

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE
PARK COMMISSION
Village Hall Auditorium
9915 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158
October 4, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, William Mills, Kris Keckler, Brock Williamson, Jim Bandura (Alternate #1) and Dave Klimisch. Dan Klemack and Cindy Schwab were excused. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Public Works Director; and Ruth Mack-Stoner, Executive Secretary. Five citizens were present.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS - AUGUST 2, 2016**

Michealene Day:

Earlier you received the minutes of August 2, 2016. If there are no corrections or additions may I have a motion to accept those minutes?

Kris Keckler moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the August 2, 2016 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 6-0.

Michealene Day:

Thank you, motion passed.

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Michealene Day:

Is there anyone in the audience that would like to address this Commission at all? Yes, sir? If you'd like to come on up. What we ask is that for the record we can get your name and your address.

William Robinson:

William Robinson, 122 108th Street right down by Carol Beach down there. I was here at the last council meeting and passed out some pictures but some of you may not have seen them.

Michealene Day:

That would be terrific.

William Robinson:

I've been talking to several people in the neighborhood, and somebody originally came to me saying that, you know, the reason we should respond is because the budget is about to be prepared by the Parks Commission and they're thinking about doing some things down there. So that's all we're here for is just to say here's what we would like to see.

So the first picture is about the parking area down there. It gets flooded when it rains, and when it's wet in the wintertime, too, it gets icy and then it overflows onto the street and becomes a hazard situation. So what several of us would like to see is for that to be remedied. Not necessarily to have the parking lot all paved, but just change it so that the water could be diverted off of the street and through maybe a little asphalt area that would take it down to the creek.

And then also along with that many of us would like to see the utility posts continued that are evidence there on the southern portion of the beach. And they kind of stop when it gets to the creek. If those were continued all the way down the full length of the beach we would have less parking problems, we would have less problems at night. Because what happens is you get a lot of people that come down there at night and they'll park. And they think they're out of view because they can pull right up by the beach. And it encourages them to park there and becomes more of an ongoing problem with people at night, and we continue to call in.

Just within the last two weeks I noticed that somebody did go down on the beach and drove their car right onto the beach on a weekend. So that kind of thing happens, too. So that's one of the things we would like to see some money spent on. Also, cars get stuck in that same area on a weekly basis. The sand gets really deep there, and people don't realize how easy it is to get stuck, and that becomes an ongoing problem.

But several of the people in the neighborhood have purchased homes in that area because they like to use the beach with kayaking, windsurfing, things like that including me. That's why we came down there. So we're not really interested in seeing a fence put up, but just something like the utility poles that would keep cars from parking further and keep the crowds from becoming too great.

Also, some of us would like to see an improvement with the garbage cans that are down there. Some kind of enclosure maybe with even the kind of recycling containers that we use in the neighborhoods where you'd have plastic in one, garbage in the other. And they could be taken out of an enclosed area that's a little bit further away from the drive ups so people in their cars just can't dump all their stuff in there because that's what happens all the time now. So that would be an opportunity for recycling also.

And then on the far north end of the beach there's also some really unsightly areas where there's huge puddles. You see them on the pictures there that I brought around. And I would like to see

that enclosed off, too, so we didn't have that drive around there where it's a constant maintenance problem where you have to put money into it and fill the holes. If utility poles were extended all the way down you wouldn't have that problem.

And then in that same area on the far north end of the beach there is all kinds of concrete in the water. It used to be that people could swim down there, and if you were windsurfing or whatever you could enter the beach there. Now it looks like it's from a home that was there at one time, the foundation of the home, the heavy waves over the past year have pushed those around to the point where you can't even hardly walk in the water down there because there's so many foundation stones that are in the water. So if you could take a look at that and maybe come up with a possible way to get those out of there it would really make for an improved beach.

The only other thing I'd like to say is with the erosion along the shore would it be possible to put some new trees in down there. That would help with the erosion problem. And some of the neighbors in the area would be willing to help water them and help keep them alive if that was possible. So we're just willing to help out any way we can and present some ideas to improve the area. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Thank you so much for your attending this meeting. Why don't you stay for a second. Does anyone have any questions for him? Okay, I guess we don't right now. Thank you for bringing these items up. We can't make any decisions today, but we will put it on the agenda to try to discuss some of these issues that you have with the area.

