

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
December 4, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Present were Rita Christiansen, Cindy Schwab (Alternate #1), Jim Bandura, Steve Kundert and Monica Yuhas. Michealene Day, Glenn Christiansen, William Mills and Troy Holm were excused. Also present were 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:

Minutes from the previous meeting. Did everybody have a chance to review them, and if so could I have a motion for approval of the meeting minutes?

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

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**
- 5. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and members of the Park Commission, a couple weeks ago we held our Veteran's Day memorial. And it was very successful, very well attended. It was a very nice event. I'd like to thank Ruth Mack-Stoner for all of her work organizing. She really did a great job and thank everyone else for that part of it. That's the only comment I have.

Rita Christiansen:

And any comments at all from any members of the Board? Thank you, John, for making sure that's in the record.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discuss and Approve Dog Park Rules**

Rita Christiansen:

Before you see a list of dog park rules for the Village of Pleasant Prairie. If everybody had a chance to look them over are there any suggestions from any of the Board members?

Monica Yuhas:

I know in the City, John, they have a small dog park and a large dog park. They have two separate entrances, one for the large dogs to go into and then one for the small dogs to go into.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Is the entrance -- just to make sure I'm clear, so there's two separate dog parks within one park?

Monica Yuhas:

Correct.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There's one for the big dogs, one for the little dogs?

Monica Yuhas:

Yes.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

The way that our park is designed we actually have a pond in the center of it. So it would make doing that very difficult. I guess it was my vision just to have one park as a whole with hopes that the dogs all play nice in the dog park together.

Monica Yuhas:

Okay. I know I take Wrigley out to Pets and he goes to that dog park. And, yes, he's a small dog but he likes to play in the large dog park. But there are quite a few small dogs who do take advantage of -- they have Wrigley Field and Miller Park. Wrigley Field is for the small dogs and Miller Park is for the large dogs.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Appropriate.

Monica Yuhas:

And I had Jeff and the boys go through these rules with me, and that was the one question that came up is what do you do with the separation of size? Now, I don't know about other dog parks because I haven't been to other ones.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It was not my intention to discriminate dogs by size but have them all just be in one dog park together.

Monica Yuhas:

Okay.

Steven Kundert:

I did notice there was no general blanket statement that says use at your own risk both to the owner and to the dog's health. I can see a situation where something happens to the dog in the pond or something along those lines and there's an incident. I don't now if we want to put --

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that's an excellent, excellent comment.

Jim Bandura:

I agree with that, kind of like a little disclaimer or statement on the rules here.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

When we were going through and making these rules we kind of ran into the same

situation we did with the sledding hill of what's too many, what's not enough. But I definitely believe that a blanket is -- it's something that we agreed upon for the sledding rules. I think it's a great catch that we add it to here also. So we'll make sure that we can add that in.

The only other thing, I was actually talking with our finance director, Kathy Goessl, just before the meeting. She said that this would cover all of the Village dogs. But dogs that come in from the County, and especially like for the licensing issue and tags and stuff like that, we should probably -- if it's a Village dog, owners live in Pleasant Prairie this would cover it, but add another line in there and say if it's out of the Village of Pleasant Prairie resident they need a dog park license for the Village of Pleasant Prairie. It would be a \$20 fee. It's exactly what they do at Kenosha County parks. So if you live in Kenosha County, I'm not sure how they work, but if you're out of County they charge a \$20 fee for them. And I think that that's a good idea. Otherwise you could have people from the City, from Racine, from Illinois coming up and technically per our ordinance they wouldn't have to really do anything because you can't license a dog that doesn't live in Pleasant Prairie.

Steven Kundert:

Is there a way to do that on a day pass basis as well? One, I would think the administration of that would be difficult. And, two, a lot of times if people are just visiting and want to get their dog out a \$20 fee strikes me as something that you would do in advance and have the paperwork on file. If it was just an impromptu day of visit to the dog park I don't know if there's a day fee that you can do with a lockbox on site or something along those lines.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Or something very similar like you would do at a boat launch for a day fee.

