

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE
VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON WHICH WAS HELD
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014 AT 111 OLD BARRINGTON ROAD,
NORTH BARRINGTON, IL**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

At 7:35 P.M Chairman Jane Farrell called the meeting to order.

Present in Person:	Mary McClure, Lisa Onyx and Michelle Youkhana
Absent:	Chris Nolan
Also Present:	Jackie Andrew, Trustee Liaison (arriving at 7:50 p.m.) Nancy Schumm, Schumm Consulting LLC Kelley Robinson, 297 Glen Circle K. Ritschel, 284 Oxford Road Linda Aylward, 226 Beachview Lane Marilyn McAlester, 284 Biltmore Drive Gene McAlester, 284 Biltmore Drive

2. Nancy Schumm, Schumm Consulting LLC

Ms. McClure inquired of Ms. Schumm her role and/or position with the Village. Ms. Schumm stated that she is a hired consultant to the Village and that she works on environmental projects and obtaining grants. She said the Village Board ("Board") hired her to check viable options for a path system throughout the Village due to the removal of Oxford Road in order to give residents access to the park. Ms. Schumm explained that engineers were hired by the Board to create a concept plan for possible pathways that might complement the Oxford Road removal. She said if the Village wasn't interested in the concept plan that it would not be pursued any further. She then explained the concept plan and that President Pino requested that Ms. Schumm apply for funding to explore connecting all the parks and forest preserve districts in and around the Village's parameter through a trail way system for bikes and/or pedestrians.

Trustee Andrew inquired of Ms. Schumm if there were any grants being applied for regarding the possible paths and if the maintenance of the paths has been addressed. Ms. Schumm stated the Village is applying for a grant to develop a pathway plan, which if awarded, would be in the amount of \$5,000 and the Village would match \$5,000 and that the maintenance issue would be at a later stage in the process.

Ms. McClure expressed concern that the Parks and Recreation Commission ("PRC") was unaware that the Board had begun this initiative and Trustee Andrew stated she felt that, if wanted, the initiative should have begun with the PRC. Ms. McClure asked if this project would go forward whether the PRC approved or not. Ms. Schumm said that it would not and that, at this point, the possible paths are mowed.

Ms. Ritschel stated residents in her neighborhood were under the distinct impression that Oxford Road would be turned into a walking/running/biking path. Residents then slowly became aware that wasn't a viable option and that the culverts were going to be removed and that residents would be unable to walk down Oxford Road anymore. She stated that she does not want a path to Eton Park and that she does not believe her neighbors do either.

Trustee Andrew stated that the Board said it would address the issue of proposed paths in the spring and suggested to the present residents that they attend the next Board meeting and voice that they do not want a path in that location. Ms. Onyx said she has yet to hear from a resident who wants a path.

Mrs. McAlester stated she agrees with Ms. McClure, Ms. Ritschel, Trustee Andrew and Ms. Onyx and said she's like to see that area restored to a nature/wildlife area as it is part of the character of the Village. She also expressed her concern that paths would open the community to non-residents for misuse and adds insecurity to the residents with property near the proposed paths. Mrs. McAlester said that the area near their barn is owned by ComEd and that it is neither a driveway nor a path. She stated that Eton Park has had so much misuse that the neighborhood has started an information phone tree to alert neighbors of such misuse. Chairman Farrell mentioned that when residents informed her of misuse at Eton Park she contacted the police and learned that the police were unable to corroborate any of the allegations of misuse.

Ms. Aylward stated she would like to see the areas mentioned put to use by our Village as paths, parks or wildlife. Chairman Farrell agrees that the Village should be proactive and work with the residents to designate our uses of land.

Ms. Schumm said that she would like to see the clearing and restoring of the southern portion of Eton Park a priority. She stated that doing so would enable that area to be used as an ice skating rink within a couple of years and provide additional water storage during flooding.

3. Ice Rink Removal & Discussion for Next Year

Discussion amongst members was had regarding the ice rink at Eton Park. It was agreed by all that the ice rink causes maintenance and storage issues and that it was too expensive and labor-intensive for the short period of time that it was used and did not recommend having it next year. Mrs. Gingrich will check into the cost of removing the ice rink. Chairman Farrell suggested the commission find a way to sell or auction the ice rink to recoup some of the money spent and return it to the Village. All members agreed.

4. Park Spring Clean Up & Preparation

Chairman Farrell said that it will soon be time to ready the park for inspection by preparing the grass, measuring and topping off mulch and having playground equipment inspected for safety. She asked if anyone had any additional anticipated expenses for the upcoming year. Ms. Onyx stated she anticipates that, due to all the snow this year, the other paths throughout the Village will most likely need mulch as well.

Chairman Farrell stated that the Village Administrator had requested PRC's 2014 budget by this Saturday. She said that last year's budget was \$40,000 and that although there were extra expenses last year, including railroad tie replacement, that the PRC spent approximately \$27,000 of that budget.

Chairman Farrell suggested that the PRC budget for this year be lowered to \$30,000. All members were in agreement.

Discussion was had on ways to use other areas of the Village for PRC events with the intent to include more residents.

Members discussed and agreed that the recommendations to the Board would be: a) the PRC does not support further exploration of a path behind Eton Park; b) support for the planned restoration of the area & Oxford Road; c) exploring restoration of the south portion of Eton Park; d) support further exploration of pathway plans in areas like Haverton that would protect our Village's natural areas and protect from future development; e) support for exploration to see if Leonard Park could be improved in a way for more residents to enjoy and f) support the exploration of other parks developed outside of Biltmore & Oaksbury.

5. Summer Concerts

Mr. Nolan was to report on his research regarding summer concerts. Chairman Farrell stated that since Mr. Nolan was not in attendance this evening that this topic be deferred to the next meeting.

6. Fall Festival

Discussion was had regarding various concession, face painting, pumpkin painting, temporary tattoos and volunteer options. Ms. Onyx stated that the tents for the Fall Festival and the Winter Festival have already been rented. She said that the Fall Festival takes place on the first Sunday in October, which is October 5, 2014.

7. New Business/Old Business

Chairman Farrell stated the PRC does not currently have a Vice Chairman and also has two vacant positions. She asked that all members check with residents for any interest in being on the PRC. She also asked if any members were interested in the Vice Chairman position at this time. No one was interested.

The Minutes from the January 6, 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting were made available to the Commission.

Motion: Ms. Youkhana moved to approve the Minutes from the January 6, 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting; seconded by Ms. Onyx.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on the Motion: The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

Chairman Farrell declared the Minutes of the January 6, 2014 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting approved and put on file.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Youkhana made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Onyx.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on Motion: The voice vote was unanimous in favor.

At 8:37 p.m. Ms. Farrell declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting held April 7, 2014.

ATTEST:

Karlin D. Gingrich