

**Village of North Hudson  
Park Board Meeting  
Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.  
Village Hall, 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Hudson, WI 54016**

**Call to Order: roll call**

Chair Colleen O'Brien-Berglund called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Answering the call were members Doug Ernie, John Helgeson, Mona Houston, and Michelle Ortner. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. Howard Novotny arrived at 6:35 pm. It was noted that Todd Wolf was absent. Also in attendance were Public Works Director Patrick Moos and Police Chief Mark Richert.

**Approval of minutes from February 2, 2017 Park Board Meeting**

**Motion (Helgeson/Ortner) to approve the minutes of February 2, 2017 meeting as written. Motion carried.**

**Comments from the floor**

No comments from the floor.

**Superintendent's Report**

Moos reported that work on the park benches outside the Village Hall by Jeff Bonngard is completed, and asked the board to provide him with feedback regarding the results.

**Ferry Landing Beach Ordinance**

Based on residents' previous complaints regarding personal watercraft (PWC) usage at Ferry Landing Park, O'Brien-Berglund asked Richert to suggest what items would constitute an enforceable ordinance. The village attorney has created a draft ordinance based on Richert's recommendations. O'Brien-Berglund received an e-mail from the attorney assisting the village attorney, with suggestions for possible updates to the draft ordinance. The attorney suggested that the ordinance give the Park Board and other village officials the authority to designate where boats can launch, rather than including those specifics in the ordinance. Richert reminded the board that the current area used for boat launching is not part of the park, but rather a pedestrian mall. As such, the ordinance doesn't have to specifically refer to a boat launch area. In addition, the Park Board and Village Board in the past have been careful not to officially define this area as a boat launch, so as not to trigger required improvements to be made to the launch. For these reasons, Richert believes that the ordinance does not need to be revised to include specific language related to a boat launch area. The current language prohibiting boats from landing on the beach area is sufficient.

In reference to Section 74-2 Subsection (a) of the proposed ordinance, Richert suggested that an exception be made for the gravel parking area of the park, or specify that portable gasoline containers are prohibited in the sandy area of the park. Novotny suggested adding the term "portable" for the prohibited gas containers. There was discussion about the exact wording of the exception for the parking area.

In regards to Subsection (b) (2), Richert hasn't spoken with the Wisconsin DNR or County Sheriff's Water Patrol to know whether his department has authority to enforce watercraft from parking within 40 feet of the shoreline. The board and Richert discussed what area of the park could be used by watercraft; however, the ordinance would prevent watercraft from parking on any area of the beach south of the pedestrian walkway. Richert said that if part of the sandy area is not designated as swim beach, then fisherpersons would have access to the shoreline. O'Brien-Berglund clarified the board's suggested updates to the ordinance, including no watercraft parking on the beach anywhere, and not including a specific size for the designated swim area. Richert suggested that the ordinance be updated to replace the word "boat" with "watercraft", to prevent the necessity to define what constitutes a boat. Richert mentioned that the Municipal Judge will have to define what are the fines for infractions against this new ordinance.

Richert commended the board members for their willingness to listen to the residents' concerns, the work that has been done to craft the ordinance, and for allowing him to provide his input. O'Brien-Berglund thanked Richert for help to craft an ordinance which can be enforced.

The village attorney's assistant has recommended that the ordinance not define a specific size for the swimming beach area, but keep the language general enough that the Park Board can define the size of the swim area from time to time without updating the ordinance.

Summary of revisions to the proposed ordinance:

- Portable gas containers are prohibited, except for the gravel designated parking area
- Change term from "boat" to "watercraft"
- Allow flexibility to define the size of the designated swim area

Assuming the changes can be made by the village attorney in time, the proposed ordinance will be submitted to the Village Board next Tuesday for consideration.

**Motion (Helgeson/Houston) to approve the proposed ordinance with amendments to be made by the village attorney. Motion carried.**

### **Picnic Table Painting**

Moos asked the board what color the tables should be painted and in which order. The preference is for green or brown paint. Moos doesn't believe he can get all the tables repaired and painted in one year, so he asked for suggestions for which park(s) to complete first. The preference is to complete Pepper Fest Park's tables, then other parks as time permits. Moos will update the Park Board with his progress throughout the spring and summer. Moos will make repairs to tables where needed. Ernie suggested completing tables in the parks which get the most use (those with enclosures or shelters), primarily Sommers Landing and Ferry Landing. Moos said he and his crew will inspect the tables as they visit each park and determine which tables need attention. Ortner thanked Moos for taking on this project and for identifying other needs in the parks.

### **Pepper Fest Park Trees**

Moos has spoken with some Park Board members, who expressed concern about the possibility of attracting deer to the parks if fruit trees are planted. Another concern is attracting bees. If fruit trees are selected, Moos would place them in a remote location of larger parks. Houston asked Moos if there is an arborist with whom he can consult. Moos said the village has a contract with St. Croix Tree Service, which has an arborist. Novotny also mentioned asking the arborist about other types of trees which are less attractive to deer when they are small.

O'Brien-Berglund and Moos discussed the leaning tree in Pepper Fest Park. Moos stated that the tree isn't a safety hazard, but it doesn't look nice with the other trees in the park. O'Brien-Berglund stated that there isn't any money in the 2017 budget for a replacement tree, however, there is money budgeted for trees in Chief Jansen Park. Trees were planted in Chief Jansen Park last year, so they aren't sure more trees are needed in that park right away. Unless some money becomes available, a new tree for Pepper Fest Park will have to wait until 2018.

### **Glen Oaks Park Sand Box**

Moos obtained two quotes for sand: Cemstone is currently charging \$7.74 per ton, and the price may go up to \$8 per ton on May 1. County Aggregate quoted \$11 per ton. If the sand in all parks is replaced at one time, the total cost at \$8 per ton is estimated at \$1300. Moos may have to develop a rotation to refresh the sand in all parks over a few years. Moos suggested the Park Board members visit all the parks to help determine which parks need sand the most. Moos' opinion is that Glen Oaks and Deer Run Parks need sand the most. Moos stated that he can build a sand box for Glen Oaks Park with existing materials this year. Novotny asked about the state of sand blankets under playground equipment. Some sand blankets have been replaced with pea gravel. Ernie recalled a prior recommendation to have pea gravel under playground equipment – it is shock absorbing and is a better cushion for kids to fall on, and he thought the playground equipment manufacturers recommend pea gravel to be installed under the equipment. O'Brien-Berglund recommended including a permanent sand box edging solution for Glen Oaks Park in the 2018 budget.

### **Planting of Grass Seed in Parks**

Moos found a possible replacement for grass in some areas: creeping thyme is an herb which can be used as an edible ground cover. It is better for the hydrological cycle, in that it doesn't retain water as long as grass does. When Moos talks with the arborist, he will ask about the feasibility of using creeping thyme as an alternative to grass, and whether it will attract deer. O'Brien-Berglund asked about the cost of creeping thyme; Moos thought it was fairly inexpensive. Moos may obtain one plant and plant it in one of the parks to see how well it grows and how far it spreads. Moos is in the process of getting a quote for bulk grass seed.

### **Sand for Sandboxes**

This item was covered in Glen Oaks Park sandbox discussion.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Sand, grass, and ground cover; purchase of buoys, signs, etc., to support Ferry Landing Beach ordinance

**Adjournment**

**Motion (Helgeson/Ortner) to adjourn.** O'Brien-Berglund declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald  
Recording Secretary