to have a path and have cars be able to pull up and back out without crossing on the path. We're just really kind of limited to room.

So I guess the one thing I'm proposing to do is extend Prairie Farms Trail all the way down to Pleasant Prairie Park. Have the parking there, and then work on developing some on street and off street paths to make that connection. And I guess before we get too far into making maps I want to get some input from the Park Commission if they think it's a good idea, bad idea or kind of the direction that they may want staff to go with that.

William Mills:

Is the road to the north is that just the north to the old sewer plant?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, you are correct. It is the road to the treatment plant just south of Highway C.

Michealene Day:

Yeah, I don't like this one either, I think you're right.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You don't like this one here that kind of shows them parking right behind the plant?

Michealene Day:

Yeah.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It just really doesn't lend itself to enough room, and then you're crossing over the path, and then you kind of have the path in the road paralleling. You're really on top of each other. And I would foresee this being bikers, strollers, the whole nine yards, walkers. And the more that you can keep that parking a little bit more secluded I think it's a little bit safer for all parties involved. And so that's why we try to propose that having the parking over at Pleasant Prairie Park and then doing a combination on street, off street.

Tom Shircel:

Is there any room, John, to put parking along this sewer road closer to Wilmot Road?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The road itself is maybe 18 feet wide. And so I guess you could park there but you really can't safely make a turnaround. I mean to make a turnaround you really need that 100 foot cul-de-sac or you need the 65 foot parking lot with the 24 and the 24 for driving. So no matter what you do anything south of Highway C you're really kind of backing up over the path. And that's just something that I think if we have the opportunity of designing something I'd really like to keep away from that and keep the parking in a little bit more structured area. And it really makes a nice completion, like I said earlier, tying in Pleasant Prairie Park with Prairie Springs Park. And then now you have everyone in Chateau, River Oaks, Heritage Valley, Prairie Ridge that would really utilize this on a regular basis, ride their bikes, jog, run, however they choose to get there.

Michealene Day:

Are you along this path planning on any benches for stops off of there so people can take a rest?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There are three 100-foot radius cul-de-sacs that we have for emergency vehicles along this area. And along those areas, and this is something that I'm hoping in the future have an Eagle Scout project come on in and take the lead on, as make some benches, make some little signage, some interpretive design signage, stuff like that.

Michealene Day:

I would also like to suggest however you want to put a sign just like on the roads mileage marker 124, mileage marker 135 so that most people carry cell phones, but if there is some kind of emergency issue, somebody fell, broke their leg –

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, I think that's a great idea.

Michealene Day:

– some kind of medical thing that they could say, well, I just passed the sign 134 so that emergency vehicles aren't driving two miles up and down trying to find where they are. They would have an idea where you are.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's a great idea. Staff had thought about putting up some signage like this for our 5K and 10K runs. We actually plan on having our triathlons instead of running our 10K on 165 they'll actually be running on this trail keeping them off of 165. And if you've ever been on there it's an incredibly beautiful area back there. And so we were going to mark it every quarter mile. We can go every tenth of a mile on posts out there. I think that's a great idea having a unique identifier for it almost like what you'd see on the interstate.

Michealene Day:

Just so they would have some idea so that if somebody had to call on their cell phone for help.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, because in a two mile stretch you really kind of lose face on where you're at.

Michealene Day:

Yeah, I don't know where I'm at, yeah.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, I think that's a great idea. So we can make sure to include that as part of it. And so we'll spend a little bit of time going down and kind of redrawing this with that in mind. And so I guess I'm proposing if you look at our main map which is this one right here actually showing Prairie Farms Trail starting at Pleasant Prairie Park which is really right now off the map, show the parking and show the signage. Come all the way down, and the Prairie Farms Trail would actually end at Prairie Springs Park. And then this would really just kind of become a private access just for maintenance vehicles only. And so we really wouldn't have access off of Highway H. If you want to access the trail you're really accessing it off the Prairie Springs Side off of Park Drive. And then any large vehicles would access off of Highway H. And that's why we have the gate there to kind of keep the heavy vehicles off of it like that.

The access that we have off of the cul-de-sac is still large enough for an ambulance, a squad car, different things like that. It's just wide enough, but I've spoken with the police and fire chief and they plan on monitoring it. And they've got their vehicles in there, but it's just going to be emergency vehicles allowed minus the maintenance vehicles also in there. And so we want it to be a non-motorized path and safe but still accessible with the 100 foot turnarounds for emergency vehicles if needed.

Tom Shircel:

John, then going by what you just said, then you would change that trail head verbiage on the right side of this plan?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct.

Tom Shircel:

It wouldn't be at 88th Avenue. It would be along Park Drive?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. We'd have one trail head at Park Drive and then another park head up by Prairie Springs Park or off of Highway C, correct.

