

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

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

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

Michealene Day:

The previous meeting I was not able to attend. Did everyone get a chance to review the minutes, and if so any corrections or additions? Hearing none, can I have a motion to accept the meeting?

Cindy Schwab:

So moved.

Troy Holm:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Cindy Schwab moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Michealene Day:

Does anyone wish to make any comments?

Carolyn Henry:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

Yes, please. Come on up to the podium. And the only thing we ask is if you'd state your name and your address for the record please.

Carolyn Henry:

Is this on? Oh, yes. My name is Carolyn Henry of Pleasant Prairie. Thank you. And I'm here simply to relate to a park nearest to my home if possible. So it's five miles to MB which is Pringle. It's ten miles to Hawthorne Hallow. It's ten miles to Sanders Park near Parkside. So I'm just trying to find a place to relate with trees. So that's why I'm here. I want to leave where I came from. Before moving to Wisconsin seven years ago we lived in Bolingbrook, Illinois for 25 years. And so I have the latest brochure from their park district just to show you where I'm coming from.

And I don't expect all this to happen here. I know this has been incorporated, Pleasant Prairie, since 1989, so you're kind of starting from the ground up. And it seems like there's so many rules and regulations I don't know you get anything done frankly. But a couple things I've enjoyed with the Bolingbrook Park District is they started a flower garden in different areas. And this was walkable to my church, so I did that for a few years. And also I started a grass roots group called Bolingbrook Earth Watch in the '90s, and in cooperation with the Bolingbrook Park District and the Village we sponsored Earth Fest three times. So that has been my passion over the decades.

I hope to go on tour of the parks that are designated parks sometime when you have the time, and I'm very patient. So we've got to plant more trees. I do have a table at Intergenerational Fairs which stopped this year. But Pleasant Prairie School is having us Friday, a few of us, to give our hobbies per se, and I'm always talking trees, because that is really going to be our salvation. And all the lectures I've attended through different groups over the years show that trees are bioremediation and etc., etc., etc. So that's my focus in coming a few times. So I wish you a happy Thanksgiving and I'll give this to Ruth. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. And you have a great Thanksgiving, too. Thank you. Any comments? Hearing none, thank you for your time in coming. I now you've come to several meetings, and we do enjoy having you come and express your interest. And you actually give us a lot of things to think about and try to attempt to do. Thank you.

5. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Park Commission, just a reminder that this Saturday the Village will be hosting the Fifth Anniversary of our Veterans Memorial at Prairie Springs Park. And that's at 1:30 this Saturday. And I would encourage everyone to attend if they're available. It really has been a great ceremony and we're really excited about everything going on this year. So that's all I have.

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- **Review Master Park and Open Space Plan**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Park Commission, one of the recommendations from the Commission within the last couple months was reviewing our mission statement. So we had gone through and researched and worked with Ms. Christiansen to find our proposed or the most recent one that we could find in 1992. And then Tom Shircel had worked to update one potentially for this new plan. And so included in your packet were the mission statements that we found in 1992 and Tom's revisions for 2012. And we can open up discussion for that.

Michealene Day:

I know you're chomping at the bit.

Rita Christiansen:

Can we just read the proposed, and then I have a couple questions to understand better what the thought process was behind it. So I went out and looked at what the definition, again, to remind myself what really is supposed to be a mission statement so I was a little clearer. In partnership with our citizens the function and duty of the Village of Pleasant

Prairie Park Commission is to provide for a superior quality of life for its residents. And members of the community by facilitating acquisition, development, preservation, protection, maintenance, management and promotion of the parklands, open space areas, recreational facility, natural resources in an orderly and uniform process. It was hard to say with one breath. I'm concerned or I'm not sure I understand in the sentence where it says, is to provide for a superior quality. Can someone define for me what superior quality of life for all residents is?

Tom Shircel:

Yes. I think using the words superior quality I think is just using a superlative that's a quality that's better than perhaps our neighbors or better, giving a quality of life to everyone in the Village through the use of parks. I think obviously parks plays a big part in the quality of life in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. I think we all use the parks, and we all would like to have parks that are superior in quality, meaning excellent park system.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, I guess I had trouble with superior. So I mean that's just my take on it.

Tom Shircel:

We can definitely change the wording.

Rita Christiansen:

I don't know how anybody else feels about it.

Tom Shircel:

Sure.

