

**PARKS COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 2, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Dan Otto, Members Cheryl Joseph, Jim McNutt, Mike Olencheck and, Mike Richardson. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Public Works Jon Huizinga, Village Administrator Karl Warwick and Secretary Alison Dal Compo. Bill Conway and Sherri Sepeczi were absent.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS--none

Chairman Otto welcomed Village President Nunamaker and Trustee Steve Knar. (Resident Chester Olencheck joined the meeting later).

Trustee Knar explained that due to the “red speed” account, there is now more money in the budget to put towards parks projects. He said that the trustees were in favor of putting funds towards the A.D.A. pathways, but that some were skeptical about putting funds towards a skate park. Chairman Otto had given a presentation regarding the skate park to the trustees at their last Village Board meeting, which had helped some to feel somewhat differently about the project. At first, some trustees felt that targeting the 10-18 year olds was too narrow of a focus. They would also like to look at some other projects. Lions Park and Picnic Grove Park are “signature” parks in the Grove. Since PGP still has the original concrete from concessions stands that are long since gone, perhaps the concrete could be removed and vegetation planted in its place. The desire is for the projects to be visible to residents.

Chairman Otto added that the Parks Commission has long wanted to see funds not only for maintaining the parks, but also for doing visible projects. At the Village Board meeting, there were concerns raised about insurance for a skate park. Additionally, there was talk about doing paving in Lions Park and Picnic Grove Park as well as improving unsightly light fixtures. Superintendent Huizinga has been looking into pricing for concrete/asphalt.

Member McNutt asked what other ideas had been put forth. Trustee Knar said that getting rid of Tash Hill (ARS Hill) has also been a topic. Superintendent Huizinga noted that plans for parking lots at the two parks, as well as the pathways, were drawn up years ago. Chairman Otto suggested doing the skate park in phases. Also, he suggested doing a project over the top of the existing concrete at PGP rather than taking it out. Member Knar said that smaller projects should be done, like the pathways. He asked how much money would be left in the budget after the pathways are done. Administrator Warwick said it would be about \$29,000-\$30,000 remaining. Additionally, Chairman Otto pointed out that the VB had allocated \$30,000 to the parks. Trustee Knar stated that it is beneficial to have

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Administrator Warwick to help give the projects direction.

Trustee Knar said that the \$100 fee for running the red light at Rt 22 and Rt. 14 cannot be reduced due to the fees charged by the company who provides the service. Member McNutt asked why it is not considered as general revenue. Trustee Knar said that there is a village ordinance that delegates that money to public works. He further stated that the trustees would like to see a few more projects put forth within this budgetary cycle, which ends April 30. Chairman Otto noted that if the \$30,000 in monetary carry over were to be dedicated specifically, then it could be added to in the next budgetary cycle. Administrator Warwick added that if the money is carried over because the bill had to be paid May 1st (for example) that would be acceptable. Member Joseph asked how it would be possible to finance a project in the amount of \$100,000, for example. Chairman Otto reiterated the idea of projects in phases. He explained that paving PGP will cost \$75,000-\$100,000. Trustee Knar said that he personally would not like all of the currently available money to be put towards the skate park, but if it were done in phases he would find it acceptable. Superintendent Huizinga said that if it is known that future funds will be available, then a long range plan can be put together.

Village President Nunamaker explained that Trustee Knar has agreed to serve as an intermediary between the Parks Commission and the Village Board. Trustee Knar asked Administrator Warwick to put together some figures on the proposed projects for the next board meeting. Member McNutt noted that it will be good to have Trustee Knar as a liaison.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2012 MINUTES

Member McNutt made a motion to approve the December 5, 2012 minutes as presented. Member Olencheck seconded. Motion Carried Unanimously.