Michealene Day:

Any other questions on the trail? Prairie Springs Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Prairie Springs Park, the Village had just acquired some property up to the north as a remnant of our Prairie Farms Trail. And actually Prairie Farms Trail actually comes from the top of your screen in between the soccer fields and out. So this part of the trail is already intact. And if we ever go out there we can show you the open spaces that we're proposing to have a small soccer complex out there. And I guess keep in mind the property just to the north of Prairie Farms Trail is slated for a high school down the road. I'm not sure how far based on development and what happens down the road. But I would think as that school gets developed and that area from Bain Station to Highway H to Highway C is developed that's really when the north soccer fields may get developed hypothetically unless there's some reason for some larger soccer then we could do it a little bit earlier as the budget allows.

One of the areas that I think we could probably do a little bit quicker that would really serve the need of the residents of Pleasant Prairie would be on the south right across from the beach basically is where it is, building a couple soccer fields and some auxiliary parking in there. It would really just take a little bit of grading work, some dirt work and seeding. And then we could try to find some recycled granular products off of one of our paving programs for the parking lot and eventually pave it.

I guess this is something I would kind of look at happening in two different phases. One maybe getting these soccer fields whether it's for practice or for play. You could use them for lacrosse, for football, anything like that. Because we really don't have any large fields right now available for kids as far as like football. We're using our soccer fields but it's a reduced field size, so this would kind of fill the need or kind of show in the future how it may develop.

Michealene Day:

How is the baseball and soccer programs going? Do we have sufficient room for them now?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I guess I really can't comment too much on how the programs are doing.

Michealene Day:

I was just curious if this is a priority or if this is as we have so many parks we're developing here I just didn't know how we are doing.

Mike Pollocoff:

Soccer is not doing very well because we really don't have the facilities for it. But baseball we've brought in a new baseball person. We've had a pretty good year this year,

and I think that program is going to go to the extent that rec. is going to try and look at doing some improvements in Prairie Springs at the baseball complex with the pavilion and maybe looking at getting the lots paved. That's doing better. It really is. But right now it's kind of a chicken and egg thing. The soccer program isn't really doing that great because we don't have that much land available for soccer.

Jim Bandura:

And if I'm correct we had this discussion regarding not having any soccer fields available. I can see where, John, you're going with this to maybe get this in at some point.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The one to the south is probably our least expensive to actually go through and develop because you can bring in some nonstructural fill. You could bring some topsoil which the Village has access to. You can do some grading, make some paths and make a parking lot and pave it. I mean there's still going to be some cost to it, but I think it's something that's realistic within the next five years possibly.

Jim Bandura:

I agree.

Michealene Day:

How does that fall into the keeping baseball here at Pleasant Prairie Park soccer? You're originally talking about keeping them one at one park, one at the other.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. But the one thing about Pleasant Prairie Park is that it really is a limited space. It really doesn't have much more than like a U10 size you can really fit in there. And so we have some smaller soccer fields, and we offer that size because that's all we really have room for. If we could offer some larger soccer fields I'm sure that we could maybe expand our program because now we have the facilities to support the program. I think there's definitely a need for it within our recreation. We really don't have any defined standalone soccer fields per se that are like a U12, a U14. Anything where you get some more competitive traveling squads that they're really looking for. We offer that kind of starting soccer, but we really don't have the facilities for anything bigger. And maybe we have out youth soccer at Pleasant Prairie Park and then our older or like your U12 or U14s over at Prairie Springs Park possibly as a combination.

Monica Yuhas:

John, would adults also – if the soccer did take off with adults, I know that's big, too, right now, would they be able to use these fields as well?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Oh, yes. I'm sure we would let use the fields whoever we could get to use the fields and leagues and anyone that we could generate any money from. I'm sure the recreation department would want to work with us on it.

Michealene Day:

And with the just grading and seeding and some of that it really isn't all that expensive to do either.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's definitely manageable because it's a relatively flat surface. It does need some fine grading. And there's probably enough topsoil there you could push off. You could bring in some structural fill, level it, grade it, bring in some asphalt millings, some granular reground concrete for a base, let it sit. And then your biggest cost would probably be paving it in a couple years once it's done. And one of the real shortfalls that we do have Prairie Springs Park is enough hard surface parking. So I'm sure that we could utilize this parking lot of 100 stalls for special events and other things that we have throughout the season.

Michealene Day:

Oh, sure, or even people walking around the area.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Correct. Overflow for the beach as popular as that's become.

Michealene Day:

And this is just a closeup of the –

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, it is, and that's a closeup of the north side and the southern component, correct.

Michealene Day:

Okay, Momper's Woods.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Momper's Woods is something that we worked, and I think we've made a little bit of headway. I've been working with the Kenosha Archeological Society, and they've been spending a lot of time really trying to identify this Jambau Trail. I'm sure that if Mr. Christiansen was here he would speak on this a little bit more. But coming off the entrance, we have, I don't want to say [inaudible] but the Archeological Society has identified the actual trail coming all the way down almost to the end of the property and just turning a little bit to the west. So they've gone there and they've cleaned it up. And there have been some press releases and some work that's been done with that. They've worked very hard on it, and we try to support them as much as we can.

Just last week a couple of the members from the Society went down and marked out the trail to the north almost to the property edge. We actually just had staff in there last week with some of our mechanical equipment based on their recommendations going in and kind of mowing down some of the non-native brush and buckthorn. And then we're really working to try to identify this trail going to the north also.