William Robinson:

And with the garbage cans, I don't know if I made it clear, but it would be nice to have some kind of enclosure around them that would kind of hide them and people would still know here's where you go to put your garbage in there. But it's not something we have to look at every day. Thank you.

Michealene Day:

Okay, thank you for your time. Thank you for coming. Yes, come on up.

Dale Vanvlissingen:

My name is Dale Vanvlissingen, that's V-A-N-V-L-I-S-S-I-N-G-E-N. And I live at 10708 Lakeshore so directly across from the public beach area there in Carol Beach. I'd just like to kind of back up what Jay was saying. Living across from that area I can see that someone is pretty much parked there every night after ten o'clock or so and sometimes well into the evening. So just from a security point of view I'd love to see those parking posts that Jay was describing so that it was a little bit more visible when people are down there. I myself was broken into about seven years ago,

and I know that the folks came in off of the beach. So I'm a little sensitive to that.

In addition if there's anything that we could do, and like Jay said I know the neighbors would probably pitch in. I certainly would. The area is overgrown with like grape ivy and things like that, and there's just a lot of invasive stuff. It's detracting from our perfect great natural resource that we have here. So Lake Michigan certainly is a big draw I think for all of Pleasant Prairie and the area in general. So whatever we could do to help make it as beautiful as it could be I'd like to help.

Michealene Day:

Thank you so much for your comments. Any other comments? Hearing none I just want to say we do appreciate you coming in. I know everyone's got a busy evening, and we are listening to your concerns. And we will try to address what your comments were. I just appreciate people coming in and seeing us. Thank you.

5. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, Madam Chair, I have two items this evening. The first is that actually on Saturday RecPlex celebrated their 16 year anniversary. I guess the reason I bring it up this evening is that 16 years ago the Park Commission kind of oversaw a lot of the development and oversight of the RecPlex. So it was a very well attended event. Had a couple hundred people there. Gave away some prizes. People had a really good time. Brian Smith, the Director and his staff did a great job setting that up. So 16 years it really goes by quickly, and I wanted to thank everyone that was involved in putting that together.

And then second is that staff will be bringing the parks budget to the Board just for a review this week. And then we can bring it from there, and we do have different options for the parking out on the beach. And then we'll have to see how it competes with funding with all the other items that we have amongst the Board also.

Michealene Day:

Okay, thank you. Anything else?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

No, that's all I have to report this evening.

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Receive and approve recommendation to the Village Board regarding the naming of the natural area inside Prairie Springs Park.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and members of the Park Commission, as you can see on your screen and on the monitor above you the are highlighted in red is a natural area that is owned by Pleasant Prairie. And it's kind of just to the western areas of Prairie Springs Park just north of 165. We went down and we put it out on our open government that we have on the website, did some press releases. And then we came up with a couple of ideas, or the residents came up with some ideas on what we should name it just to get some input.

And so we have an Eagle Scout which is actually the next item on the agenda. It's kind of what triggered this. And so he's looking to do an Eagle Scout project in that area. We thought it was important to have it named so that all his information and his boards and everything has the proper information on it so we don't have to change his project whatsoever.

So the five that are listed before you, and staff also has another one to add with that, first one is conceptually not really an idea I guess, but a great idea, let's not use someone's name. Scout Wildlife sounds good to me. I think Eagle Scout Nature Preserve is an appropriate name. Prairie Springs Park Native Wildlife Preserve, Prairie Springs Park upper Des Plaines Preserve. And then the next one was Jerome Creek Preserve because Jerome Creek is the main creek that flows through that area. So at this point I can leave it up for discussion for the Commission and answer any questions you may have.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Open up for discussion. Anyone has a preference of the five names provided?

Dave Klimisch:

I think I like the idea of either the Eagle Scout Nature Preserve or the Scout Wildlife. When I look over Prairie Springs Park Native Wildlife Preserve I'm thinking that Prairie Springs Park is such a large area, if we want t just focus on this nature preserve it might be a good idea to use a different name than Prairie Springs Park.

