

**PARKS COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chairman Otto swore in new member Mike Olencheck.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dan Otto called the meeting of the Parks Commission to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Dan Otto, Members Bill Conway, Jim McNutt and Mike Olencheck. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Streets and Parks Jon Huizinga and Secretary Alison Dal Compo. Members Steve Churak, Mike Richardson and Sherri Sepeczi were absent.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS—none

Chairman Otto welcomed Village President Nunamaker to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 8, 2011 MINUTES--TABLED

PARKS

Public Works Report—Superintendent Huizinga reviewed the highlights. The storm of July 11, 2011 caused much damage. The structure at Lion's Park is being restored.

Parks Master Plan Review—Algonquin Road, Spring Creek and Kids Care Court—

Superintendent Huizinga asked if there were any additions. Member McNutt stated that the plan was very well written. Chairman Otto inquired about the 24" pipe which discharges water from the sanitary sewer and empties into the river. Superintendent Huizinga explained that the water comes through the wastewater treatment plant, so it is clean. The item will be clarified to reflect that information.

Chairman Otto said that he enjoyed the history of the park. Superintendent Huizinga explained that Maple, Lions and Picnic Grove Parks still need to be completed. He asked how the information for Picnic Grove Park can be compressed. Chairman Otto agreed that it should be scaled down. Superintendent Huizinga recommended that items like restoration guidelines should be put into the appendix. Chairman Otto noted that invasive species can be mechanically removed by various means, such as burns.

Emergency Access/Ski Hill Road—Superintendent Huizinga stated that several years ago, an emergency access road was investigated. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources felt that it was a great idea, but that there should be a parking lot. The cost was estimated

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at \$80,000. Recently, however, Administrator Osten called the DNR again and they approved just an access road. Member Conway asked if there will now be a turn-around at the end. Superintendent Huizinga explained that it will be all the way at the end of Ski Hill Road, next to the river.

Member McNutt asked if there were a lot of trees to take down. He was told that there were some, but that the area will require much excavation, compaction and fill.

Chairman Otto asked if there will be a gate at the top, he was told yes. He further asked who currently owns the land, he was told the Village.

OTHER BUSINESS

50/50 Raffle at Cary Cruise Night: This Cruise Night will be “across the river” and will be held in the CarX/Brunch Café parking lots. It will be from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Chairman Otto, Member Sepeczi and Member Olencheck will be present to chair the raffle. The purpose is to raise money for future Parks projects. Superintendent Huizinga said that previous events had brought in about a hundred cars; Village President Nunamaker said that about sixty cars were expected for this one. He further stated that Armanetti’s would be holding a rum tasting and Dunkin Donuts may do something. Pete from Brunch Café is also thinking of serving liquor and giving away sliders.

Christmas Tree Lighting—Village President Nunamaker reported that the tree lighting is usually held at the former New Hope Church location; however, the new group has their services on Saturday, so it would be difficult to use the Church. Instead, the ceremony will be at the ARS gym and will be held on December 3rd. Member Sepeczi will be involved in this, and Member McNutt offered his assistance as well. Superintendent Huizinga noted that there are many trees to pick from, and 60 amp electrical service is available in the area.

Spring Creek Watershed Update—Village President Nunamaker said that the plan is close to being finished.

Superintendent Huizinga noted that after the Spring Creek plan is done, funding will be needed. Member McNutt added that the watershed district starts all the way in Hoffman Estates near the Cabela’s.

Plum Tree Park-- Chairman Otto stated that Administrator Osten asked if the Parks Commission would be interested in being part of the new Plum Tree Park project.

Superintendent Huizinga explained that some years ago the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, McHenry County Conservation District and the Village of Barrington Hills had looked into making the area of Plum Tree Road/Algonquin Road into a nature preserve. Chairman Otto observed that the Village of Fox River Grove would be expected to maintain it. He asked who currently owns the land. Village President Nunamaker said that there is a resident who has it in a trust. Chairman Otto said that it is to be incorporated into the McHenry County Green Infrastructure Plan. Member Conway asked if Spring Creek

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runs through the area; he was told yes.

Hunters Farm Park Dedication—The park dedication is scheduled for September 10th at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Otto said that Superintendent Huizinga's crew had done the work and that it looks great! It is a project that was several years in the making.

Village President Nunamaker asked in any of the Parks commission members wanted to perform the dedication. Chairman Otto will be out of town, but Member McNutt offered to be there.

Village President Nunamaker explained that in order to get grant money, the Village needs to go through the proper representatives. The current representative is Kent Gaffney. He may stop by the ribbon cutting ceremony. A \$200,000 grant was just received through Senator Duffy.

Chairman Otto congratulated Superintendent Huizinga and his staff on a job well done. Member Conway remarked that having the crew do the work saved the Village a lot of money. Superintendent Huizinga said that some small spruce trees are being donated. They will be planted to form a buffer on one side of the park.

Farmer's Market--Member McNutt noted that he and Cindy Kramer had discussed the possibility of getting a farmer's market in the Grove. Recently, some people had a stand outside of El Sombrero. Superintendent Huizinga said that it would be nice to see one set up in the commuter lot.

Soccer Goals--Member Conway asked if the Rec Council had asked Norge about moving the goals. He further asked if the field had been aerated in July, and if it was possible to do it again. Member Conway will fertilize and top seed the area afterward.

Chairman Otto explained that the goal posts must be staked down or have sand bags as of August 1st, due to Zach's Law. In order to be moved, there is a checklist of rules that must be followed. Referees should be doing the notification. The I.E.P.D. website has a sample policy. If there was a lawsuit and protocol was not followed, the Village could potentially be held liable. Superintendent Huizinga noted that the problem comes in when residents try to move the goals themselves.

Member Conway said that the stakes are very breakable. The new aluminum goals are half the weight of the steel ones. Chairman Otto said that the IEPD policy provides that only permitted/authorized users are allowed to move the goals. Superintendent Huizinga observed that if the goals are put face to face, they cannot be tipped over.

A sign should be posted on the goals directing that any problems should be reported to an authorized official.

NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member McNutt and seconded by Member Conway to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All were in favor.

Dan Otto, Chairman

Alison Dal Compo, Secretary

Date Approved