Rita Christiansen:

And then you're supposed to separate what is important and then what are you marketing to and how, and the intended direction is supposed to be part of what a mission statement is. So we go on to read, the Commission, as stewards, which I thought was excellent, thank you for putting that in there, shall provide long-term and short-term planning and supervision of park-related development projects and shall support the implementation of those plans. I didn't have any problems with that sentence. I thought it was well written. The Commission shall promote the wellness benefits of parklands in the best long-term interests and benefits of the Village and its residents of all ages, abilities, and here's where I have a little heartburn, and for those people with handicaps or disadvantages.

The Commission will strive to enhance parks and open space to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations through the provisions of safe and secure environments.

So, again, a little bit of heartburn I had as, and for those people with handicaps or disadvantages. I need to understand why it was important to call them out when you say right before that, and its residents of all ages and abilities. I thought abilities kind of covered everything.

Tom Shircel:

Yes. I put that in there because of the young lady who gave the presentation at the last meeting about handicap park facilities and how important that is. That's why I included again. Again, we're more than welcome -- it's only a draft, we're more than welcome to --

Rita Christiansen:

I don't like the word disadvantages at all

Tom Shircel:

Maybe that's not the right word, correct.

Rita Christiansen:

I just think in my opinion people that have what may be considered handicaps they're usually not the ones that are handicapped, it's the people that don't have them. So I guess I just look at it kind of reverse.

Michealene Day:

But I think she used the word disadvantageded herself in her presentation.

Rita Christiansen:

She may have but I don't have to agree with it. That's all I'm saying. I just think there's a different word we could use or maybe take it out.

Glenn Christiansen:

It appears that if we watch what the government and their aims at trying to create regulations and guidelines and so forth it seems like they stick with handicapped, don't they? Handicapped and disadvantage, perhaps one word suffices for both.

Tom Shircel:

Perhaps it's redundant or like Rita said maybe a different word.

Mike Pollocoff:

I believe they're mutually exclusive, though. If you look at legislation and rules relating to providing equal opportunities --

Rita Christiansen:

Disabilities Act.

Mike Pollocoff:

Well, that and then there's iterations of it. But providing facilities and opportunities to people who are handicapped and disadvantaged by that handicap. Because you're handicapped doesn't mean you're disadvantaged. And typically they don't always run together, but there are people that disadvantaged can have nothing to do with handicapped. They can be economically disadvantaged.

Glenn Christiansen:

That's a good point.

Mike Pollocoff:

So a park system should remain open and free and unencumbered for people who are disadvantaged.

Rita Christiansen:

Then the question I would ask is the people that have disadvantages financially I mean what is our purpose? I mean how do we assist them in that sense? Because when I think of disadvantages I think of kinds of handicapped so thank you for pointing out in thinking about financial disadvantages.

Michealene Day:

I think we have the free parks and free programs, and we have Pleasant Prairie Days which is free. We try to not everything is a cost program, and I believe that that would help those people who can't afford going to the movies or joining in really like the softball programs and all of those kinds of things.

Mike Pollocoff:

I think in the context in which that language is used it's used rather than calling out poor people.

Rita Christiansen:

If this is what we're going to do, then I just want to be able to explain what it means because I didn't understand it. I didn't look at it from your perspective, and I thank you for that. So if someone asks me I can say this is what we mean by that.

Tom Shircel:

And to my knowledge all our parks are we do not have a fee to enter our parks. So that's a means for the economically disadvantages to stay fit, as it says, wellness benefits. So that right there without having a fee has the opportunity for someone less economically advantaged to go there and work out or play or what have you.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, that's all I had.

Michealene Day:

Anybody else have any comments?

Tom Shircel:

Again, this is only my draft. So feel free to rip it apart or make suggestions like you have. You're more than welcome to do so.

Michealene Day:

I personally didn't have a problem with superior quality if you can come up with a thesaurus with a different word with superior that would be fine. I think it was just a means of saying that above and beyond. We don't want an average facility. We would like to have something stellar. But I thought it was very well written, Tom. I would have taken it as is, but that's my opinion. Anybody else? Do we want to accept this, or do we want to send it back with some revisions? I mean we need to get this off center. So I need some comments and direction here on where we would want to go. I'd leave it. Rita wants some changes. Glenn?

Glenn Christiansen:

I agree with the spirit of it.

Michealene Day:

Anybody else want any wording or changes of this? Troy?

Troy Holm:

I guess I would like to see maybe a different draft of the superior and then if there's something else we can add to the disadvantages. Because I'd like to cull out, like you guys are saying, the economic disadvantages. I don't know how long this has to be. I would like to see different of the source in here, too, maybe something that would -- I don't know if we need an example of superior quality of life. I don't know.