Jim Bandura:

Although it's still attached to Prairie Springs Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And just because the comments up there say Prairie Springs Park it doesn't mean you have to have that in the front. You could take off the hyphen and call it Upper Des Plaines Preserve, Native Wildlife Preserve or Jerome Creek Preserve and not have that Prairie Springs Park identifying. It is another option for consideration along with the Scout options obviously also.

Michealene Day:

I kind of like Jerome Creek.

Brock Williamson:

Yeah, I would agree.

Michealene Day:

Because it is Jerome Creek.

Brock Williamson:

That's what it is. That's really what it is.

Kris Keckler:

There's a name recognition and association with that one.

Mike Pollocoff:

And Jerome Creek is historical.

Michealene Day:

It's a historical stream. And it's been -- it's in that area. Jerome Creek is right there.

Mike Pollocoff:

If you look at the one aerial that John provided you, you can kind of see where it comes straight across. And as it approaches the outfall to the river, but it's a straight creek. And one point it meandered, and then in 1935 the Civilian Conservation Corps as a project during the depression went through and straightened out the creek and actually established a grade on it to make it flow at a better rate. And they did that work all the way from Cooper Road to this outfall.

William Mills:

I think Jerome Creek Nature Preserve, but Jerome Creek I think is a good name for that area just because it gives some of the history as well as an identification for that area. I can also see your point in terms of not calling it Prairie Springs Park just because it doesn't really define what it is within the area.

Jim Bandura:

John, just a quick question as far as identifying it and locating it. Just out of curiosity where would you position a sign acknowledging Jerome Creek to distinguish it between the park and that.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

We can go through and actually put some signs for Jerome Creek along the creek, at the beginning, at the end. What I would probably do or my recommendation of staff would be at the main public entrances to the preserve identify some signs and have them come up there. And try to incorporate Eagle Scout projects to help the funding and kind of solidify the name with the area. And so I think it's something we can put up a couple of signs up front originally. But I would think over 10, 20, 30, 40 years Eagle Scouts would be in here cutting trails and identifying native flowers and animals and bugs and insects and endangered species and stuff like that. And so when the public goes through some of the trails that we've been working over the last ten years to develop people will start actually seeing what's native out there, whether it's the trees, the wildlife, the plant species. Because it really is a beautiful site when you get out there at its natural state.

Jim Bandura:

I like that idea. I think that's very good. And now that you mention it Jerome Creek I think that's a good deal.

Michealene Day:

Can we have a motion if there's no more discussion on it?

Dave Klimisch:

Do we know is there a back story to Jerome Creek? Do we know who Jerome is, or it's just been the name forever?

Mike Pollocoff:

Something rattles in my head. On 85th Street was known previously as Bentz Road. And I believe, and it's a historic farm site, and I believe the original farmsteader or homesteader was Jerome Bentz. I'll check on that for sure. And if it's not Bentz it's another farm there that was part of that construction. The creek always existed. It's just that it got to be bigger and more noticeable once

the Conservation Corps did work. I can research and get some more history on that.

Dave Klimisch moved to approve a recommendation to the Village Board naming of the natural area inside Prairie Springs Park to Jerome Creek: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 6-0.

Michealene Day:

Thank you. Jerome Creek.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much.

b) Receive Eagle Scout presentation regarding project in the natural area inside Prairie Springs Park.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and members of the Park Commission, this evening we have Max Kiernan with us today. He's with Troop 583, and he's working towards his Eagle Scout project. So we're very excited to have him be working on this in the newly named Jerome Creek preserve. And also in attendance today is the troop leader and his father John Kiernan and assistant troop leader Tom Hupp. And I guess I'll turn it over to Maxwell for his presentation on his project.

Maxwell Kiernan:

Thank you. I'm Maxwell Kiernan, a senior at Lakeview, a member of Troop 583. I'm a Life Scout working on my Eagle project. Working toward the rank of Eagle. I'm honored to have the opportunity to put up a sign on the newly named Jerome Creek area. I have visited the area. I have walked on the Donald Hackbarth Trail. And I have gone to the bridge that I'm proposing to put the sign on. As you can see on the slides this is the sign I'm proposing to install. This is a base sign from Pulse Design, a company out of Chicago.

This sign is going to have the animals native to the area as well as the name of the area. You'll have Jerome Creek as the title along the Donald Hackbarth Trail. These are the animals that are going to be on the sign itself. These are the most common to the area. I know when I was out there I saw a lot of the tree swallows and snapping turtles. So it will be a good place for those who are visiting the bridge to get informed on wildlife in the area. The sign will add to the beauty of the creek.

Currently I am still fundraising for this sign as it will cost between \$1,100 and \$1,400. I currently have about \$1,000. I'm still fundraising and looking for donations. I will try to get the installation by the end of this year. I'm proposing that the sign will be mounted to the railing of the bridge. It's not necessarily directly over the river but right next to it so that people can still look into the creek

and also be able to read the sign. The sign will be installed by me as well as help from my troop members and family. Are there any questions?

Michealene Day:

Anyone have any questions?

Kris Keckler:

Is the sign protected from the elements in any way, lucite covers?

Maxwell Kiernan:

Yes. it's UV protected, graffiti resistant and burn resistant.

Dave Klimisch:

I'm curious how you came to this idea?

Maxwell Kiernan:

I visited Mr. Steinbrink, and I was looking for ideas to help the Village of Pleasant Prairie. And he gave me the suggestion of doing a sign. So then I researched into it more, and I came across a sign. I thought it would be a great fit for the area after I had gone out there and seen the view. It's a wonderful view from the bridge.

Brock Williamson:

And this isn't the actual sign, is it, it's just a sample of what it would look like? It would be specific for that area?

Maxwell Kiernan:

It's just a sample sign. I will have to work with the sign company directly, and they'll have to put the specific animals with the wording so it would be more specific to that area.

Jim Bandura:

What are you thinking the size of that sign would be? Because I'm looking at the bottom here and it says 24 by 36. And there's a lot of information that's going to need to go on there. So I'm assuming that's going to be bigger than that.

Maxwell Kiernan:

I'll have to work directly with the sign company. This was the suggested sign by the sign company. This is their generic sign. They can go taller so it would be 58 by 36, but I think that would be too large. I want it to be so that the sign is informational but not taking away from the image of the area. Some of these animals I may have to cut down on some of the information and just give basic information. But otherwise they should all be on there in some way.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And also Village staff can work with Maxwell and even print out a copy on paper, and we can bring it out there and just kind of see how it looks onsite with different sizes to kind of help him with some of the expense of determining what size really works out the best. So once we have a graphic and a pdf Village staff will go out and print out a couple different sizes. I can go out there with Maxwell and his troop leaders and we can make that determination to make sure that it's the best fit.

Jim Bandura:

Good.

William Mills:

And Village staff feels it's appropriate to mount that railing on the bridge, John?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, we've actually seen a few of these on other bridges around the area. It's a wetland area and a floodplain area so we have to be very careful where we're setting posts and permitting and stuff like that. The bridge does have a large base structure that we're more than confident that we can attach it to. And this sign company is very good about providing brackets like that. And we will also review the brackets that mount to the bridge and make sure that everything is structurally sound and safe for the public.

Michealene Day:

Do you need a motion?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yes, please.

Kris Keckler:

Move to approve.

Michealene Day:

May I have a second?

Jim Bandura:

Second.

Michealene Day:

All in favor.

Voices:

Aye.

Michealene Day:

Maxwell, I'm very impressed, and thank you for bringing this up. It will be great.

Maxwell Kiernan:

Thank you.

Kris Keckler:

Very good.

William Mills:

Thank you.

7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS

Kris Keckler:

I attended the Rich Oscarson memorial dedication at Lake Andrea. I thought it was a very nice turnout. And even more impressive was the fast way that they developed that area and especially the memorial. My family went out a couple days later when the crowds weren't there so much, and that view actually is very impressive. I know some people used to think that was not the more aesthetically pleasing end of the park, but it certainly is a nice focal point right now.

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

Kris Keckler:

And especially I think the representation not only by the Village staff but other people that spoke at it really impressed upon his impact on the community and the individuals.

Michealene Day:

Thank you for sharing. I think that was very good, too. Any other comments?

8. ADJOURNMENT

Brock Williamson moved to adjourn the meeting: Seconded by William Mills. Motion carried 6-0.

Michealene Day:

Motion passes. Thank you. Thank you all for attending the meeting.