



Village of Fox River Grove

PARKS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 4, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Otto called the meeting of the Parks Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Dan Otto and Members Bill Conway, Jim McNutt, Mike Richardson and Sherri Sepeczi. Also in attendance were Superintendent John Reese and Secretary Alison Dal Compo. Members Cheryl Joseph and Diane Phillips were absent.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Chairman Otto welcomed Village President Nunamaker and resident Joanne Holtz. Mrs. Holtz has lived in the Grove for the past 18 years. She is concerned about the erosion occurring along the shoreline at Picnic Grove Park. Chairman Otto said that this item has been discussed previously. He agreed that it needs to be addressed. Some of the shoreline may be reclaimed by filling in. Mrs. Holtz noted that there used to be more bushes and trees along the edge of the park/shoreline. Member Conway reported that the beach line is still in the same spot as it has been in previous years. Chairman Otto said that vegetation or rip-rap is the best/most economical way to go in this case.

Member Sepeczi asked how much the restoration at Lions Park cost. Village President Nunamaker said that the materials cost about \$6,000. Member Conway noted that resident Rich Lauritsen did a lot of the work there; perhaps he could be approached. Chairman Otto explained that the Army Corps of Engineers doesn't like seawalls as much as they like rip rap, etc. Member Sepeczi asked for a definition of rip rap. Chairman Otto explained that it is boulders with fabric over it to bind them together. Member Sepeczi suggested putting this project as high priority. She further asked how long it took to do the restoration at Lions Park. Member Conway said that it took about a year to get everything together, and to get rid of the old concrete.

Member Sepeczi asked if the rip rap would create any dangerous conditions. Chairman Otto said that after the rip rap is put in, a pier should be added for access. Chairman Otto estimated that it would cost about \$100/ft of rip rap. Member Conway estimated that about 300 feet is needed.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 7, 2015 MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Member McNutt to approve the January 7, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Member Richardson. Motion Carried.

Village President Robert Nunamaker

Trustees Thomas Anderson / Suzanne Blohm / Joanna Colletti / Steve Knar / Andrew Migdal / Michael Schiestel

305 Illinois Street, Fox River Grove, Illinois 60021 847-639-3170 (P) 847-639-9876 (F) www.foxrivergrove.org

PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORT

Superintendent Reese reviewed the highlights. He reported that a lot of pothole patching was done. The Village is spending about \$100,000 on sidewalks. "No Parking" signs are being added along Ski Hill Rd, since trucks are breaking up the curbing there.

Member Conway asked how the ski jump went. He was told that some of the jumps were canceled due to high winds that day. Jumper Scott Smith was injured.

Member Sepeczi noted that there was a Group On for the event, and a lot of people attended. Village President Nunamaker said that there were long lines for everything! Next year, more port a potties will be needed, as there was a 45 minute wait. Member Conway said that there was the largest crowd in attendance since the 1990's.

Com Ed Green Space Grant Program: Village President Nunamaker reported that Com Ed has a back to nature program, offering about \$10,000 per grant. There is a total of \$200,000 being offered. It is for creating greater access to parks and open lands. The North River boardwalk idea would likely qualify for this, according to a Com Ed rep. Chairman Otto said that the boardwalk would cost about \$100/ft, so the grant would allow for about 100 feet. The terms of the grant would be that the Village would have to match the grant 50/50. Member Sepeczi said that the boardwalk would extend from North River Road to Picnic Grove Park.

Superintendent Reese noted that the area used to be a lagoon, so it is very wet there. Chairman Otto also suggested using the grant money to plant some additional vegetation. Member Sepeczi asked if the shoreline restoration would qualify. Village President Nunamaker said that rip rap has to be hand placed, so there are a lot of man hours involved.

Member Sepeczi asked if the volleyball courts and beach get need more sand. Superintendent Reese said that the boat launch gets dug out about once a month. He further explained that the volleyball courts need a special type of sand called mason sand, which is easier on the feet. Chairman Otto suggested putting a kiosk or map at the path head. Member McNutt said that the application deadline for 2015 is March 6th. Chairman Otto reiterated that the Village would have to match the \$10,000.

Superintendent Reese explained that when the Village took over Picnic Grove Park, about 48-50 piers were removed. The goal was to put in more piers as time went on. The bushes and trees that originally lined the shoreline were taken out to make for better viewing of the water show and fireworks displays. Member Conway suggested using the grant money to landscape the beach front, and wondered if that would qualify. Village President Nunamaker said that the grant program requires making access to open spaces. Chairman Otto said that possibly natural landscaping might qualify. Member McNutt added that one of the examples in the grant paperwork was prairie restoration. Member Sepeczi asked if anyone has seen any grants for shoreline restoration, she was told no. She further suggested getting some hard numbers for the boardwalk. Chairman Otto said that it is basically like doing a series of small decks with galvanized pans. Village President Nunamaker asked if it would be similar to the boardwalk at Volo Bog; he was told yes. Chairman Otto said that volunteers would be needed to supply the labor.

Chairman Otto said that he would look at the application and see if he could find any good options.

2015 Parks Fundraiser: The fundraiser is scheduled for April 25th. The menu still needs to be nailed down. Superintendent Reese asked if the Parks clean up day will be held the same day. Member Sepeczi suggested that since the Rec Council usually sends about 30 volunteers to the Parks clean up day, they should be offered a free beer if they attend the fund raiser that night.

Chamber of Commerce: Village President Nunamaker said that the Chamber has a new manager, Brad Ball. They recently held a silent auction fundraiser. Their theory is that if you have a \$50 Brunch Cafe gift card, for example, you should start the bidding at \$50. They also had some high end items like footballs signed by famous players.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Member McNutt and seconded by Member Conway to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. All were in favor.

Chairman Dan Otto

Alison Dal Compo, Secretary

Date Approved