

**Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting
September 11, 2023**

Committee: Trustee/Chairperson Holly McManus, Trustee Anthony Hammes

Resident Members: Christian De Jong, Carl Garnetzke, Mike Lambrecht, Tom Divorany.
Eugene Pagel

Staff/Others: Ryan Schmidt, Pete Wagner, Kathy Kasper, Tom Weatherston, Dale Stillman, Fran Martin, Nancy Pierce

1. Call the meeting to order

5:30pm meeting called to order by Chairperson Holly McManus.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 10, 2023 Meeting.

- Motion made by Mike Lambrecht to amend the minutes to correct Mike's last name
- Anthony Hammes Motioned to approve the minutes with the proposed amendment.
2nd by Christian De Jong. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

3. Public comment

Fran Martin – stated that eastern part of Gorney Park should be considered for use for horse riding since the portion of the park has not been used for anything. Commented that there would need to be connectivity added to get to the park and that she is unaware of anything that occurs in the area at the moment.

Robert Grove – 8024 Nicholson Road – stated that power line easements only pertain to the towers and other utilities. Mentioned that horses rarely go east due to the Railroad tracks.

Judy Grove – 8024 Nicholson Road – stated that horses would not work at Gorney since they cannot connect to existing trails due to the RR tracks and that the Village has been looking for something to do at this south end of Gorney for a long time. Suggested planting trees and making a walking path for pedestrians. The park is used for walking and people bring dogs but unfortunately do not pick up after them. Also mentioned people lighting fireworks in the park.

Christian De Jong – stated Crawford Park Master Plan should be changed to alter access to the park from Sunshine Lane to Heidi Drive.

4. Discussion on Allowance of Horses at Gorney Park

Discussion ensued regarding the value of allowing horses at Gorney Park and if it's a good use of the open space in the park. Commissioners discussed whether planting trees or creating a prairie would be more valuable than creating a destination point or developing amenities. Further discussion ensued about whether there is safe connectivity between horse trails and Gorney Park. No motions were made.

5. Discussion on Title 12 specific to 12-1-1(b)

No further discussion ensued because of item 4. Horses should not be added to the chapter for allowing horses at Gorney Park.

6. Crawford Park Master Grading Plan – Review and Approve

Staff updated the Committee with the Final Draft of the plan for approval. Staff recommends approval of the plan pending minor revisions by the Director and Village Engineer. Committee Member Divorany expressed concern about the park access to Sunshine Lane and that the plan be amended to redirect access to Heidi Drive. The Committee asked questions of the Consulting Engineering who drafted the plan regarding the access to the park and the flexibility of grading and storm water management if access was modified. The Consultant with Clark Dietz stated that there was room and contingency for slight tweaks to the plan from a storm water management perspective and that access could be changed if the committee decided. Plans would have to be changed accordingly. Schmidt further added that this plan would need to include the exterior trail as an amenity for the first phasing of Crawford to go forward and bring in the public to the expanded park.

Motion made to recommend approval of the plan as written in the Village Engineer Memo dated September 7, 2023.

Second by Mike Lambrecht. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

7. St. Catherines High School – Crawford Park Use Agreement – Review and Approve

Staff summarized the agreement and stated that the Village can accommodate the High School FastPitch Softball season and boys High School Baseball practice. Staff described the fee changes because of the higher demand on field preparation.

Motion made by Christian De Jong to recommend approval of the Park Use Agreement pending legal counsel review.

Second by Mike Lambrecht. All in favor. Motioned carried unanimously.

8. Park and Open Space Plan – Discussion on Future Park Focus

Committee discussed the remaining parks on the POSP plan to review in greater detail. It was discussed what future goals and objectives of other Village Parks should be. Maple Park and Gorney Park was agreed to be reviewed further by October's meeting. Maple Park general discussion ensued about the shelter's completion and installation of sidewalks and how a swing set expansion will happen soon. Staff presented a future amendment to the POSP that will be looked at in 2024. Discussion ensued about Crawford Park's future access to Sunshine Lane and that the residents should come to the Village Board on September 26 to express their opinions on the Grading Plan approval and if it should go back to Park Committee for further review.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Anthoney Hammes. Second by Christian De Jong - 6:23 pm. All Aye. Motion carried unanimously.