

**PARKS COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dan Otto called the meeting of the Parks Commission to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present were Chairman Dan Otto, Members Steve Beyer, Joanna Colletti and Sherri Sepeczi. Members Bill Conway and Mike Richardson came at 7:04. Also in attendance were Streets and Parks Representative John Reese, Trustee Cindy Cramer and Secretary Alison Dal Compo. Acting Superintendent Jon Huizinga and Member Matt Pagels were absent.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Rec Council President Pat Riley, Mary Lou Nunamaker, Jim McNutt, Officer Domagala, and Dr. Tim Mahaffey were in attendance. Chairman Otto introduced Rec Council President Pat Riley. Mr. Riley asked who should receive the communications as to when people can register for field usage (July 1-31st). Mr. Reese said that it should be given to Clerk Brouder. He further asked what steps could be taken to stop a non-permitted team from Barrington from practicing on the Hunter's Farm Field. Chairman Otto said that Acting Superintendent Huizinga should contact the team's representative and tell them they need to obtain a permit and be scheduled for field usage. Additionally, they must provide proof of insurance. Trustee Cramer asked how many times the team had used the field, she was told three. Chairman Otto also stated that if they continue to use the field without permission, the police should be called. Member Conway asked if the Hunter's Farm field is tied into the Rec Council agreement, Mr. Riley said yes, since 2001. Further, he stated concerns about liability and the fact that the Hunter's Farm field is meant for use by younger children due to its size, and the team using it is a group of much older ones. Member Sepeczi asked about the Fox River Grove travel soccer team, and if it is going to be using any fields. Mr. Riley said they would be using the ARS and Norge fields. Also, the Cary Grove La Crosse team wants to use the ARS fields. Member Conway asked if the Norge field was being opened up to soccer? Mr. Riley said he did not think the Rec Council had jurisdiction of the Norge field, but Member Conway said they do have some, as the Rec Council provides volunteers to the Norge Park. Trustee Cramer thanked Mr. Riley for being present and giving updates. Member Sepeczi thanked Mr. Riley for the Rec Council's support of Park Clean up Day. Mrs. Nunamaker discussed upcoming events for the Leave No Child Inside (LNCI) Initiative. She wants these events to continue on a long-term basis. She has notified Dr. Mahaffey, Police Chief Lukasik, and others about these events. She would like people to pass the information along to home schoolers as well.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 6, 2009 MINUTES

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Member Sepeczi made a motion to approve the May 6, 2009 minutes with no changes. Member Conway seconded. All were in favor.

PARKS

Report—Acting Superintendent Huizinga had e-mailed out the May public works monthly memo. Chairman Otto said that he finds the monthly report helpful.

Parks Master Plan Review: Chairman Otto and Acting Superintendent Huizinga are continuing their work on this plan, and hope to have it completed by the end of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Park in on the Fox Classic Car Show/Chamber Summer Celebration—June 13

The sponsors for this event were reviewed. There are two gold sponsors: Onion Pub and Wickstrom Ford, two silver sponsors: Grove Electric and Costco, and one bronze sponsor: Grove Plating, Inc. The sponsors will be given special recognition at the event. Because of the uncertainty of the weather, it is not known exactly how many car owners will participate. Five are signed up at this time. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Chairman Otto will be there for the set-up. Trustee Cramer had set aside \$500 from last year to help defray costs this year. Water bottles and t-shirts are needed. Member Conway said he would donate three cases. Member Sepeczi asked if Jimano's was providing pizza this year, she was told they are not. Member Colletti suggested that someone talk to Dairy Queen. Member Sepeczi further asked about selling freeze pops or something like that, she was told we couldn't because then the Health Department has to be involved.

Bike Race on June 21st—This event needs volunteers. Sign up sheets were provided.

Harbor Team—Mr. Reese explained that the Harbor Team has started the dredging work in Lion's Park. They have asked for a third bag for sediment, and the Army Corp of Engineers gave permission for one. Mr. Reese passed out photographs of the affected area to the members. At present, the job is about 75% done.

Stanger Park Slide—The expected cost for this item is \$4,385 which will be split with the school. The Lion's Park playground panel is expected to cost \$1,525.

Lionesses Kay Laube Memorial Benches—Trustee Cramer explained that there would be a dedication of the two benches at the July 11 fireworks celebration. The benches have been ordered, they will be similar to the ones outside the Village Hall. A memorial plaque will be attached to the boulder nearby the benches.

LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE INITIATIVE (LNCI)—Trustee Cramer

"Children and Nature Growing Healthier Together" In April, Trustee Cramer was asked to join a consortium in support of the LNCI initiative. There is much concern that we are developing a society of children who are disconnected from nature. There are four basic reasons for this: 1) Electronic technology 2) Less leisure time 3) Safety fear factor 4) Loss of open space and redevelopment. It is widely known that time spent outdoors is critical to child development. A book called "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Lowe fueled the initiative. Emerging research on the emotional and physical well being of our children show that the rates of overweight and depressed children are at astonishing rates. Children 6-12 spend on an average only 30 minutes a week in unstructured outdoor activities as

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opposed to approximately 6 hours per day in front of the TV or computer. Research also shows that outdoor activities help lower ADHD symptoms and reduces stress, in addition to promoting social development. What an easy solution to stimulating a fix to national health care issues! The LNCI Act H.R. 3036 recognizes the value of the LNCI initiative. Village President Bob Nunamaker has encouraged local support of the initiative. Additionally, the Illinois Congress has passed a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights initiated by the group Chicago Wilderness. This extends through Wisconsin and Indiana. Trustee Cramer is representing Fox River Grove. The website funoutside.org is a valuable resource both for posting activities and directing people to places to go. The LNCI suggested goals for the Fox River Grove commission with the Village Board's approval are as follows:

1. Establish a vital connection between the FRG Parks commission, the local LNCI Consortium, and a wide variety of community resources and organizations in and around Fox River Grove.
2. Promotion of our parks, river and natural resources as a "destination" in Fox River Grove.
3. Build upon community pride and stewardship of our environment.

These goals can easily and gradually be incorporated into what the parks commission is already accomplishing. Mrs. Nunamaker is directing a series of "Back to Nature Experiences" this summer:

- o June 17, 2009—"Take a Nature Walk" with Fox River Grove President Bob Nunamaker. Lisa Haderlein from the Land Conservancy of McHenry County will narrate the walk and answer questions.
- o June 18, 2009---"Sky Party" from 8:30 p.m. til 11:00 p.m. (weather permitting) at Picnic Grove Park, with Peter Nutini and Peter Birren.
- o Open Yoga Classes, Fridays beginning June 19th through July 31st, 2009.
- o June 24, 2009 "Dip and Drip" for teens, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., meets at the Waste Water Treatment Plant
- o June 24, 2009 "Drawing from Nature" from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. for 8-12 year olds
- o July 13, 2009 "Nature Walk through Picnic Grove Park Woods" from 8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m. with Mr. Schrudowitz from the Bird Center in Fox River Grove.

"It's not just that kids need nature, but nature needs kids!" Trustee Cramer thanked the Parks Commission members for their support. Member Colletti said that Trustee Cramer had done a great job of putting everything together. Member Sepeczi stated that her family has driven great distances to participate in these types of activities, so she is happy to see them being done locally. Dr. Mahaffey thinks this is a great opportunity. He further observed that since the children are a captive audience at school, it would be a great place to advertise these activities. A number of other avenues for advertising were also discussed. Member Conway noted that the LNCI initiative is the type of program the Parks Commission has been looking at for some time. Mr. Riley stated that the Rec Council is in full support of the initiative. Officer Domagala said that the LNCI initiative is a great idea and that he would be in support of it as well. Member Colletti asked if there are any weekend activities currently planned. She was told that because many of the people who are leading the activities are volunteers, the activities had to be planned when it was convenient for them.

Member Sepeczi made a motion to support the Leave No Child Inside proposal and

to recommend the associated activities to the Village Board. Seconded by Member Colletti. All were in favor.

Member Conway made a motion to add more sand at Picnic Grove Beach. Seconded by Chairman Otto. All were in favor. (The cost of the sand would be about \$400-\$500.)

Miscellaneous—The River Clean-up day went well. There were about 20 volunteers. There was mention of the Promise Program through McHenry County College, and how those participating will need to volunteer 16 hours of their time in various activities. It was suggested that park clean up could be put forth as a possible option. Member Sepeczi asked how this activity could be put on a list for participation. She was told to contact Maureen Coats at the College. She further suggested that there should be two park clean up days per year, and that the next one should focus on Foxmoor. Mr. Reese replied that he would be in support of this. Chairman Otto suggested September 12th as a possible date, but Mr. Reese asked if July 12th could be done instead, since it will be after the fireworks show and much clean up will be needed. Member Conway asked how the BMX trail looks. Mr. Reese said he would check it out.

Member Conway made a motion to have a Foxmoor Park Clean up day in mid fall. Seconded by Member Sepeczi. All were in favor.

Member Sepeczi asked about how the ice skating events went. Trustee Cramer stated that they went well, and that they are easy fund raisers to have. \$50,000 needs to be raised, and \$10,000 has been raised so far. Trustee Cramer stated that a fundraiser had been held with crafts made by local kids, and they raised \$600. Mrs. Nunamaker observed that fundraisers like these need to be advertised more. Sergeant Domagala talked about the “Teleconnect” program, which broadcasts announcements about severe weather, emergencies at school and the like. It can send information to I-phones, e-mail, landlines, and etc. The program is being presented to Public Health and Safety, and then it would need to go to the Finance Committee. Member Colletti asked about the cost of participation, and she was told it is an annual fee.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Member Conway and seconded by Member Colletti to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. All in favor.

Dan Otto, Chairman

Alison Dal Compo

Date Approved