

**Village of North Hudson
Park Board Meeting
Thursday, September 6, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Village Hall, 400 7th Street North
Hudson, WI 54016**

Call to Order: roll call

Chair Kirk Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Answering the call were members Doug Ernie, John Helgeson, Mona Martinez, and Michelle Ortner. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. It was noted that board members Jim Boschuetz and Todd Wolf were absent. Also in attendance were Public Works Director Patrick Moos and Recording Secretary Anne-Marie McDonald.

Approval of minutes from July 5, 2018 Park Board Meeting

Motion (Martinez & Ortner/Helgeson) to approve the minutes of July 5, 2018 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Comments from the floor

None.

Chair update

Nothing to report.

Sergeant Rosenthal from St. Croix Correctional Center presentation about planting monarch gardens in Village parks

Sergeant Jon Rosenthal of St. Croix Correctional Center (SCCC) discussed the background of the program that SCCC is working on with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW). In late 2016, he became involved with the USFW pollinator program, specifically the monarch butterfly program. Monarch butterflies migrate between Mexico and Canada, and Wisconsin is part of the 10-state primary U.S. migration path of the monarch butterfly. St. Croix was registered for the program by a former employee; Sgt. Rosenthal didn't want to waste state resources and grant money, so he volunteered to revive the program. Working with USFW employees Caitlin Smith and Colleen Anderson, he and his crew grew 2500 seedlings in 2017 from a goal of growing 1000 plants, and the USFW distributed the SCCC plants in area states. Rosenthal has an educational plot producing seeds as well as a 4.5 acre space behind the center which is used to produce seeds and grow seedlings. In addition to producing seeds and distributing plants to community groups, the USFW wanted to expand the habitat for pollinators, monarchs in particular. For pollinator gardens for which they supply seedlings, USFW wants to have plots that are 5'x5' or larger. Rosenthal volunteered to speak with his contacts in the community to determine whether there is an interest in hosting pollinator plots. North Hudson Park Board is Rosenthal's first presentation for this project. He is looking for one or two plots to plant native grasses and native plants. There would be no cost to the village – all plants and seeds are provided by SCCC. The commitment of the village is to provide the plot(s) and possibly some time by village employees to till the plots, or the SCCC work crew can till it. The plot(s) would include several milkweed varieties (the only type of plant monarchs eat and lay eggs on), ox eye sunflowers, and other plants. After several years, the plot will be self-sustaining and will drive out invasive plants through self-seeding. During his tenure, Rosenthal has grown between 3600 and 4000 plants; in the future

his goal is to grow a minimum of 1500 seedlings per year. Rosenthal was able to grow 2-3 rounds of different plants in 2018.

The benefits of community pollinator gardens include beauty, good habitats for bees, monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, and moths. The plots can help with ground stabilization and water filtration, and help to reduce snow drifts and flooding.

Rosenthal and the USFW would like to expand the pollinator program to develop more habitat area. If the village approves one or more garden plots, USFW will publish a notice in the local press about this collaboration between North Hudson, SCCC and the USFW.

Martinez asked about need for sun vs. shade for the plants Rosenthal grows: He said they are very versatile, are hardy and can tolerate drought, and can grow in either sun or shade. The seedlings are 2-4" tall when they are first planted, and will need to be watered when first planted. Nelson asked whether the plants spread; Rosenthal said that there is some spreading of the plants, but most seeds drop nearby. Milkweed seeds are transported by the wind. Rosenthal suggested the Park Board select locations that can tolerate some spreading of the plants.

Rosenthal stated that a nice by-product is inmate interest in the program; some have horticulture background or certificate and interest in the program.

Nelson asked Moos for suggestions about potential sites. Moos suggested Glen Oaks because lots of children play there, and Woodcrest, because it has a large open area that is difficult to grow anything in. Ortner asked about Brown's Beach as a candidate for the future; Moos said that is a possibility. Moos suggested two plots be planted for a trial, and possibly expand the program in the future. Rosenthal offered to periodically check on the plots if the village chooses to participate in the program. He said the inmate work crew can do weeding in the plots when they do their spring brushing and fall raking.

Motion (Ortner/Helgeson & Martinez) to have monarch butterfly gardens planted in Glen Oaks and Woodcrest Parks by St. Croix Correctional Center work crew. Motion carried.

Brown's Beach updates

Moos has to work with Village Engineer Kevin Oium to determine options. They must determine how much land the village has versus Wisconsin DNR. Moos has to look at the area plats and measure to determine land ownership. Moos asked to leave this item on the agenda for a future meeting.

Swing set at Glen Oaks Park

The issue with swings being wound up on the support beam at Glen Oaks has improved. Public Works employee Joe Curran has some ideas to prevent future issues with the swings. Moos hopes to have something figured out for next month.

Eagle Scout park project list

Moos suggested the committee go through the list and pick some projects to propose to the Scouts. As an example, they can build eagle's nest playground feature. The Scout group needs the Park Board's project list by spring 2019, then they decide what projects they will complete. Moos asked the board to review the list before

next month's meeting. Wolf asked Moos to re-send the Scout project list to the committee members. The committee will discuss the list next month.

Update Park Board website

Moos asked that any new pictures and information be sent to Village Administrator Melissa Luedke for publication on the village website. Luedke will create descriptions for each of the parks for the website.

Movie in the park

Nelson reported that fourteen people attended the movie night in August, and he thought the events were a success. Martinez asked about the restroom situation during movie nights: Nelson said that the cleanliness of the restrooms in the village hall weren't an issue in July or August. Though he didn't receive any complaints, for future events, he suggested changing the angle of the speakers and the screen to avoid them pointing directly at neighbors' homes. For future movie nights, Nelson wants to identify more ways to publicize the events.

Park Board committee future goals

The committee discussed the size of the monarch beds to be planted in village parks. The suggestion is to make the Glen Oaks plot up to 6'x6', and Woodcrest up to 10'x10'.

Superintendent's Report

Moos was contacted by a group in Hudson about doing some work at Sommers Landing to remove the pea gravel in the playground area and replace with wood chips. The group can build wood benches and detail projects. The village provides supplies and flowers for projects, and the group will do the work. Nelson suggested Moos create a budget for supplies, flowers, etc., for this group.

Moos expressed much gratitude to the Pepper Fest board, which purchased a John Deere aerator for the Public Works department. Moos would like to aerate and lay seed in one park each year.

Ortner asked about whether Moos plans to make an ice skating rink this winter; Moos said he plans to do so.

Future agenda items

Monarch gardens; Brown's Beach updates; Swing set at Glen Oaks Park; Eagle Scout park project list; Hudson group's projects and budget; skating rink; future goals.

Adjournment

Motion (Ortner & Helgeson/Martinez) to adjourn. Motion carried. Nelson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary