

**VILLAGE OF PLEASANT PRAIRIE  
PARK COMMISSION  
Village Hall Auditorium  
9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158  
August 2, 2016  
6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Present were Michealene Day, Cindy Schwab, Kris Keckler, Dan Klemack, Brock Williamson and Jim Bandura (Alternate #1). William Mills was excused. Dave Klimisch was absent. Also present were Michael Pollocoff, Village Administrator; Tom Shircel, Assistant Village Administrator; John Steinbrink, Jr., Public Works Director; and Ruth Mack-Stoner, Executive Secretary. One citizen was present.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS - JULY 5, 2016**

Michealene Day:

In your packet there were minutes of the meeting of July 5, 2016. If I don't hear any additions or corrections may I have a motion to accept the minutes as presented?

**Kris Keckler moved to approve the Park Commission Meeting minutes of the July 5, 2016 meeting presented in their written form: Seconded by Jim Bandura. Motion carried 6-0.**

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Michealene Day:

Anyone in the audience have any comments? Would you have any comments for us or you just want to listen today?

[Inaudible]

Michealene Day:

Come on up. We're pretty informal. The only thing that we ask is that you give us your name and your address and go ahead.

Tim Roszkowiak:

Tim Roszkowiak, 11283 3rd Ave in Pleasant Prairie. Just my thing under citizen comments I was just wondering if the Park Commission can look into doing something with all the traffic that we have at

that Prairie Shores Beach. It's just so hard to get down the street. I live like half a block, and cars are parking, all Illinois plates all the way down 3rd Avenue. They're having like beer and bottles. And every weekend it's just really hard. I mentioned something probably a year or two ago, and a few of the residents on that side they didn't have time to come to the meeting and stuff so it kind of fell by the wayside. But I guess everybody thought it would get a little bit better, and it's getting a little bit out of control with everybody there.

It seems that not many people go to Lake Andrea, they just kind of come this way. I talked with a few people I work with at Lake Forest, and they actually charge for out of state stickers. That's great and it works for them, but everybody seems to kind of come up this way by us. And I know right now it's a public beach, but there's a whole bunch of us that go around and pick up all the garbage. One day somebody turned over the port-a-potty. If you guys could consider maybe something that would be great.

Michealene Day:

John, may I ask are there parking restrictions along there? I'm not familiar with that road.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

There are no parking restrictions per se right on Lakeshore Drive. But one of the things we're doing in the planning process for 2017 is we're putting together different options, a decision packet for the Board to evaluate within the budget process. And some of them like the gentleman said this evening would be charging for the beach area is one of the options. And so there's three different options that we have. And I won't go into detail now, but it will address a lot of the concerns that he's talked about. There's been a lot of issues over the years. And so we are bringing it to the Board. There's no guarantees what's going to happen. It will have to compete against everything else. But it something that we recognize, and we're coming up with a solution, and then it will run through the Board process.

Michealene Day:

Okay. If they are over a weekend if there's a rowdy crowd or throwing garbage they can call the police, correct?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Absolutely. And we are in contact with the police department on this. And I've talked with them about it. And most of their calls are after hours and for garbage and beach closed, stuff like that, is the majority of the calls that they have. I believe there's 83 calls per year total, and 51 of them are probably for after hours issues.

Tim Roszkowiak:

And they also seem to -- there's just like a lot of kayaks. Everybody is docking the kayaks. We had one of those ultra light boats in there last weekend. Coming in here there's like motorcycles now in

between the posts, and they're just sitting on the park bench and stuff like that. I know you guys are doing a great job. I don't want to beat up on anybody.

Michealene Day:

No, we appreciate your comments and your concerns because we want to make the community and the parks enjoyable for everyone and especially the residents. So if you don't come to us and tell us that you're having an issue then we don't know. So always feel free to come and talk to us because that's the only way we learn and able to help you.

Tim Roszkowiak:

My other neighbor said he was going to come with a bunch of signatures for help and I don't know where he's at. But I figured I'd at least come and mention it. I mentioned it to a couple few people but they haven't come formally. So I just wanted to bring it up. We do appreciate all the help and all the hard work plowing and everything.

Brock Williamson:

Is there signage down there that has restrictions on that or the hours are posted?

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Yeah, the hours are posted as dawn to dusk.

Mike Pollocoff:

It's also posted for no launching a motorized vehicle.

Cindy Schwab:

Oh, it is posted for -- oh, yeah, that's a big problem then. You're right, there's tons of kayaks coming in and out of there.

Mike Pollocoff:

Kayaks they're not motorized.

Cindy Schwab:

But then there are also now like you said boats down there quite a bit and it's docking there and trailers docking.

Tim Roszkowiak:

They'll launch them with their kayaks [inaudible]. A couple of neighbors have called the police, but by the time they get down there they've already launched and parked on the side of the road, and they

can't do anything because they're not there when it happens [inaudible]. Down the road if the proposal has something in regards to maybe a Village person there [inaudible]. That would be kind of ideal.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

One of the options is fencing and staffing and putting buoys out in the lake and stuff like that. There's different options, and there's costs associated with that. We'll just present it to the Board and hopefully it's successful.

Michealene Day:

That's great. As we get closer into two sixteen and your answer isn't good until like two seventeen other than calling the police. But we are trying to --

Tim Roszkowiak:

If there's something in the works that's great. I just figured I'd bring it up.

Michealene Day:

But just keep coming and bring it up so that we keep our toes to the fire so we don't forget about you.

Tim Roszkowiak:

Okay, I appreciate it. Thank you so much.

[Inaudible]

Tim Roszkowiak:

There's a lot of people that come and beat you guys up. That's not my intention.

Michealene Day:

No, you're being very kind. You're fine. We appreciate your comments.

Tim Roszkowiak:

All right, thank you so much.

Cindy Schwab:

In regards to that, I don't know if this is kind of appropriate or not, but right where 3rd Avenue, and it's not 4th there, I think it changes, there's no stop sign or anything, and that's becoming a huge hazard because of the amount of people that are coming there. Everybody in our neighborhood knows that kind of out of courtesy you both stop and let people go. But as we're getting more and more people and more and more kids I've seen people fly through that and almost hit kids on bikes and things like

that. I think even a yield sign someplace on there. But unfortunately if nothing is done in there, no sign being posted there, I think pretty soon you'll have some sort of serious accident with the amount of people that are down there.

Mike Pollocoff:

That was at third and --

Cindy Schwab:

Do you know where that is for 3rd? It's not 4th because it switches at some point.

[Inaudible]

Cindy Schwab:

I mean there's not many of us that live on 3rd and 4th, so we kind of know there's going to be kids. But it's those people like that a lot of them -- one red flag is the out of state license plates. And they speed through there, and they don't realize that there's no signage either way. So it's getting pretty scary as the numbers keep going up. And then you have people parking really close there, too, so people can't see around. I walk to the beach almost every day, and whenever it's nice you like cringe because you almost see it happen daily now. So it's getting pretty bad.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I'm familiar with the area that you're speaking about. I'll take a look at it and evaluate and see what we can do to make it safer. Thank you.

Cindy Schwab:

A sign or something.

Michealene Day:

Great, thank you. Thank you for bringing it to our attention.

**5. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Receive and Approve Recommendation to Village Board to Approve Richard Oscarson Memorial Prairie.**

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Madam Chair and members of the Park Commission, Rich Oscarson was the owner and operator of a Pleasant Prairie based landscaping company, Kenosha Grounds Care, and he recently passed away on

April 12, 2016 at the age of 56. He had a very successful business as many other contractors do, landscaping. And he really took a lot of care and did a lot of work within the Prairie Springs Park area. He was the main landscaper that designed and developed everything around RecPlex, around the ball diamonds, really assisted the community any time that we needed a hand or some advice with different stuff.

After his death I was actually approached by the new owner, Jeff Sebert, and he had recognized the amount of work that Rich had done to the community and for the area. And he asked if his company would be allowed to build and kind of recreate a natural prairie area on the north shores of Lake Andrea. They would pay for 100 percent of the cost, do all the work and do all the maintenance until it gets established enough where it's not that much effort to take care of it.

And so the area that we're looking at is on the north side of Lake Andrea just south of the new ball diamonds. It's probably 900 feet of frontage on the lake. It was really cattails and invasive species and stuff like that, really everything that we're trying to get away from in the park. So we really have a struggle finding means or methods to go through and get rid of everything that's invasive and bring it back to a natural prairie area and find companies that are able to landscape it and architect it and build it and maintain it to get it established.

And so this is kind of a rough drawing of what they had drawn in. They're looking at doing a gravel path with some granite on top, planting some oak trees, doing some emerging shrubs along the shoreline, doing a butterfly garden, doing some benches out there. And they also asked if at their cost that they could put this memorial in there for Rich Oscarson.