And something else I'm probably proposing to do, because we kind of have a conceptual plan here, but we really don't have too much more with that. This past year I mentored a senior design class at Gateway Technical College, and they did a remodel of the Prange and a fire station and some other stuff. And I was really impressed with the level of detail that the students did. They have a civil group of students who worked on the civil. They had the architectural group that did the design. They had an interior that did the fabrics and the floorings and all that stuff.

I guess I'd like to propose to Gateway to mentor another group this fall and kind of give them the Momper's Woods to work on. Because I think there's really a lot of opportunity to really do something nice and neat here. And the level of detail they provided at really no cost to the Village was – I think it's something that would really well serve the Village. So I think that's something we can do moving forward and then include that as an addendum onto this plan if the Commission is okay with that concept.

Jim Bandura:

That's easy, it's very accessible, Green Bay Road. So, yeah, that's a good idea.

Michealene Day:

Anyone have any issues with asking Gateway to help us with this project?

Monica Yuhas:

John, I'm in awe of how you take resources that are in the community with students and the education that's out there. And you're able to not only give them an experience and give them knowledge and education, but it also benefits the Village, too. And people don't know that. They don't know that you have the Eagle Scouts, that you have the Tremper football team, you have these service projects going on and it's important. These young kids are giving back to the community, and they're taking a value in where they're living and they want to make it better. And that's what we want for that generation, so I commend you for doing that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much.

Michealene Day:

It's also teaching them a craft, too.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And the kids really take a lot of pride. I keep in touch with some of the kids that built the playgrounds, and it's been four or five years and I'll see them and they'll say, hey, I remember building that playground. That was the first time they got to use a tool, and the next thing you know they're becoming a little bit more handy. These kids are really bright kids, and you can teach them at a young age to do math and calculus and all this stuff, but no one knows how to use an adjustable wrench or a tool set. So if you can teach them some of this stuff. And that's where that Tremper construction program really does a great job for some of these kids. And there's really a need for young people in these trades. And they just need the opportunity just to do a project like this and maybe that's their niche. Because you always need good people building houses, buildings, stuff like that. You need good people doing architect. It gives them an opportunity, and we really enjoy working with them.

William Mills:

I think that's the story you tell when I was suggesting earlier to show how far we've come. Because when we put this plan together in 2006 I guess it was we were thinking user fees, or not user fees but development fees, etc. And it was thought of a lot of money still coming through. And obviously the economy has changed a lot since we thought back in 2006. But it's really amazing to think about how much we've accomplished exactly what you're talking about, Monica, of all the community coming together. John thinking of low cost methods to kind of push things forward. I think that's the story to tell once we finish this point and how far things have come since 2006 with very little money just because of the budget situation.

Michealene Day:

I know we had talked about this Momper's Woods at the last meeting about possibly using it in the school systems, educational purposes and things. When you work with the students perhaps I see these natural gardens and stuff, maybe we can have them help design things that would be really accessible and helpful for our special needs people as well.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's a great idea.

Michealene Day:

There could be some hands on things that these people – that that portion of our society can help with or work on.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We'll make sure to pass that along to the kids when we do our presentation.

Michealene Day:

They have so many clever ideas that they could probably incorporate a lot of things.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It's really interesting to see some of the ideas. I'll go in there with a concept and then they'll take and work on it over the semester and spit something out and it's like, oh, that's a great idea. Just getting that outside new and fresh opinion on it is sometimes really a valuable thing to have.

Michealene Day:

Correct. Any other comments on Momper's? Sorensen land donation.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The Village had acquired just over six and a half acres off of 47th, and it's been called the Sorensen Woods. And we worked a little bit with the property owners out there. And we actually went through and we developed a management plan. And so we thought it would be important to include in the appendix a copy of this management plan along with just kind of the land itself, where it is specifically and to show it. Because it's something that

there is a lot of work that has to be done on it to make the trails.

I apologize I don't have it on the slide here, but we do have a little map. It kind of makes like a figure eight in here as a little walking trail. So we can make sure that we include that as kind of what the plan is. And then take some of this management that we have from the staff report earlier this year and include that also because there is a lot of work that was done to bring it this far. Jean Werbie has worked very hard with the property owners. And then we had this report done, and then to make sure that we can incorporate that into our plans so it's not forgotten and we can keep moving forward. Again, another great project for an Eagle Scout to take a group in here and clean up some woods and make some interpretive signage and stuff like that.

Michealene Day:

Comments or questions?

6. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

This has been a long process, and I just want to thank you, John, and Jean Werbie and Mike and everyone, all staff, all staff. They've made this process a little less painful, and everything that we've asked you guys to do you've incorporated. And I think you have your own things to do and you fit it in and you got it done in a timely fashion. I'm just really impressed with how much you guys have done and appreciate it. Thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You're welcome.

Mike Pollocoff:

You're welcome.

Michealene Day:

Anybody else have any comments?

7. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Bandura moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:39pm.