

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

Call to Order: roll call

Chair Colleen O'Brien-Berglund called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Answering the call were members Howard Novotny, Doug Ernie, Todd Wolf, Michelle Ortner, and John Helgeson. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. It was noted that Mona Houston was absent. Also in attendance was Interim Public Works Director, Patrick Moos.

Approval of minutes from January 5, 2017 Park Board Meeting

Motion (Helgeson/Ortner) to approve the minutes of January 5, 2017 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Comments from the floor

No comments from the floor.

Superintendent's Report

Moos was approached by the City of Hudson regarding the village's interest in purchasing trees for the parks in 2017. Moos doesn't have any direct needs, however, at a future meeting he would like to discuss the possibility of purchasing and planting trees in North Hudson parks. In particular, Moos mentioned a tree in Pepper Fest Park which is growing at an angle which he would like to remove and replace with two trees. Moos reported that several benches outside the village hall are being refurbished because the cedar wood is deteriorating. The wood has been removed and sanded, and his department is determining how the engraving will be painted to enhance the lettering. This painting will be done before a sealer is applied to the boards. He would like to budget for replacement boards for these benches in the 2018 budget. O'Brien-Berglund told Moos he can take repair expenses out of the 2017 maintenance budget without requiring a vote from the Park Board. Moos wants to be judicious with the maintenance budget so he has money available for seeding and other maintenance needs this year.

Glen Oaks Park – Digger and Sandbox

O'Brien-Berglund reported that money was not included in the 2017 budget for a new digger toy for Glen Oaks Park, so nothing can be done with this item until next year. Moos has photo examples of plastic, stone-look sandbox borders which can also be budgeted and ordered in 2018. O'Brien-Berglund asked for pricing of the borders, in case there is money in the 2017 budget to install it this year. Moos said the 8 foot sections are \$37 each and 12 foot sections are \$64 each. Novotny asked how this edging is secured versus wooden edging. Moos isn't sure but he believes they may be filled with sand and secured with pegs or posts. He believes it would be more attractive than wood borders. Moos will talk with the vendor of the borders to learn how they are installed. O'Brien-Berglund asked Ortner and Moos to measure the planned sandbox to determine how much edging will be required. This dark brown border coordinates with other similarly colored items in the park.

Sand and Grass Seed for Parks

Moos is not sure of the cost of sand and seed for park maintenance – he will have to check with the supplier when the facility opens for the season. Moos doesn't believe there will be enough money to refresh all the parks, so he would like to spruce up two parks per year and see if those parks have more visitors. Novotny suggested also tackling overgrown weeds in those parks as well. Moos asked the Park Board to create a prioritized list of the parks the board would like to be freshened up. It was recommended that something other than grass be planted in Jansen Park and Sommers Landing Park because the soil is mostly sand and grass doesn't grow well. Moos suggested an herb ground cover may grow better in those areas. Wolf stated that there are sand burrs in Sommers Landing and it would be nice to have them removed.

Ferry Landing Beach

O'Brien-Berglund read a message from North Hudson Police Chief Mark Richert with his suggestions regarding the ordinance for Ferry Landing Beach. Richert recommended a prohibition against gas cans in the park or on the pedestrian mall. Richert also suggested not allowing beaching of watercraft south of the pedestrian mall to the south park border, including the area with trees. A designated swim area in the beach area will keep watercraft away from the beach; individuals fishing can continue to use the waterway south of the beach. He suggested that the noise issues previously reported will be alleviated by watercraft operators not being allowed to park on the beach and go back and forth on the river.

Ortner asked residents Kristy and Jason Haskins whether they are one of the personal watercraft (PWC) operators which are part of a club which met and parked their crafts on Ferry Landing Beach last summer. The Haskins said they are not, though they do own a PWC. Mr. Haskins said that the beach is used only as a watercraft landing spot and is not used by swimmers. Ortner said that is what the Park Board is working to resolve. Haskins and Park Board members discussed whether there is another spot at Ferry Landing where the PWC club could park their watercraft. The area north of the boat launch is all private property, so the club could not beach there. Resident Bill Labelle asked about where property ownership ends on the river – at the high water mark or at the water line. When talking about the Ferry Landing issue, the property ownership question isn't relevant. A resident asked if the PWC operators go to Brown's Beach – Ortner stated that they do not. Mr. Haskins stated that he owns PWCs, but he takes his to the islands when he operates them on the St. Croix River. The main problem is the PWC operators who park on the beach and do tricks and make noise on the river. Mrs. Haskins stated that she didn't observe any rowdy behavior from the PWC operators. **Motion (Novotny/Helgeson) to have the village attorney help draft an ordinance to prohibit gasoline containers on the beach and on the pedestrian mall; prohibit beaching of watercraft between the pedestrian mall and the south park border, including where trees are located; and define a designated swimming area. Motion carried.**

O'Brien-Berglund asked Moos to get pricing for buoys to designate the swimming area. The desire is to have the ordinance finalized by this spring or summer.

Trees/Barrier along the path between Cherry Circle North and Galahad Road North

Kristy Haskins of Cherry Circle N. voiced her concern about the owners of the warehouse adjacent to her property removing the trees between the properties due to soil contamination. Her concerns are that the warehouse is visible to property owners on Cherry Circle North and looks awful, and that trucks driving near the warehouse stir up dirt that gets blown into the windows of the homes nearby. Mrs. Haskins is

concerned that the dust being blown into homes contains contaminants from the warehouse property, including lead, which could create a health concern for those living in homes near the warehouse. Mrs. Haskins understands that the warehouse owner will be putting up a fence, but it is not known what that fence will look like. She also stated that there is a walking trail between the homes on Cherry Circle North and the warehouse, and the warehouse should be shielded from the trail by new trees. Ortner stated that the Park Board had nothing to do with the removal of the trees. Moos stated that the entire shop yards area is on private property and the property owner can remove trees as desired. Resident Bill Labelle asked whether the village building inspector, Brian Wert, can give guidance on the installation of fences on private property. Novotny stated that Wert can provide guidance, and that building code information is provided online. Labelle asked whether the code also applies to what might be installed by the warehouse owner. The desire is for the fence to be decent looking and for trees to be planted, for the property to have a little nicer appeal for those using the walking path. There was discussion about who are the owners of the storage property, and it was unclear who are the involved parties. Labelle reported that the warehouse property owners starting digging without prior notification, and that some of the trees which were removed were falling into his yard. Ortner asked whether the residents called the village regarding the situation. Mrs. Haskins is a registered nurse and as such, she is a mandated reporter. She reported the lead contamination to the DNR, and the DNR agent dismissed her concern. According to Mrs. Haskins, kids have built forts on the south end of the warehouse property where there is lead contamination, and she said that the lead contamination should have been reported. Mrs. Haskins reported the contamination to the St. Croix County Public Health department, and the department sent notification letters to residents in the area. Ortner asked O'Brien-Berglund whether the village Public Safety committee would be the place for residents to take their concerns. Novotny stated that the Park Board is not the appropriate venue to bring this issue to. Mr. Haskins asked whether the village has enough room to plant trees along the walking path if the warehouse owner does not plant trees. Moos stated that there is not enough land there to accommodate trees. The potential new owner is working with the current owner to mitigate the soil contamination issues. It doesn't appear that the new property owner is amenable to working with village residents to improve the walking path area. O'Brien-Berglund said that she can speak with Gloria Troester or someone else in the village to identify the property owner so a conversation about this issue can begin.

Novotny suggested the residents contact St. Croix County Public Safety about this situation. Labelle asked what agency would issue the permit to do the remediation work. Helgeson suggested that either the DNR or EPA would be involved. Novotny asked Mr. Haskins what his expectations are for the property – to clean up the soil contamination and have an attractive fence and trees to screen the warehouse property from the residences. Moos stated that the DNR contact he spoke with said that the remediation plan includes construction of a barrier fence, though it is unknown what the fence will look like. O'Brien-Berglund said that she would speak with Troester regarding what is included in the plan for the warehouse property. Novotny suggested the residents send a letter to the warehouse owner explaining how the area looked before the mitigation project began, their position and concerns, and asking him to restore the trees as part of the restoration project. O'Brien-Berglund stated residents can send her or Moos an e-mail asking for information, their e-mail addresses are listed on the village website.

Future Agenda Items

Sand and grass seed; Glen Oaks sandbox; selection of trees; Ferry Landing; paint the picnic tables in all parks.

Novotny suggested the Park Board identify what parks need trees, then determine tree varieties based on their locations. Ortner asked whether fruit trees will attract deer. Helgeson said that they will.

Ortner asked whether the picnic table project would be done by Public Works staff or contracted out. Moos feels the Public Works staff can complete the work.

Adjournment

Motion (Helgeson/Novotny) to adjourn. O'Brien-Berglund declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary