

**PARKS COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 1, 2010**

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 Bill Conway, Jim McNutt, Mike Richardson and Sheri Sepeczi. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Streets and Parks Jon Huizinga and Secretary Alison Dal Compo. Members Joanna Colletti and Steve Beyer were absent.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS—none

Chairman Otto welcomed Village President Bob Nunamaker to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 2, 2010 MINUTES

Member McNutt made a motion to approve the June 2, 2010 minutes as presented. Member Conway seconded. All were in favor.

PARKS

Public Works Report—Chairman Otto complimented Superintendent Huizinga on the spreading of wood chips at the various parks. Superintendent Huizinga noted that 160 cubic yards of wood chips were spread. He had looked into the rubber type through the DNR but they did not recommend them. Chairman Otto added that ground rubber is more flammable. Member Sepeczi commented that it also retains heat. Superintendent Huizinga said that there are types now with better coloration but it is also more expensive. Chairman Otto commented that wood chips do not catch fire easily. Member McNutt said that he could see Superintendent Huizinga had been busy.

Parks Master Plan Review—Superintendent Huizinga said that there was nothing new to report at this time. Chairman Otto said to let the Parks members know if anything additional was needed from them. Superintendent Huizinga mentioned that an operator at the wastewater treatment plant had been called home to New Zealand, so there is a job opening at this time.

Community Group Meetings—Each Parks member had been assigned a community group to meet with. Member McNutt said he had not yet been able to meet with the Lions. It was noted that the Jaycees are currently evaluating their funds.

The River Jam went fine but was not as well attended as they had hoped. President

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Nunamaker commented that the days it was held were very hot and there were a lot of mosquitoes. The event would have benefited from more publicity.

Spring Creek Watershed Update—Member Colletti had volunteered for that committee as she has expertise in this field. The project encompasses 26 miles and runs through Cook, McHenry, Kane and Lake Counties. Their meeting is scheduled for September 21st.

OTHER BUSINESS

Blue Grass Band at Fireworks 2011—Administrator Osten sent out an e-mail regarding having a different kind of band at next year's fireworks. He suggested putting together a subcommittee to try to find one for the event. Member Sepeczi asked if the water ski show was too expensive. President Nunamaker said yes, and that the viewing area for the show was too small. He suggested that maybe next time the band can play in front of the hill. Member Sepeczi commented that perhaps Blue Grass does not have a wide enough appeal. She said that maybe a band more popular with younger kids could play first or even possibly a magician act, then a band more geared towards adults. She suggested looking into what bands the Cary Park District usually gets to play at their events. Chairman Otto said that bands typically cost between \$500 and \$1,000. Member McNutt added that the Knob Hill Band had recently played at the Barrington Library. Member Conway said that this year people came to the event late and left early. President Nunamaker commented that beer was served through the fireworks, but not after 9:30.

Car Show—There was rain the day of this event, but even so it raised \$275 and eight cars participated. Chairman Otto said that the representative from the Chamber is considering holding it a week later next year. Superintendent Huizinga asked if the commission was willing to recommend holding the event at a later date. Chairman Otto said that it would be fine. He further explained that Superintendent Huizinga's crews helped out quite a bit that day. The owner of Ace Hardware is very knowledgeable about corvettes and gave out a lot of information on them that day. Chairman Otto felt that pairing this with the Chamber had been a good idea. The show held three years ago drew forty-five cars! It was explained that it is acceptable for the tops of the cars to get wet, the problem is that the underside of the car picks up road grime after the rain. Member Colletti did a great job chairing the event.

Animal Shelter Fundraiser—Superintendent Huizinga said that he had received a request to hold a pet fashion show as a fundraiser for a local animal shelter, and asked if the Parks Commission would be willing to waive the usual fee since this would be not for profit. The person making the request did not know an exact date or how many people would be in attendance, so for now it is on hold. Chairman Otto asked if the fee is usually \$100. Superintendent Huizinga said that it depends on the projected number of people attending the event. Chairman Otto said that the commission would be open-minded enough to consider the request in the future.

Scout Project—Chairman Otto asked if there were any updates as to the Frisbee golf course. Superintendent Huizinga said that since it is an Eagle project (to be completed

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before age 18) and the scout is only about fourteen or fifteen, it may be a while before this comes to fruition.

Miscellaneous— Member Sepeczi asked Superintendent Huizinga if there were any updates regarding tire swing replacement at the ARS playground. Superintendent Huizinga said that it could be approved if the PTO put up half the total cost of the swing (total cost is \$2,800). Member Sepeczi said that the PTO does not have the funds. She further asked if there was any money in the budget for playground improvements. Superintendent Huizinga said not really, just for maintenance. He also noted that a drinking fountain is needed. President Nunamaker said that he would check on it and get back to Member Sepeczi. Chairman Otto noted that the playground in front of ARS is village property. Member Sepeczi said that since the school had helped to install the original tire swing, she hoped that it would be able to be fixed this year. Chairman Otto noted that there should always be some amount of money in the village budget for this type of playground equipment replacement in case equipment gets vandalized or worn out. The commission members expressed frustration with the amount of time it takes to repair or upgrade playground equipment. Member Conway suggested talking with the finance committee. When things are not promptly fixed, it can be a liability/image problem for the Village. Even if there were about \$5,000 budgeted each year, that amount would not necessarily all get used in a fiscal year. The surplus could be rolled over into the following year.

Member Conway said that the north side of the driveway area at Picnic Grove Park needs to be cleaned up. The concrete should be torn out and clean up should take place from the launch back to the marina/concrete area. The gravel could be re-located to the other side. Superintendent Huizinga said that 50-75% of that area is considered wetland and so the gravel cannot be placed there. Gravel can be taken out but it can't be added. Chairman Otto suggested adding bollards to make clear the area where people should be parking. Superintendent Huizinga asked if a conceptual sketch could be drawn up. Member Conway said that some dirt and or sod would be sufficient for now. Member Sepeczi asked if all the donated oak trees had been planted. Superintendent Huizinga said that the Nature Conservancy had changed the plan to a fall planting. Member Sepeczi asked if the trees could be planted at Picnic Grove Park.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Sepeczi and seconded by Member McNutt to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. All were in favor.

Dan Otto, Chairman

Alison Dal Compo

Date Approved