Cindy Schwab:

I'm fine with it. But if we just put economic disadvantages would that [inaudible].

Michealene Day:

No. Jim?

Jim Bandura:

There could be different disadvantages outside of economic.

Michealene Day:

Besides just economic.

Jim Bandura:

I mean you could have spiritual disadvantage or cultural. So that I really think that needs to stay in because it's another description of what we can do for somebody related to the parks. Superior quality of life, okay, I would think you could say better quality of life if you wanted to change it.

Rita Christiansen:

Maybe enhanced.

Jim Bandura:

Enhanced, yeah.

Rita Christiansen:

And actually I'm okay with disadvantages, too. And based on now that I understand I was just thinking with blinders on versus outside. So you enlightened me and that's fine. I mean we could take a vote.

Tom Shircel:

I think enhanced [inaudible].

Michealene Day:

Enhanced. Okay, so we'll change superior to enhanced. Any other changes? Call for a vote on accepting the change of superior to enhanced, but then accepting the proposed mission statement. Do I have a motion to accept it?

Monica Yuhas:

So moved.

Troy Holm:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Motion carries.

Rita Christiansen:

Thank you, Tom, for doing that.

Tom Shircel:

Thank you. Thank you for your comments.

Michealene Day:

Okay, we're moving onto Chapter 6 of our Master Park and Open Space Plan.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and Commission, the final chapter to review for the draft of the Master Park and Open Space Plan is Chapter 6. It's analysis of existing park and recreational facilities. We took a lot of it from our original plan with Vanderwalle. We had to do a couple of acreage updates, and we did find a couple of calculation errors, more specifically in the regional parks that are required. And so we'll make those changes.

The hashed outlines for the total existing acreage and the park acreage needed is something that we're working with our GIS department. Because since our plan we have acquired Ingram Park, Sorensen's Woods, Village Green Park, Creekside Park, so there have been some updates. So we're going to go through and update those numbers and make sure that they're correct. And I guess the purpose of this is just going through anything else you'd like to see, additions, any changes from our first original plan with Vanderwalle for the quantitative analysis, any of the park acreage needs, any questions that you may have with this Chapter 6.

Michealene Day:

Yeah, I think that Rita at the last time when we were first going through this had found that a lot of the acreages and quantities were listed incorrectly. So I see you do have them etched out. So it's good to have that correctly listed.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, so we're working with the GIS department. They have a really good database with those. And so we'll get those based off our maps the actual acreages and include those into the table. That's work in progress as we speak.

Michealene Day:

Okay, we might as well go with the first paragraph. This chapter presents an analysis. Any questions, comments, changes? Hearing none, any verbiage or issues with I know we're going to correct the quantities, but quantitative analysis. Any questions or comments on that? Going to page 2, figure 9, again we're going to update the correct quantities there. In between, these numbers do not take into consideration. Any

comments or questions on that verbiage or corrections? Same thing with 10 and the verbiage under it? This is an easy chapter. We're just smoking right along. Figure 11 any comments about that verbiage underneath that? Hearing none, qualitative analysis. Under B?

Monica Yuhas:

Tom, one question for you. Under the first bullet where Pleasant Prairie needs to accommodate the large number of workers that commute into the Village for jobs. What about also the influx of people that come on a daily basis out to the outlets. It's not just the workers. I mean we pick up an additional how many thousands a day between work and --

Mike Pollocoff:

Eight to ten thousand.

Michealene Day:

So we have work and the other touristy type between the outlet malls and maybe using the waterfront area.

Monica Yuhas:

Special events that are going on.

Michealene Day:

A lot of special events.

Monica Yuhas:

So if there's a way that we could work that into that sentence.

Michealene Day:

I guess the second one special events is in the second spot.

Monica Yuhas:

Triathlons.

Rita Christiansen:

And other Village-sponsored events having region-wide impact.

Michealene Day:

So that's kind of there so we already covered that.

Monica Yuhas:

But you're not addressing the tourism.

Michealene Day:

No.

Monica Yuhas:

You're not addressing what's coming in on a daily basis.

Tom Shircel:

Sure. Madam Chair and the Commission, perhaps in that first bullet Pleasant Prairie needs to accommodate the large number of workers, visitors and tourists?

Michealene Day:

Yeah, that would be fine.

Tom Shircel:

That commute into the Village for jobs and other activities.

