

**Village of North Hudson
Park Board Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 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 John Helgeson, Michelle Ortner, and Todd Wolf. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. Howard Novotny arrived at 6:33 pm. It was noted that Doug Ernie and Mona Houston were absent. Also in attendance were Public Works Director, Patrick Moos and Recording Secretary, Anne-Marie McDonald.

Approval of minutes from March 2, 2017 Park Board Meeting

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

Comments from the floor

N/A

Superintendent's Report

Moos reported that work has begun to clean up the parks, and cleaning will continue for several weeks. There are numerous trees in Jensen Memorial Park which have a pine beetle infestation, and which woodpeckers are attacking. The trees have been severely compromised, and Moos is concerned that one could fall on a house in high winds. He will have St. Croix Tree Service remove about 10-12 infested trees from the park. There is one tree in Eagle Woods Park which woodpeckers have destroyed, so Public Works removed the tree. The signs for the new ordinance in Ferry Landing Beach were ordered about two weeks ago, and Moos hopes to receive them soon.

Ferry Landing Park – New Signs and Buoys

Signs have been ordered – one for “no watercraft parking” on beach and two for “no gas can usage”. Moos reported that North Hudson Police Chief Mark Richert and his officers will distribute copies of the new ordinance to park patrons for several weeks before starting enforcement of the ordinance. The signs are the same format as a new sign which was previously installed in the park. Board members thanked Moos for his proactive action to order the signs.

Purchase of sand for sandboxes in Glen Oaks and Deer Run Parks

Moos reported that he did some investigation regarding what type of material should be used in parks to make them handicap accessible. In his research, he learned that wood chips should be used rather than sand. Moos can get wood chips from the city of Hudson at no cost. A sandbox will be installed, and wood chips can be used under the playground equipment and toys. Novotny asked whether wood chips are considered a proper alternative to sand, and Moos stated that it is recommended in the Americans with Disabilities Act. To confirm that wood chips will keep the village compliant with safety regulations,

Novotny suggested that Moos do a little more research before he starts to install the wood chips, and Moos agreed to do so. Ortner asked whether the wood chips will allow weed growth, and Moos thought that wouldn't be an issue, based on wood chips that were laid last year in other parks.

Motion (Ortner/Helgeson) to use wood chips in place of sand around playground equipment in the parks for handicap accessibility. Motion carried.

Purchase of ground cover for test plot

Moos is working with a garden contractor for purchase of creeping thyme for one or more test plots. A flat of creeping thyme contains 10-12 plants, covers about 100 square feet, and costs \$50. Moos stated that a bag of grass seed costs more than that. His idea is to plant a small test plot in Woodcrest Park and perhaps Sommers Landing Park. Novotny suggested Moos plant a 100 sq. ft. test plot in each park.

Motion (Ortner/Helgeson) to purchase creeping thyme for a test plot in parks, each flat costing \$50, not to exceed \$300. Motion carried.

Purchase of grass seed

Moos hasn't received a response from his grass seed supplier. If he doesn't hear from the person soon, he will work with the same firm which is providing the creeping thyme. Novotny suggested Moos continue over seeding in conjunction with the creeping thyme test plots, and analyze the results in 2018.

Comments from Board members

Novotny asked who will replace Chair O'Brien-Berglund, now that her term as Village Trustee is coming to an end. O'Brien-Berglund stated it may be Trustee Kirk Nelson, who was in the audience during this Park Board meeting.

O'Brien-Berglund thanked the Park Board members, past and present, for their help and support during her 11-year service as Park Board chair. Helgeson thanked O'Brien-Berglund for her service to the village.

Adjournment

Motion (Helgeson/Ortner) to adjourn. O'Brien-Berglund declared the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary