



# Village of Fox River Grove

## **PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2015**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Otto called the meeting of the Parks Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **RESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Otto welcomed Village President Nunamaker.

### **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Member McNutt to approve the September 2, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Member Richardson. Motion Carried.

### **PARKS**

*Public Works Monthly Report:* Superintendent Reese reviewed the highlights. The road program has been completed. Superintendent Reese said that a resident recently ran their car through the new sod at Picnic Grove Park and got stuck. Chairman Otto and Superintendent Reese reported that every year kids burn down port-a-potty. Village President Nunamaker asked when the new fence will go in at Picnic Grove Park.

*Picnic Grove Park Shelter Update:* The shelter is done, and the picnic tables have been received. Chairman Otto asked about the length of the warranty - one year. Member Conway asked if this shelter has the same roof as at Foxmoor - yes. Chairman Otto inquired about the three new signs. Supt. Reese explained that the signs say "Park in designated areas only".

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

*Barberry/Orchard Street Walking Path*—Supt. Reese explained that the area is Village property. Highview/Skyline is where the water main ended. An easement was run to keep water moving. The Village maintains about 150 acres, about 50% of which is wooded. The wooded areas are generally not maintained unless a large tree falls. As far as the having the Village maintain the above mentioned path, it is best to leave as a spring clean up project. It is not the best or safest path to take to the school. There is, however, a safe, marked sidewalk for the children to use. Even if wood chips were placed on the other walking path, because of the slope, the wood chips would wash away. Chairman Otto clarified that this is not an official walking path. Supt. Reese added that Orchard is a dead end street, and this is where the snowplows push snow. Supt. Reese walked the path and there were no downed trees.

Village President Nunamaker said that a resident requested a sidewalk from the middle school to Opatrny. That stretch alone will cost \$98,000. Member Sepeczi asked if there is a grant in place for 50% of the cost. Village President Nunamaker said that it is the Safe Schools grant.

**Village President** Robert Nunamaker

**Trustees** Thomas Anderson / Suzanne Blohm / Jennifer Curtiss / Steve Knar / Andrew Migdal / Patrick Wall

Chairman Otto explained that if the Barberry/Orchard walking path was made a designated school route, it would cost a lot of money and would need to be made handicapped accessible, etc. Member Sepeczi feels that the neighbors will chip in and clean up the path themselves. Chairman Otto further explained that when the Village takes care of a path, it opens up a can of worms as to liability. Thus, it has to be done the right way or not at all. Member Phillips asked if gravel would wash away the same as wood chips; she was told yes. Village President Nunamaker reiterated the liability issue if the path became a Village designated path.

Chairman Otto said that the Village should get back to the resident (Mrs. Enstrom) to let her know why the path cannot be done. Chairman Otto further asked if the path area is in the Picnic Grove conservation area; he was told no. However, the Village does own it and it is a part of the Picnic Grove development.

*5K Run:* Member Sepeczi reported that the run was attended by President Nunamaker. Chairman Otto asked how many runners there were; he was told there were about 200. Trustee Anderson and his daughter and Trustee Knar won medals. Member Sepeczi said that there were not as many runners as last year.

***CG Homecoming Parade October 10:*** The parade steps off at 9:00 am from Old Hunt Road. The middle school and high school bands will perform. The village presidents of Fox River Grove and Cary will be in attendance.

***Complaint:*** Village President Nunamaker reported that the Village received an irate complaint about people with their dogs off leash at Picnic Grove Park. The resident wondered whether or not a dog park could be designated. Chairman Otto said that it really depends on people being responsible dog owners. There is a sign at the park for people to pick up after their dogs. Chairman Otto explained that if there is a sign posted, then the police can prosecute.

Member Joseph asked if there will be a Haunted Trail this year; she was told yes – October 24.

#### **VILLAGE UPDATES**

Recently, a man took a garbage can, put it underneath the shelter and burnt papers. The police had to come and stop him. A vendor at the train station called to say that a man had locked himself in the bathroom at the station for 40 minutes. He was found to be passed out in it.

Member Phillips noted that Picnic Grove Park is popular with people who are not residents. Is there any way we could bring in revenue from non-residents using the parks? President Nunamaker said the Board has considered it in the past and elected not to do it at this time. This is due to the State of Illinois Open Space grant. Charging fees would also require someone to monitor the park. However, a concession stand may happen at some point. Additionally, the new shelter does bring in rental income. Chairman Otto asked what the cost is to rent the shelter he was told \$100. Supt. Reese said that people sometimes ask for the port a potties to be pumped out before events; perhaps a fee could be attached to that service.

Chairman Otto said that one option for revenue generation is requiring a boating sticker in order to park at the Village's docks. He suggested charging \$40 per season. Member Conway said that it might not be worth the trouble, as it really only becomes an issue a few weekends per year. Member Phillips noted

that it is the only dock on the river that is free. President Nunamaker said that he would like to see a sign put up so that people know they are at Fox River Grove. Member Sepeczi agreed that it would be good to make money with a food truck or a concession stand. Member Sepeczi suggested a donation bucket

Member Phillips said that she is concerned about the amount of garbage at the park. Superintendent Reese said that it is picked up Mondays and Fridays.

**CGYBA:** Member Sepeczi asked for an update. President Nunamaker reported that the agreement, written in 2011, has been canceled. Three of the current trustees were not there at the time of the signing. Chris Mattran and Dr. Mahaffey called President Nunamaker about the canceled agreement. A public meeting would have to be held to discuss a new agreement. CGYBA has use of Hunters Farm Park but rarely uses it. This is part of the objection to the former agreement. Also, the park is offered to outside organizations but the money doesn't always come back to the Rec Council. Chairman Otto said that control of the fields was give to the Rec Council, not to CGYBA. Village President Nunamaker added that there was t-ball at Lions Park. Chairman Otto asked if it was still advantageous as far as the kids, since the original agreement was made because there were not enough other kids to play against in the Grove alone. Additionally, there were coaches that were involved in the original agreement that are no longer part of the CGYBA.

Village President Nunamaker said that the Village is not interested in making money on this. Member Sepeczi said that if CGYBA is still helping to maintain the fields despite not using them much, it still benefits the Village. Superintendent Reese said that currently, CGBYA is only mowing the infields. In the beginning of the agreement, they put money and work into it. Member Sepeczi said that it would be beneficial for all the parties involved to get together and discuss an agreement.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Member Conway and seconded by Member McNutt to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. All were in favor.

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Chairman Dan Otto

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Alison Dal Compo, Secretary

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Date Approved