

August 13, 2019 Caledonia Parks and Rec Commission Minutes

Present: Patrick Flynn (President), Earl Bednar (Vice-President) Tom Weatherston (Trustee Liaison), Michael Lambrecht (Commissioner), Sara Kierzek (Commissioner)

Also present: Randall Solberg (Supervisor), Tom Lazcano (Public Works Director), Sue Schuit (Hoy Audubon Conservation Chair) and a number of residents making public comments (see below).

1. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 7pm. Commission secretary was unable to attend the meeting, so Commissioner Kierzek was asked to take notes on her behalf.
2. Public Comments- Trustee Weatherston indicated that during the previous village board meeting, he had invited residents to attend the Parks Commission meeting to offer their comments on the Crawford Park plan.
 - a. Tom Dovorany, 5329 Sunshine Lane asked how the commission had arrived at the approved plan and who is the plan designed to serve, and since none of the commissioners in attendance had been on the commission through the entire process, Tom Lazcano from Public Works went through the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) recommendations and history of the RFP process and public comment opportunities. Tom Dovorany (and every resident who spoke) indicated that the current plan was unworkable, too expensive and developed for a neighborhood park, and the commission needed to start over.
 - b. Sue Schuitt reported that SEWRPC's plan indicated that Caledonia had too little park acreage.
 - c. Barb Heidel, 1813 Secretariat Lane suggested putting in soccer fields to generate more funds for the parks and walking and bike paths, saying that she does not support creating pickleball courts because the game is very loud, but would support volleyball courts.
 - d. David Brown, 1719 Count Turf Lane provided a written statement, but also spoke, expressing concerns about park access on Sunshine Lane, and suggested that property proposed to be purchased by the village would allow another access off 4 mile road or apartment easement off Douglas Avenue. He also asked if the end of Secretariat could be developed into residential properties with backyards abutting the park.
 - e. Jim Heidel, 1813 Secretariat Lane opposed a Crawford Park entrance from the subdivisions.
 - f. Barb Schmidt, 1800 Secretariat Lane is concerned about expanding soccer fields, saying that their neighborhood would be filled with cars parking everywhere.
 - g. Donald Schmidt, 1800 Secretariat Lane suggested that putting an internal parking lot near the fields could result in safety issues, with kids getting hit.
3. Approval of Minutes- Minutes were not available, so approval was tabled for next meeting.
4. Crawford Plan- After hearing a number of concerns from residents, the Village Board has not approved the plan approved by the Parks Commission and Plan Commission and has sent the plan back for further review. Board Liaison Weatherston would like to see revisit of plan. Decision to table this matter until it is determined whether or not vacant land adjacent to the park on 4 Mile Road is purchased by the Village and what if any portion of the land will be designated to be adjoined to present park land.

5. Purchase of 9.3 acres of land on 4 Mile Road from Armin Clobes- Village will be making an offer to purchase this land from proceeds of the sale of the East Side Community Center sale so that the offer can be made quickly before other offers are accepted, with park and/or fire department use under consideration. Parks funding would not be involved in the purchase. Board Liaison Weatherston motioned: Move to find that the acquisition of vacant land at 4 Mile Road with tax parcel #104-04-23-20-132-000 of approximately 9.3 acres is consistent with the Village Park and Open Space Plans and recommends to the Village Board the acquisition upon such terms to be determined by the village board. Commissioner Lambrecht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Nicholson Wildlife Refuge (NWR) condition- Sue Schuitt, Hoy Audubon Conservation chair and Caledonia resident, presented a timeline of the history of the NWR, and indicated that the refuge is in great disrepair, and inaccessible because of flooding and overgrown pathways. She has observed that it appears that ever since roadwork adjacent to the NWR a few years ago, water has been flowing the opposite direction and urges the Village to look into storm water issues. She also stated that the wooden walkways end with about a three foot drop, and it's an accident waiting to happen, so at the least the Parks department should put up caution tape and signage indicating a hazard. She also recommended putting up permanent survey markers before the temporary ones currently there disintegrate. President Flynn and Commissioner Kierzek indicated that they had both visited the NWR and that conditions were concerning. President Flynn requested that the Parks Department and Public Works look at the issues and take temporary steps to secure the area and come back to the commission at the next meeting for additional discussion.
7. Reports- Randall Solberg reported on the swing set for Maple Park and indicated that Payne and Dolan is making a donation of gravel in exchange for taking some top soil, saving the Village funds. Linwood Park is having Olympia Brown school equipment installed, but it may be delayed until spring. There is also a need for replacement of metal edging on slides. The Golf Outing was a success with 52 golfers, with \$800 in profit which will be used for striping and fertilizing soccer fields.
8. Budget Report- Kathy Casper, Village finance director will come to our next meeting to go through financial reporting to the commission.
9. Communications and Announcements-none
10. Adjournment- Vice-President Bednar moved to adjourn. Trustee Liaison Weatherston seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.