

December 10, 2019 Park Commission Minutes

Present: Patrick Flynn (President), Earl Bednar (Vice-President), Kathy Burton (Secretary), Tom Weatherston (Trustee Liaison), and Mike Lambrecht (Commissioner)

Also present: Randall Solberg (Supervisor), Tom Lazcano (Caledonia Public Works Director)

1) Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

2) Public Comment – President Flynn addressed the audience. He stated that he was misquoted in the newspaper and that there was never an intention to put a canoe/kayak launch on Mona Park Road. He then welcomed their comments.

Scott Fiorita of 4118 Mona Park Rd. expressed his opposition to a canoe/kayak launch on Mona Park Road. He had concerns regarding the narrowness of the road, lack of parking, and opening the area to the public. He suggested other areas that he felt were better suited for launches such as: Four Mile Rd., Seven Mile Rd., River Bend, and the Horlick Dam. He also apologized to President Flynn for some harsh comments that had been exchanged previously.

Kay Poplawski of 4210 Mona Park Rd. talked about fences blocking access to the river, one of them belonging to President Flynn.

Lorraine Riley of 4225 Mona Park Rd. asked questions regarding access to the river. She talked about the overgrown easement, the trees, and a “No Trespassing” sign placed in the easement. President Flynn showed her a map of the area with the easement.

Patricia Nielsen of 4315 Mona Park Rd. felt that access to the river was restricted after President Flynn moved in. She expressed concerns about President Flynn’s Airbnb and did not want the neighborhood opened to the public.

Tom Lazcano offered to have the Highway Department clean up the easement to make it accessible to the neighborhood.

There was brief mention of turning the easement into a small park. Secretary Burton asked if the Village were to spend money to develop and maintain this easement as a park if it would be open to the public? It was agreed that it would. It was also agreed that in the best interest of these neighbors the neighborhood itself would need to/should take on that project.

3) Approval of Minutes- **Trustee Weatherston made a motion to approve the November 12, 2019 Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lambrecht. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Change in Ordinance regarding Parks relationship with the Cemetery responsibilities – Trustee Weatherston explained that the entire ordinance was rewritten releasing the Parks of any responsibility for the Cemetery. The ordinance is scheduled to be approved by the Village board at their next meeting.

5) Request from Tom Christensen and Tom Lazcano to inform them of any potential newspaper articles before they are printed so they can prepare for public comments – The Commission agreed to this request.

6) Request to allocate funds to have a surveyor locate property markers in the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge and to install permanent markers showing the boundaries. (Cost of markers and survey to be

determined) – Tom Lazcano explained that we needed to survey the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. The cost would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 depending on the amount of water and if we provided a legal description. Sue Schuit informed the Commission that the land had previously been surveyed for approximately \$800. **Trustee Weatherston made a motion to table this item to gather further information. Seconded by Vice-President Bednar. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Nicholson Wildlife Refuge – Update on leased land to Swans Farm (provided by Kathy Kaspers). Discussion -Ref State Statute 27.11(8)© - President Flynn interpreted the State Statute to read that the funds should go into the Parks but was told by the Village that the money has always gone into the General Fund. He feels that the \$2,000 could go to good use in the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. Trustee Weatherston said that he would investigate this matter.

8) Playground Equipment Installation Updates – Supervisor Solberg informed the Commission that the Maple Park equipment was installed in August/September. He also stated that Lower Gorney Park needs to be flattened out and two retaining walls placed before the equipment can be installed in the spring.

9) Discussion to seed 8 acres of property at Crawford Park as originally proposed earlier in the year or to allow the land to be farmed. – Trustee Weatherston stated that the farmer that was farming the property sold it to a new farmer. The new farmer is currently reviewing contracts on all leased lands with the Village. Trustee Weatherston noted that we do receive income from farming and expressed concern regarding the timing and the need for long range planning.

Supervisor Solberg chimed in regarding the need for parking regarding rentals and tournaments.

**Vice-President Bednar made a motion to seed 4 of the 8 acres, and to lease the remaining 4 acres to the farmer. The farmed acres are to be included with the other 9 acres for planning purposes. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

10) Request from Supervisor Solberg to purchase two banners from 5Kevents.org at a cost option of 3x6: \$36.00 each or 4x8: \$64.00 each (open to outside estimates) – Supervisor Solberg would like two banners for advertising. He received 3 quotes with 5K Events being the cheapest quote. (President Flynn recused himself)

**Vice-President Bednar made a motion to approve \$128.00 to purchase 2 4x8 banners for park advertisement from 5K Events. Seconded by Trustee Weatherston. Motion carried unanimously.

11) Request to allocate funds for decorated apparel (Caledonia Parks) for Staff and Commission Members to identify Park and Rec Staff. Estimated cost: Cost of apparel item plus imprint (screen print \$3.00 each, embroidery logo \$10.00 each) based on pricing from 5Kevents estimate (open to outside estimates) – Next year Supervisor Solberg will be given a clothing allowance from the Village. After a brief discussion, President Flynn offered to donate shirts through 5K Events to Supervisor Solberg and to provide a catalogue.

12) Reports

* Staff – n/a

* Supervisor – Supervisor Solberg showed the Commission the new advertisement poster.

* Commission Members – Commissioner Lambrecht asked about a grass-filled sandbox at Linwood Park. Supervisor Solberg stated that the play area at Linwood Park is scheduled to be re-done.

Sue Schuit asked the Commission if garbage cans could be placed along the bike trail? It was noted that the bike trail belongs the County.

*Updated Commission Members contact information and copies of the ordinance and State Statute as it relates to Commission Members.

13) Budget Report – The computer software is changing over. President Flynn would like to see carry-overs from years prior reflected in the budget as well as the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge money and the numbers for the sports. He would also like to see the updated Balance Sheets.

14) Communications and Announcements – none

15) Adjournment – **Trustee Weatherston made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Lambrecht. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By: Kathy Burton