

February 18, 2020 Park Commission Minutes

Present: Patrick Flynn (President), Earl Bednar (Vice-President), Kathy Burton (Secretary), Kevin Wanggaard (Trustee Liaison filling in for Tom Weatherston), Mike Lambrecht (Commissioner), Sara Kierzek (Commissioner) and Jim Arehart (Commissioner).

Also present: Randall Solberg (Supervisor), Tom Lazcano (Caledonia Public Works Director), Kathy Kasper (Caledonia Finance Director), Eric Lawrence (Caledonia Baseball League), Ron Coutts (Public), and Mr. and Mrs. Schuit (Public)

1) Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:37 P.M.

2) Public Comments – Ron Coutts introduced himself and mentioned his time as a former Village President and his service to the parks.

3) Approval of Minutes –**Vice-President Bednar made a motion to approve the January 14, 2020 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Arehart. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Guest – Eric Lawrence – Introduction of the new President for the Caledonia Youth softball/baseball organization – Eric Lawrence introduced himself and explained that there is a new Board trying to revive the league. He also added that he is the President of the Racine Youth Sports which encompasses Sturtevant, Caledonia, Yorkville, Union Grove and oversees all the tournaments.

Supervisor Solberg added that Mr. Lawrence has helped with maintaining our baseball fields.

5) Kathy Kasper – Finance Director – (Will go over Q & A as it relates to our new financial reports) – Ms. Kasper went over the new balance sheet and explained some of the accounts. She also touched on what things impact fees can be used for and the timelines to use them.

President Flynn asked for an updated inventory of the Parks and what parks qualify for impact fees.

Sue Schuit thanked Ms. Kasper for her work on the balance sheet and for answering her questions she submitted.

6) Tom L.: Update on costs to create launch sites at County Line Road and Linwood Park – Tom Lazcano explained that Vassh and GNF will be following up with quotes.

There was discussion regarding grants. President Flynn asked about the process of submitting a grant request to the Village Board. Trustee Wanggaard explained how the process works.

7) Tom Weatherston – Update on Leased land at Nicholson Wildlife Preserve as recorded at Dec. Park and Rec meeting. – (Tom Weatherston not present) Kathy Kasper did inform the Commission that the farmer working the land is currently operating without a lease (as it has expired) and advised updating it.

8) Request approval to submit Grant Requests to DNR and others for the creation of the Caledonia Water Trail (Kayak/Canoe Launches) – There was discussion regarding grant submissions and the process to do so. Trustee Wanggaard stressed the importance of creating a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan so that the Village Board can budget for them accordingly. Secretary Burton asked if there was a formal procedure to submit the Improvement Plan to the Village as there have been 5- and 10-year plans created during the Park Plan processes? Trustee Wanggaard stated that it was a simple list and

offered that Tom Lazcano could help the Commission put it together. It was noted that the Commission does have to vote to request a grant.

9) Randall S.: Review by park for capital improvement projects or new park development projects (impact fees) and forward to the board for any community awareness/comments. –

Supervisor Solberg stated that an ADA Compliant pathway, a patio for two picnic tables, a possible shelter, and potentially a ½ basketball court are the plans for Maple Park.

The shingles need to be replaced on the shelter at Linwood Park. The donated Olympia Brown playground equipment is to be installed. We are looking at putting an additional swing set and possibly a ½ basketball court there also.

The pier at Gorney Park needs to be repaired. A retaining wall needs to be built and the playground equipment will be installed at the lower shelter area.

The shingles need to be replaced on the shelter at Crawford Park. We would like to add cement board to the exterior walls to match the concession stand and other buildings. We would like to build two full size basketball courts east of the tennis courts. We would also like to add three pickleball courts to the current basketball area. There is a need for additional fencing, painting courts, and seeding the four acres in the spring.

All parks could use additional trees.

10) Reports/Updates:

Staff – n/a

Supervisor – Supervisor Solberg mentioned the need for trees in the Parks and felt that Earth Day 2020 (50-year anniversary) would be a great time to plant trees and asked the Commission to plan for it.

Supervisor Solberg received three quotes to fertilize the ball diamonds: Weed Man \$567.60 per application, Perfecturf Lawn Care \$423.00 per application, and Nature Scape \$220.00 per application.

**Commissioner Arehart made a motion to select Nature Scape to fertilize the ball diamonds. Seconded by Vice-President Bednar. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Members – n/a

11) Budget Report – n/a

12) Communications and Announcements – Trustee Wanggaard explained that the Village is growing and changing. A result of those changes is the restructuring of operations. He then announced that the Village is looking to dissolve the Park Commission and to restructure it into a Committee consisting of 2 Village Board Members and 3 citizens (vs the current 6 citizens and one Village Board Member); and explained the process. He then welcomed all current Commission Members to reapply.

There was a discussion, at times heated, regarding the news.

Sue Schuit expressed disappointment about the decision to reduce the amount of citizen involvement and asked for more transparency.

Trustee Wanggaard assured the Commission that the decision to restructure it had nothing to do with the embezzlement scandal at Joint Park but simply a restructuring of operations. He stated that the Utility District and Drainage Commission had already been restructured and combined into one. He then encouraged Commission Members to express their concerns to the Village Board.

13) Adjournment – **Vice-President Bednar made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Kierzek. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By: Kathy Burton