Steven Kundert:

Or the Wisconsin State parks have a day fee.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I think that we can leave the option out there. We can probably do a box out there for just day passes. The Village of Pleasant Prairie Police Department has an enforcement officer. And so we will have someone enforcing this over the summer. So it will be walking around, checking the dog for license tags, day passes. I'm not sure how you would distinguish a dog that's in the park that has a tag and one that doesn't. You'd probably have to take and question that owner and they'd have to go out of the park and present their here's my tag, or they'd have to keep it on them maybe. Because I think

your dog has to be close with the leash so you'd have to keep this on you. It would have to be a day-by-day dated thing. So we can work through some of the details on that.

Jim Bandura:

Couldn't you have something that would give you a receipt or something?

Steven Kundert:

Wisconsin State parks has a carbon receipt that you put one in the box and you hold onto the other one.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And it's valid just for that day. I'm sure we can.

Steven Kundert:

And then the enforcement officer would obviously use his discretion as far as how much to enforce and go and check everyone's papers.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, we can make that revision. I think it makes sense. So I guess originally I was looking for someone that's going to come all the time on an annual basis. But a day pass if there's some revenues we can generate it's probably worth generating. I'm not sure of the fee. It will have to be set up. Probably consult with our finance director and see what they're doing in other dog parks. After talking with her she says that the finance department collects money for Kenosha County parks for their dog parks here. 100 percent of the revenue goes to Kenosha County is how they structure that. So I'll find out how much, what they do for day passes and stuff like that for out of municipality residents and dogs, and we'll try to accommodate it. I think it's a couple good ideas that we just didn't think about when we were setting this up.

Monica Yuhas:

And I know out at Pets they have the drop box. You just take an envelope, you write your name, your driver license number, the breed of your dog and you put it in the box. And if law enforcement does come out to check they will -- if they happen to pick you out and they'll check your dog, and if that tag's not on there and your envelope isn't filled out you will get a ticket. You will get a citation. And that's how they do it out there. They just have envelopes in a weather proofed container, you fill it out with your license, you drop it in. It's one way in, key to come out and that's how they do it.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, excellent. And so we'll do a little bit more research. We'll take all the Commission's advice and we'll come up with something that hopefully satisfies all your requests then.

Rita Christiansen:

Two items. One, do we need to worry about dogs that aren't vaccinated, have their shots? Should there be something in there about not being liable? I mean do we need to worry about it?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, I believe that number, the third bullet point --

Rita Christiansen:

Must be legally licensed and vaccinated, okay. I don't know how we enforce that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And so the Village tags would serve as proof that they've been vaccinated from the Village. And then the County pass, if they came for the annual \$20 pass they would have to present that information to get that. For the day pass I think it would be a little bit trickier. I don't frequent dog parks. I'm not sure, Ms. Yuhas, if you do or not. But when you go to these parks like on a day pass do you have to bring your vaccination papers with you historically to show? Is that's something that's kind of standard protocol like keeping your registration in your are?

Monica Yuhas:

I do. I have mine for Wrigley because I'm not licensed through Kenosha County. I'm licensed through the Village. I don't know. I mean most of the people that are there are regulars. It's the same people with their dogs and their Kenosha County.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure, but you always keep your vaccination papers with you in case you're asked?

Monica Yuhas:

I keep a copy in my car.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

You have them so if something comes up you can say here's mine. That would seem to be a reasonable request.

Monica Yuhas:

And he has his rabies tags and things on his collar.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And so then the rabies tags whether they're licensed with the Village or the County the rabies tags are on the collar.

Monica Yuhas:

And the other thing I was going to say is toys are permitted at your own risk. I would take that out.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No toys at all?

Monica Yuhas:

You don't want rubber balls, frisbees because you're going to have where they're going to engage and it's going to become territorial, and it's going to make them more aggressive. Basically when they go they're socializing, they're running, they're walking around, they're sniffing. They're doing those kinds of things.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Okay, excellent, and that makes sense. The last thing we want are dogs being -- anything to make them more aggressive. We want to make sure at the end of the day it's safe for everyone, a good experience for all the people out there.

Rita Christiansen:

You mentioned the pond. Now I don't remember what the drawing looks like. Is the whole pond fenced in?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, the whole pond is fenced in. There's actually two ponds at Ingram Park. There's a

large pond to the north, and then there's a smaller pond to the south. And I think it's pretty -- a couple of the dog parks I've seen having a pond in there is pretty reasonable. Maybe I'll look and see and I'll talk to some people and see if it's worth having a throwable there in case someone goes in there. It's probably going to be a depth of like maybe six feet. So it's definitely over someone's head.

Rita Christiansen:

Post signs no swimming allowed. We can't prevent the dogs but the people --

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I would think if the dogs want to jump in the pond it would be okay.

Rita Christiansen:

Right, but I'm concerned about people going in and grabbing their dogs. I think the water's great. My dog would love it. But people going in and grabbing their dogs using it as an excuse to swim. I think we need to have some kind of caution.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Right, as long as there's no swimming allowed so we don't make that recreational swimming.

Rita Christiansen:

Right, and it could turn into that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Absolutely, especially with water there. One of the unique things that the guys did when they constructed it is they actually built it in the shape of a milk bone. So we have like a three quarter acre milk bone pond. I'm not sure if anyone's had a chance to go out there and visit it yet.

Rita Christiansen:

I drove by but I haven't stopped yet.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

It looks like a milk bone. I'm sure if I had my pilot's license and flew over it would look like a big milk bone.

Monica Yuhas:

Yeah, it does. It looks very nice. I took Wrigley out there and got some photos of him. And it's a nice large pond. It's going to be a great place for them.

Cindy Schwab:

I don't know if it matters or not, but I know like in the Racine dog park she can't jump the jumps. They don't allow those brought in. I don't know if it's something that --

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And so there would be no toys, no apparatus.

Cindy Schwab:

Yeah, no training. Is that what they call it?

Monica Yuhas:

No training equipment.

Cindy Schwab:

It's just because of it taking up too much space.

Rita Christiansen:

That's a great idea to generate funds. Is there an opportunity if someone wanted to rent the dog park for training trials or something? Is there opportunity for that?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I really haven't thought about that. If you rent it, we run into this issue with Lake Andrea a lot. It's nice to have the rental revenue from Lake Andrea, but then on the back side you're taking it away normally prime times for people that would use it, that would pay for it. So I guess at this point I'm not recommending rental of the dog park. But that's definitely something as we grow and develop we could definitely look into. But I don't think at this time I really haven't put a lot of thought into it, doing it, and then how the fee structure would work and something like that. I guess something I would recommend is we can pass rules as we do and then revise them in a year next winter sometime and say, okay, here's what worked good, here's what worked bad, we had problems with this, this really isn't an issue or we've had some demand for renting the dog park. And then

we can work on developing fees and where they'd be paid and issue like that.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, so do I have a motion to approve the rules as stated along with the corrections or the additions that have been asked for?

Monica Yuhas moved to approve the Dog Park Rules with agreed upon corrections/changes: Seconded by Steven Kundert. Motion carried 5-0.

7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Rita Christiansen:

January meeting, are we going to meet in January of 2013?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

At this time staff is not going to have a final draft prepared for the draft park and open space plan. We have nothing else on the agenda. If Commissioner's have anything that they would like to see on there we're more than welcome to have that. But at this time we really have nothing ready or proposed to be ready.

Steven Kundert:

The first Tuesday is also New Year's Day.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

So we can look at cancelling the meeting unless something comes up. And then we're hoping to have a draft prepared for the February meeting. With the holidays and other projects that have been going on we just really haven't had a chance to get it finished. And it's in the community development's hands. They're taking all of our work and compiling it and putting the pictures together and doing the things that they do so well with it.

Rita Christiansen:

So how does the Board feel? Would you like to have the meeting in January?

Jim Bandura:

If there's nothing really on the agenda or nothing pressing I don't think we really need it.

We'll give you a little more time to prepare and do what you really need to do then.

Rita Christiansen:

Do we need a motion then?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I don't believe that we need a motion. I believe that if we just don't post the public meeting.

Rita Christiansen:

Is the Board all in agreement, though? Are you in agreement that that would be acceptable?

Voices:

Yes.

Rita Christiansen:

Okay, everybody is in agreement.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And we can go put something on our website or just to tell people that we aren't going to have a meeting. We don't historically don't have too large of a crowd, but it will still just make it out there just so if somebody was aware. If anyone calls public works asking about a Park Commission meeting we will be sure to specifically tell them that it's tentatively cancelled. Then the first Tuesday in February hopefully we'll have a little bit more meat on the table with that draft park and open space plan.

Rita Christiansen:

Any other comments from any of the Commissioners. Everybody have a wonderful, safe holiday. I hope all your dreams come true.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Steven Kundert moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 6:17pm.