PARKS

Public Works Report--Superintendent Huizinga reviewed the highlights. Aronson Fence made repairs along the Fox Anna walking path for \$1,500. Member McNutt noted the resident compliment in this regard.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parks Capital Projects/Skate Park, Update—Chairman Otto provided the handout to the members that had also been provided to the Village Board. Superintendent Huizinga said that the proposed park would cost about \$30,000 for the concrete and another \$30,000 for the equipment. He asked if additional liability insurance would be required for such a park. Administrator Warwick explained that the Village has tort immunity in such cases. Chairman Otto added that there would have to be clear evidence of wanton negligence on the part of the Village in order for any lawsuit to have viability.

Administrator Warwick said that some board members would like to see Tash Hill as the skate park location. Village President Nunamaker asked if Chairman Otto and Member Sepeczi had looked at potential skate park locations; he was told yes. A map of the

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possible locations was provided. Chairman Otto explained that Spohn Ranch, who gave the schematics, is a manufacturer of concrete parks. He said that if the “F” and the “R” equipment pieces were dropped off, the equipment cost could go down to about \$20,000. He felt that the pad of 75’ x 55’ would be best, and if the equipment elements were scaled down the total for the park could come in at under \$50,000.

The following areas were put forth as possible locations for the skate park:

- 1) One of the two baseball fields off of Old Hunt Way (one is Village property)
- 2) Picnic Grove Park
- 3) Lexington by the pond

Member Olencheck asked if the skate park could be put closer to the main road than was depicted on the map, so that the kids would not have to remove their skates and walk to the park area. Chairman Otto said that there could be a concrete path to the parking lot area if done off of Old Hunt Way, but the local residents would have to be agreeable to it.

Superintendent Huizinga said that he wouldn’t recommend doing the concrete in phases. Chairman Otto agreed that the entire pad should be laid at one time.

Resident Chester Olencheck asked if anyone had looked into steel structures for the skate park. He further mentioned that there is a company in Wauconda that builds skate parks. Chairman Otto explained that steel shows wear more easily due to the laminated finish.

The members thanked Chairman Otto for his hard work in putting the skate park information together.

Administrator Warwick pointed out that Trustee Knar recommended using the currently available \$30,000 towards a different project, then doing some or all of the skate park next fiscal year. Village President Nunamaker asked if Tash Hill could be removed for \$30,000. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of using the money there. Chairman Otto and Superintendent Huizinga felt it would cost about \$43,000-\$45,000 to remove. Member McNutt pointed out that it would double the cost of the skate park if it were to be put there.

Chairman Otto asked what other types of projects could be done. Two suggestions were asphaltting the walking path to Picnic Grove Park and playground surfacing. A question was raised regarding rubberized surfacing. Chairman Otto explained that for now, wood chips meet the guidelines, and that rubber is more flammable. Superintendent Huizinga added that the rubber gets hot and becomes messy.

Village President Nunamaker suggested doing one rail and the concrete pad for the skate park in this fiscal year.

Chairman Otto asked about doing the parking lot paving at either Lions Park or Picnic Grove Park. Superintendent Huizinga estimated it would cost \$60,000 to pave at Lions

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Park. Member Olencheck said that it would make the park much more useable. In addition, he observed that the park is behind the times by having gravel instead of pavement. Superintendent Huizinga said that the binder could be done one year and the surfacing could be done the next year for two phases of about \$30,000 each.

Chairman Otto suggested that the members should visit each park and see what is needed individually, then put a dollar amount to those improvements and propose it to the Village Board.

Village President Nunamaker suggested going out for bids now so the current money would be obligated and have intent.

Chairman Otto noted that the pathways should be a minimum five feet wide, but that six would be better Superintendent Huizinga added that 10 feet would be best, then the path could be used as a bike trail in the future.

Village President Nunamaker stated that an accounting system is needed that will take into account contributions from fundraisers and donations from other entities.

Member Joseph asked what conclusion had been reached regarding the skate park. Chairman Otto said that bids should be sought for the park, and the funds earmarked as motioned in the 12/15/12 meeting.

Parks Fundraiser— The date for the fundraiser is Saturday, March 9, 2013. Member Sepeczi is continuing to arrange for this event.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. This is one week later than usual.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member McNutt and seconded by Member Joseph to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All were in favor.

Dan Otto, Chairman

Alison Dal Compo, Secretary

Date Approved