Monica Yuhas:

Because that's a huge part of the Village on a daily basis of what comes in.

Mike Pollocoff:

Right.

Rita Christiansen:

You could change it up a little bit, Tom. If you wanted to you could Pleasant Prairie needs to accommodate the large numbers of tourists and workers that commute into the

Village and leave off for jobs. Workers we assume that they're here to work so they have jobs.

Tom Shircel:

Sure, that's good because that's a given obviously, right. Excellent.

Rita Christiansen:

So just switch your wording around a little bit.

Tom Shircel:

Excellent.

Michealene Day:

Any other on that page? Geographic analysis under C? Hearing nothing, public input? That was a short one.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We would add a sentence on the survey that was taken as part of this, and then refer to the survey as part of this under Section D.

Michealene Day:

Okay. And then E, review of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan? Anything there? Alright, except for the one minor change and the correction of actual quantities can I have a motion to accept Chapter 6 and its revision? Oh, I'm sorry, Tom.

Tom Shircel:

Madam Chair before you go on, going back to Section E the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Ruth has printed out the latest draft of that plan which is from 2011 to 2016. So perhaps in the language there we can include that language saying please refer to the 2011-2016 draft SCORP or something of that matter? Maybe it will be adopted soon. I don't know where it is as far as being adopted. But maybe we should include some language referring to that.

Michealene Day:

So we know which plan we're looking at?

Tom Shircel:

Yes.

Michealene Day:

Perfect, thank you. Okay, with those two additions can I have a motion to accept?

Troy Holm:

So moved.

Michealene Day:

A second?

Monica Yuhas:

Second.

Troy Holm moved to approve the Park Commission Mission Statement and Chapter 6 of the Master Park and Open Space Plan as corrected: Seconded by Monica Yuhas. Motion carried 7-0.

7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Rita Christiansen:

I have a comment. John, could you help me? We do have a garden to grow vegetables don't we currently at the RecPlex on the grounds? Is that correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, that is correct. It's on the north side of Lake Andrea.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, and Ms. Henry, where exactly do you live, ma'am?

Carolyn Henry:

Highway 50 and H [inaudible].

Rita Christiansen:

So thinking about the flower garden which would be a beautiful added feature to any of our parks, maybe that's something for 2013. Like the gentleman that took the initiative to work on the vegetable gardens and worked with the Village to make that happen, maybe that's something for 2013 that Ms. Henry would be interested in possibly as an enhancement to our park?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We would definitely encourage her to be a part of it without a doubt.

Rita Christiansen:

I think that would be a wonderful addition to help beautify the parks along with trees, of course.

Michealene Day:

Thank you, excellent comment. Any other comments?

Troy Holm:

We've also done tours -- we've scheduled tours for residents to come with us and view all of the -- we have our own van to transport anyone.

Carolyn Henry:

I want to come.

Troy Holm:

We'll try to set up one for you or for our residents actually.

Michealene Day:

Okay, any other comments?

Glenn Christiansen:

I have one other comment to make. A week ago Saturday I walked Momper's Woods for

the Jambois Trail with Don Skelton from the Kenosha County Archaeological Society. And after reviewing the work done by Gary Sullivan and his crew it appears that we have discovered the entirety of the trail in the woods with the exception of about the last 50 feet of it where it actually turns south and exits the woods. So we were quite satisfied when somebody within the group had produced an old survey map which showed what the trail looks like in detail heading down way to the south of Springbrook Road. But at any rate it does show that there's about three eighths of a mile of trail in the woods. So we were quite happy to see that. And we were thinking of talking to the Village about possibly looking to identify other remaining sections of the trail in the future.

Rita Christiansen:

Aren't the Archaeological Society going out there this Saturday?

Glenn Christiansen:

I think they were out there last Saturday.

Rita Christiansen:

They were going to do some brush cleaning and raking and stuff.

Glenn Christiansen:

Don Skelton and I did a little bit of raking just to sample what we've done, and we were satisfied with what Gary and his crew did. All the work that was done was right on top of the trail with the exception we paralleled the section on the south end. But we see and know right where the trail is now. So very good job done.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much. I'll make sure to pass that along.

Glenn Christiansen:

Yeah, it's really neat to look at that and realize you're looking at something that's 2,000 years old, and it truly is a relic of the past.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

8. ADJOURNMENT

Monica Yuhas:

Motion to adjourn.

Troy Holm:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor?

Monica Yuhas moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Troy Holm. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:30pm.