

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
October 2, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Present were Rita Christiansen, Glenn Christiansen, Cindy Schwab (Alternate #1), Steve Kundert and Monica Yuhas. Michealene Day, Troy Holm, William Mills and Jim Bandura 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. No citizens were present.

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

Rita Christiansen:

We'd like to take a minute and other than Glenn and myself, we weren't here for the last meeting so we'll abstain, and there's only three people so we need four for a quorum to approve the meeting minutes. So we'll have to table those until next month, correct or no?

Mike Pollocoff:

Approval of the minutes is a ministerial activity, so there's a quorum and the whole body can act on it.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay. Do I have a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting in September?

Monica Yuhas:

Motion to approve.

Steven Kundert:

Second.

Rita Christiansen:

All in favor?

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

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

5. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

- **Kenosha/Racine Land Trust**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and members of the Park Commission, this is just an update on some correspondence that's been happening within some of the property within Pleasant Prairie. The Village had recently closed on the 9.5 acre park, and I believe we talked about this a couple months ago at the Park Commission level. But then it had gone through the Board level and everything else. And so there was a \$24,000 acquisition funded by the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust, member donations and grants from the Wisconsin Stewardship Fund and the Federal North American Wetland Conservation Act.

This has really been a good partnership that we had with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust. We really have been able to acquire a lot of very nice properties through the process. Up on the board you can kind of see a highlighted area where this property is physically located. With the sun it doesn't show up really great, but it's just to the east of I-94, north of 165 and probably just a little bit southwest of the end cul-de-sac on River road.

And so just an update that it has been purchased. It's gone through the Village Board and all the proper steps. And they are looking at doing like some sort of a little site, like a little site viewing of it in the spring like a little dedication. So I'll make sure that the Park Commission is kept abreast of that, and we can make sure whoever wants to be in attendance can be in attendance for that. So, like I say, this is just some correspondence. There's really nothing to act on. And that's all I have for my report this month.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, thank you very much for that update.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- **Discuss and approve rules for Ingram Park sledding hill.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Park Commission, as we talked about last month public works crews have just finished with the construction of the Ingram Park pond. Spoils from the pond were used to create a sledding hill. We have a picture of the sledding hill from the north viewing south. We're very excited to have this sledding hill. Hopefully we get some snow this year so we can actually enjoy the sledding hill. And we thought that it was important to go through and develop some rules through the Park Commission and ultimately pass them through ordinance to get signage up just to make sure it's safe for everyone. It is the first sledding hill that Pleasant Prairie has, and there's really not a ton of sledding hills in Kenosha County.

So staff went through, researched and made some phone calls to our insurance company just to make sure that we had those bases covered. We talked to some other municipalities, and we did kind of our own internal. And we came up with these sledding hill rules that have been given to you in your packet. There's 18 rules, and obviously these are open for discussion or interpretation for this evening's meeting. This is just kind of staff's first crack at it. And I guess we can go through them one-by-one, or I can just open it up for discussion, and if you guys have any discussion on any of them we can talk about that at this time.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, I would be alright with opening it up for discussion if the rest of the members feel fine. Cindy, do you have anything you'd like to add or questions?

Cindy Schwab:

No, I think they are pretty good.

Rita Christiansen:

Glenn?

Glenn Christiansen:

No, I agree.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, I have a question. So signage posting. Will it be available with these rules on them, or how is that going to be handled?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, we are going to go through and actually make a sign that has these rules right on them and put them probably at the base of the hill.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, maybe in the parking, too?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, we can do it by the parking lot. I'll probably just do one or two versions of them because it's going to be a pretty big sign. And then there are some that are specific to the geographically location on the hill. So we'll make sure that we put them -- we'll identify where people should be walking up the hill, where they should be sledding down. So we'll have some specific signage for that also.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, number five the word strongly is misspelled. And number eight end of first sentence there's an extra space in there. Also, too, I noticed that the timing of the park being opened it says open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. conditions permitting. Could you help me understand normal park hours are dusk to dawn, is that correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, normal park hours are dusk to dawn. In the wintertime it's dark by 4:30, and we do have lights planned for on top of this hill. And this is actually something that staff had kind of gone back and forth on. We kind of looked at other sledding hills, what are their hours. And a lot of them are between 8 and 10 p.m. So we just kind of split the difference with 9. But Dorothy Ingram still lives on the property, so we tried to be conscious of traffic in and out from there. We figure we say it's closed at 9, they'll be out by 9:30. We're definitely not opposed to closing it at 8 and seeing how that works. We can vary and change it. I guess we'll kind of leave that up, but that was kind of the thought process. And we did talk about the dawn to dusk, but I really don't want people there real early in the morning. I really don't want them much later at night because there are some neighbors. And people really should be home in bed by 10:00. They really shouldn't be at the sledding hill because nothing good is going to happen.

Rita Christiansen:

Spoken like a father.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, my years are showing through.

Steven Kundert:

Nothing good happens after 10.

Rita Christiansen:

And, lastly, I went by there but I didn't stop this week, and I didn't see any kind of a gate. So preventative measures if someone wants to stay later than 9 or 10:00?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The Village I believe through the police department has a parking enforcement officer. And so part of their duties will include parking at the RecPlex, other sites to regulate parking, monitoring the sledding hill on occasion. And when it passes, hopefully it passes through the Village Board budget, the monitoring of dog licenses at the dog park in Ingram Park. And so we were hoping to use that police personnel to monitor and along with the rest of the police staff obviously also.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, that's my questions. Monica?

Monica Yuhas:

I would like to see the rules be put in the newsletter, in the December newsletter.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's a great idea.

Monica Yuhas:

If we could dedicate maybe the front page to that so people see it. And I don't know if there's any way to add it to the calendar. I don't know how the design of the calendar is going to be this year.

Rita Christiansen:

Posted on the web page maybe.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, we're working on it right now so timing would be perfect. I can't guarantee you'd be on the front cover. I don't have that sort of authority, but I can definitely make a recommendation to have it in the newsletter.

Monica Yuhas:

And then also if it can be on the home page on the internet during the winter months. At least people can go there and refer to it if they have a question about the time frame.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Excellent.

Rita Christiansen:

And is this something, I just thought of this, something that's not going to be listed in conjunction with any activities taking place at the RecPlex at all? It's separate, correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, this is really separate. It's not really a Village program unless they have like a Village sledding program through RecPlex or how to sled or a field trip or something like that. Then obviously they would have to abide by the rules. This is something just really specific to the sledding hill at Ingram Park.

Steven Kundert:

A couple of comments. The list is good. It's awfully exhaustive. And it's up to the Village attorney's also, but I don't know if a catch all statement of something along the lines of responsible sledding practice should be used or however you want to use it. Just the number nine a forward facing position, no one should sled head first, no standing and only use sleds with steering. It just seems a little overkill. Ultimately I'll, again, default to what is preferred by the Village attorneys, but it just seems a little overbearing. I understand what the purpose is so I'll leave it at that.

Number eight, if you're banning skis you should mention snow boards specifically because with the popularity people try to come in and find a loophole there. And then you mentioned that it will be lit so that takes care of one of my questions on number ten if it would be lighted on the premises so there would be. And then another question, and

I can't recall from the Park Plan, I apologize, but is there a warming hut on site?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There is not.

Steven Kundert:

Okay, and that was it.

Rita Christiansen:

So you're going to add then snow boards?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, we can definitely go through and add all the comments that the Park Commission has had. And I guess to kind of answer Steve's question, there's always the if you have one rule, you have ten rules, you have a hundred rules it really is a fine line. And we'll go through and if we can condense any of these and shorten it up. But we kind of thought we're probably better having them more exhaustive up front because we really don't have a sledding hill or that much exposure to it.

Rita Christiansen:

And, John, to your point I agree with both of you. However, knowing people always try and find that gray area, well, you didn't say we couldn't do, so if you spell it out in detail at least as best as we can I think it protects the Village.

Mike Pollocoff:

My painful experience is you can never have enough. And I think the one thing we should probably add in here as a whim basically a blanket statement that sledders should exercise all reasonable cause, and the Village of Pleasant Prairie will not be responsible for any personal negligence exercised by sledders. We have recreational immunity, but that doesn't mean that we can -- for us to make it fully and say have a good time but be careful and don't go head first, our best protection is we've taken every step to foresee what we can. We don't have to foresee everything, but we have to make an effort to set the conditions so everything is right.

Rita Christiansen:

There was just an issue on TV to the point about you set the rules up, and it was at one of the water parks a gentleman rushed through, and before the guard could stop him he went

head first down and ended up coming off and hit the concrete. So there's a perfect example. If you set the rules up you've got to hope people are going to obey them but you just never know.

Mike Pollocoff:

And that's why we need a catch all statement there that says it's still their responsibility. Legal counsel has always encouraged us to not bear on the side of brevity but cover what we think is reasonable. Even at RecPlex we're constantly changing. You think you've thought of every stupid thing somebody could do and they come up with other ones.

Steven Kundert:

The statement, though, of approved sleds with steering mechanisms. One, who approves it, and two I don't know what it is but my guess would be more than half of the steps that you go buy, and take your pick of retailer, are just sleds or a saucer or whatever it is and they don't have steering mechanisms.

Tom Shircel:

That was one of my comments, too. Does that mean you cannot bring inner tubes or saucers per say?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right. I think that my intention or my interpretation of the approved sled was making sure someone hasn't been riding down in a scoop shovel, someone isn't taking a car hood, taking a chair on feet. It's got to be something that you purchased as a sled. So that was kind of my thought process of it to eliminate some of these ad hoc things. With all these TV shows out now that they're always doing the craziest things and, hey, that would be fun to do. So we want to make sure that when you buy it as a sled not as a scoop shovel, a car hood, whatever else someone else may come up with.

Rita Christiansen:

So maybe it should read to your point only manufactured sleds instead of approved because I've never seen a seal of approval on a sled, and forgive me, if someone has please correct me. Something. I would tweak that word just a little bit.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We can change this to [inaudible] to make it read more clearly.

Rita Christiansen:

Anything else?

Tom Shircel:

Madam Chair, a couple other comments if I may. I thought maybe to the first point we could add to that, parents/guardians are responsible for their children. Maybe add that to number one. And also on number eight maybe you want to add no ATV's as well are allowed.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That's a good point.

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Or snowmobiles.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, we should probably have that signage up at all the entrance to Ingram Park back off of 89th and off of 93rd just so that there is no damage to the property.

Rita Christiansen:

Good point. No ATV's and no snowmobiles.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No motorized vehicles allowed off the main road.

Rita Christiansen:

No sled dogs, no pets.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Only if it's an approved sled dog.

Rita Christiansen:

Alright, anything else? So I would like a motion please to approve the Ingram Park sledding hills rules with the amendments that we recommended. Do I have a motion for that?

Monica Yuhas:

So moved.

Rita Christiansen:

May I have a second please.

Glenn Christiansen:

I'll second.

Rita Christiansen:

I'll second. All in favor say aye.

**Monica Yuhas moved to approve the approve rules for Ingram Park sledding hill:
Seconded by Glenn Christiansen. Motion carried 5-0.**

7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Rita Christiansen:

Mr. Christiansen, I believe you had something you wanted to say this evening.

Glenn Christiansen:

I guess I'll say it this way. As a citizen of the Village and a member of the Kenosha County Archeological Society and as a member of the Park Commission, I would like to commend Gary Sullivan and his crew for the fine job they did over in Mompers Woods clearing the Jambois/Green Bay Road Trail. I finally found time today, I hate to say, to go over there and walk the work that they did. And as I always suspected it appears that the trail goes right through that well pit going north from the driveway. It will be interesting at some point in time when perhaps all the brush grindings are raked out of it.

It kind of comes across as just a very subtle swale kind of heading right to the northeast corner of the wood. But going south is the most intriguing thing to see. Because I asked Gary when I was out there with them if they could just extend that like another 100 feet or so to try and get an idea which way the trail went. And they decided to go a little farther, and they ended up going all the way to the hay field. And to my surprise as you walk down the strip that they mowed where I told them to go with it the trail is very clear just to the north of the line that they mowed. And so now you can see very clearly something that is about 2,000 years old. So we now have located probably in the

neighborhood of a half mile, approaching a half mile, of the trail which is probably the largest section of it in this area. And it's now preserved. So they did a wonderful job, and I just wanted to pass that on.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much, and I'll be sure to pass that along to Gary and his crew. I guess I'd like to thank you and the Society for taking the time to go through and mark it and identify it and go through all the buckthorn and everything else on your hands and knees -

Glenn Christiansen:

Multiflora roses.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

That was a great adventure by everyone, and we will be reaping the benefits for years to come.

Glenn Christiansen:

To stand there on that trail and to look at that and just wonder what all went up and down that trail for 2,000 years to leave that mark. I ran into Lori Artiomow recently, and I took a tour up at Hawthorne Hollow, because there's another section of the trail up there on their property. And some time ago, I don't know how long ago it was, but Parkside their archeological department did a perpendicular trench through the trail up there, and that was how they were able to determine that it dates back about 2,000 years, or that was what Lori told me I should say. So it probably would be interesting maybe at some time to find out if it would be possible to get a copy of that. Because if that's just another portion of this trail, then what they say about that part of the trail should hold true for our part of the trail and it would be the same history. Very good. It's really neat to see something like that because now we can protect it because we know it's there.

Rita Christiansen:

Thank you, Glen. Anyone else on the Board any comments, questions, issues?

8. ADJOURNMENT

Rita Christiansen:

I'd like a motion to adjourn.

Monica Yuhas:

Motion to adjourn.

Rita Christiansen:

Can I have a second please?

Steven Kundert:

Second.

Rita Christiansen:

All in favor say aye.

Monica Yuhas moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steven Kundert. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:20pm.