He was a husband, father, grandfather, employer, friend. He was a dedicated partner in the development of Pleasant Prairie. His smile warmed our lives. His compassion made the world a better place. As you walk this prairie think of Rich and smile with him. And it will be donated from his friends and family at Kenosha Grounds Care. And so they would be looking at having Bosman Monument go through and actually carve this into the granite at their cost, place it out there. I've been working with Kenosha Grounds Care for a lot of years. They really do a lot of work for the Village. And I know that they do really good quality work. So I'm sure that the effort that they put into restoring this prairie in Rich's name would really be top notch.

In the budget process for 2016 this year we had to go through and evaluate three woodland areas. We did the Sorensen Woods, we did Village Green woods and also the woods at Prairie Springs Park. And just to get that study done was a lot of money. But with that study came along all the work that has to get done to get these woods into shape. And we're talking over \$50,000 to \$100,000 is needed to bring everything back. So any time that we can get a company that's willing to do this work for the good of the community at their own cost is definitely something that staff supports. I can answer any questions you may have at this time.

Michealene Day:

At this time we are open for comment.

Dan Klemack:

I saw your notes, and I think it does constitute a little bit of a slippery slope. But knowing that

everything is [inaudible] no extra burden on the part of the Village I think [inaudible].

Brock Williamson:

I also saw your comments. I reached out to the executive director of [inaudible] recently retired. I've known him for 15 years. And the same kind of thing. [Inaudible] set a precedent on what is allowed and what's not allowed. [Inaudible] everybody and his son coming in saying [inaudible] 30 feet high or something like that. So, like you said, it's great they [inaudible]. If you start giving parcels to every little person that comes in [inaudible].

Kris Keckler:

I appreciate your comments and concerns, and I had that initially. But when I approached this from what the standard is for naming dedication, contribution of the organization or contribution of the community and not so much for compensation [inaudible] we have numerous entities that are Village employees that over the span of their existence probably [inaudible] more than financially [inaudible] or this family benefitted from. I think when that's the standard and it's based on working relationships and the input from the administration I can appreciate it from that sense. I don't necessarily think it's precedent setting from the concern that an external entity can say, hey, I would like this and I'll cover the cost of it. I think you shouldn't just allow it.

I think it always comes back to whatever the standards that the administration has for the recommendations [inaudible] and recognition. And I have to more than assume now with a couple years of working with the administration that bringing this recommendation forward that they feel that the contribution significance factor has been met to that threshold. I think it's nice that they're willing to pay for it, it does cover that burden. But I think [inaudible] not the decision or selling point [inaudible]. I do appreciate your input.

Jim Bandura:

[Inaudible] brought up standards we don't really have any standards [inaudible]. Would it be advisable to establish some standards [inaudible]. Granted this is going to be paid for, but --

Mike Pollocoff:

I think the Village does have standards. When something's put in it's going to have to meet the site and operational standards that the Plan Commission established for what's going to be constructed. So anything that we've built out there has gone through a site and operational plan through the Plan Commission. And hopefully that prevents something, even if administration is allowing something to be presented that's garish or unseemly it's got to go through another public body. In the case of the park it will have to go through two public bodies in order to be reviewed.

These things are always difficult when you talk about naming or establishing some kind of monument. But I think the test has been by the Village Board at least to what extent somebody contributed to the community. Maybe in this case Rich is a contractor and he gets paid for his work, but he also contributed significant time and resources at donation levels. So he helped the Village of Pleasant Prairie itself establish a certain level of standards for landscaping and park maintenance.

He established a certain level of landscaping and maintenance in LakeView Corporate Park that separates that from a lot of other corporate parks that you see. LakeView Corporate Park those were Rich's standards. Those weren't standards that were cooked up by somebody at the electric company or whatever. Those were standards that he set up that we incorporated in our own ordinances. So those things do endure and they cover time. I think what they're proposing I think it ends up being an improvement to the park but not privatizing the park, not making it use specific for one person or recognition for one person. On the other hand that really ends up being a policy decision.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

This is probably under three foot tall, so really it's probably that tall. It's not a huge monument by any means. And this really started off, I had a conversation with Lynn Wolf, one of the employees, and Jill, Rich's wife. And they just wanted to do a memorial tree, an oak tree. And so we were looking for a site with Jill and Lynn. And then we kind of walked over on the north side because Jill said Rich always liked looking over at his work that he did over there. So we thought or Jill said it would be nice to maybe have a couple benches over there so you could sit and enjoy the view and have the memorial tree. And that's where it kind of stopped at phase one.

And then when Jeff Sebert he got wind of this, he had stopped over and I had met Jeff onsite. And Jeff said this is really nice, but you can't have this right next to these invasive species here. So let's just, if you don't mind, we'll just kind of cut some of these trees down here, or not trees but these invasive buckthorn and everything else that's growing out there. I said, all right, you know that makes sense to do that, clean it up. And then he's like, well, it's really kind of bad for the next 600 or 700 feet. So if you guys don't mind we'll just clean this up so it looks nice. And then we'll plant some oak trees and some other stuff to kind of restore it back as a prairie because that's really what Sebert is known for within their landscaping.

And so it kind of just exponentially as we were talking with them. And then Jeff had said it sure would be nice if can make this a prairie and we can get a path for people to kind of walk through the prairie and kind of enjoy the prairie at its natural state. So that's kind of the evolution on what happened. I had just met with Rich's wife, they just wanted to do a tree and a bench to the new owner of the company really kind of recognizing what he had done and kind of recognizing an area in the park that was kind of deficient and kind of growing wild and not being maintained for whatever reason. And he just wanted to bring that back to a higher standard.

Michealene Day:

Cindy?

Cindy Schwab:

Obviously I come with a whole different aspect than everybody here. I mean I'm not looking at it as - - when I read it I guess for me it's more of like a colleague or somebody else in the same profession. Somebody that I'm sure, yes, he did work for the Village, but he also for anybody in the landscaping business locally he was the guy you could call up, you know. You didn't have to know him. You could call him up and he would give you the answer. He would always do the right thing.

I didn't personally know him, but a lot of people I worked with did. And if I had a question about natural landscape my boss would feel free to pick up the phone and call him. I think what he's done for landscapes in the community and what he has done environmentally, what he has raised the expectation in this community for landscapes is priceless. So I see it much differently than I think what he got paid by the Village. Because if he didn't do those contracts he still did a lot for the Village by helping every landscape company in this town become better because he was always becoming better. His company was always striving to be better. And he did oversee work in the community. He was about restoring prairies. He tried to get people that if they had a back 40 that they were just mowing companies he tried to encourage them to put it into natural and native prairies.

So for me he was a person that although I didn't know him I looked up to him as being very progressive in the landscape industry. And I think most people in our profession looked up to him. So I guess I see it differently, and my opinion is probably biased. Like I think it's a great thing to do because there are very few people out there that aren't worried about their bottom dollar. He wanted to share information. He wanted to make everybody better because it made his community better. And so that's why I think it's appropriate. And I don't -- it's not a [inaudible], but I can understand where some people maybe its offensive because they look at it [inaudible].

Michealene Day:

I don't think the conversation was that it was offensive. I think the conversation here was in the past it seemed that a lot of the park dedications were for more people that volunteered a tremendous amount of opportunity and time when it was first presented. And the reason why I questioned it was because I was unaware -- it didn't really say that they were paying for it themselves. And that was my concern, and that's why I brought it up was that, you know, we have Phil Sanders would be one gentleman we've never been able to honor because there's never been enough money to do so for him. And I did not feel like -- if we were paying for this ourselves maybe there would be more of a priority, a way to figure out who was going to get that money and who is going to get dedicated. But this gentleman they are, and you've made a very good case, I just wanted to bring it up. Because if we were paying for it maybe it would be something different we'd want to think about.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

And I apologize for not making that clear in my memo. I mean I knew the intention but I didn't present it will so I apologize for that.

Michealene Day:

No, no, no. I'm don't -- I'm not -- I just think it's a good thing to discuss and to know and also to also understand that there are standards. Because as we had discussed is, for instance, I decided when I die I'm going to build this huge skyscraper and say I'm the greatest thing since sliced bread. But we do have a standard of what is accepted and what isn't accepted so that the next person that comes in and wants to do this they can't say, well, you let this guy do it, why can't I. And if we have a standard then that would be something that I'm happy with then, too, just as long as there are -- I don't want to ever be accused of favoring one person over another without having something that we could say this is the rules, this is what we adhere to, this is why we decided this is okay. And, Mike, you answered all those

questions for me and so did John. So I just wanted to bring it out so that if anyone in the public were to say, well, how come, everyone has an answer, too.

Jim Bandura:

To Cindy's point what about the new owner? Is he open to like she says [inaudible].

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Absolutely. I met a couple times with Mr. Sebert. And he has the same demeanor. He has the same business philosophy. He has the same respect from the people that he's worked with over the years. Ironically Rich actually had sold his company three days before he passed away to Mr. Sebert. So it was just kind of a very eerie chain of events. And then when I met Mr. Sebert for the first time he actually he's a big, brawn, husky guy which I don't say about a lot of people relatively speaking. He actually looks like he could be a family member of Rich Oscarson. He has the big hands, the handshake, the warm smile and the same business philosophy. He's been very successful in everything that he's done. So we are very excited to have him as a new part of the community kind of taking over the same values that Kenosha Grounds Care has had for so many years.

[Inaudible]

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Absolutely, absolutely. I don't see anything changing from the passing of Rich Oscarson and the transfer of Kenosha Grounds Care under the new management of Sebert.

Kris Keckler:

[Inaudible] people who give a cursory look don't think this is the type of [inaudible] Kenosha Grounds Care open to some type of [inaudible] appreciation from the Village of Pleasant Prairie. That kind of looks at more of those contributions.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I can definitely give a recommendation to his wife if there's anything that we'd like to see.

[Inaudible]

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Sure.

Kris Keckler:

And the only other thing I would add is if you guys are looking at a naming [inaudible] policy [inaudible] Unified right now [inaudible].

Jim Bandura:

I would recommend adding something [inaudible] granite [inaudible] acknowledge cooperation [inaudible].

Michealene Day:

Well, it does say a dedicated partner in the development of Pleasant Prairie. So we are saying he's a partner, not -- a dedicated partner in the development of Pleasant Prairie.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I can definitely bring the recommendation to the Oscarson family, have a conversation with them. And then I can present whatever option that we have at the next stepping stone to this process.

Michealene Day:

Any other comments?

Brock Williamson:

Cindy would know this, too, is the amount of care it takes to establish a prairie [inaudible]. Too many times they come in, throw the seed down and walk away [inaudible].

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

When I spoke with Jeff Sebert he really wants this to be successful because it's just his nature. It's just how he is as a businessman as a person. Anytime he touches something he wants it to look beautiful, look great the same way that Mr. Oscarson would have wanted the same thing. And so I'm sure all the effort that's he's going to put into, my park staff will learn over the years working with him. And then we'll be able to transfer that knowledge and maintain it, take care of it.

Jim Bandura:

[Inaudible]

Michealene Day:

Any other questions? May I have a motion then concerning this?

**Jim Bandura moved to approve recommendation to the Village Board to approve the Richard Oscarson Memorial Prairie: Seconded by Kris Keckler. Motion carried 6-0.**

Michealene Day:

Thank you.

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

Thank you very much for all the conversation on this topic also.

Michealene Day:

Any other new business?

## **7. PARK COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Mike Pollocoff:

I'm not a Commissioner, but I have a comment.

Michealene Day:

[Inaudible]

Mike Pollocoff:

I was going to see if I could request if the Commission would consider meeting on -- you're set up for a meeting -- I thought you were going to be set up for a meeting on August 30th but you're not. That's changed. We needed a special Board meeting on the 29th of August, but that won't bother you guys now. Never mind.

Michealene Day:

[Inaudible]

Mike Pollocoff:

Well, we're going to be talking about sexual predators. You're more than welcome to come.

Michealene Day:

[Inaudible]

Tom Shircel:

Madam Chair if I could, I think Mike is referring to the first week in September, I think that September 6th there was a conflict because of Labor Day being on the 5th, Monday the 5th. So the Village Board is going to meet on Tuesday the 6th. And also we saw on our calendars that the Park Commission was scheduled to meet Tuesday the 6th as well. But I talked with Ruth before the meeting and I guess there was an error. The Park Commission if they meet will meet on the 7th, Wednesday.

Michealene Day:

[Inaudible]

Tom Shircel:

Right, just to clarify that.

Michealene Day:

[Inaudible]

Tom Shircel:

I guess it's yet to be determined, right? Correct.

Michealene Day:

[Inaudible]

Mike Pollocoff:

No, I think there's a good chance we might have some budget issues on the 7th. And this might come back in some kind of wrap up form as we get this finalized.

[Inaudible]

John Steinbrink, Jr.:

I see paving is complete, so the excavation and stone base paving is complete on the tennis court. The Village Board actually yesterday evening awarded the contract for the fencing. So we're going through the contract process right now. So we're hoping by this fall to have everything complete, lines striped for tennis and pickleball, everything up and done for enjoyment in 2017.

Michealene Day:

[Inaudible] Any other comments?

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Kris Keckler moved to adjourn the meeting: Seconded by Dan Klemack. Motion carried 6-0.**