

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE
VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON, WHICH WAS HELD
MAY 5, 2014 AT
THE NORTH BARRINGTON VILLAGE HALL LOCATED AT
111 OLD BARRINGTON ROAD IN SAID VILLAGE**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

At 7:33 p.m. Chairman Jane Farrell called the meeting to order and Karlin D. Gingrich called the roll:

Present in Person: Lisa Onyx, Chris Nolan (arriving at 7:42 p.m.), Michelle Youkhana and Mary McClure
Absent: None
Also Present: Jackie Andrew, Trustee Liaison
William Menke, 462 E. Oxford Road
Village President Albert R. Pino
Karlin D. Gingrich, Deputy Village Clerk

2. Approval of Minutes from the April 7, 2014 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting

The Minutes of the April 7, 2014 Parks & Recreation Commission (“PRC”) meeting were made available to the commission members.

Motion: Ms. Youkhana moved to approve the Minutes of the April 7, 2014 PRC Commission meeting; seconded by Ms. McClure.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote on Motion: The voice vote was unanimous in favor (Mr. Nolan was absent for the vote).

Chairman Farrell declared the Minutes of the April 7, 2014 PRC meeting approved and put on file.

3. Public Comment

President Pino stated he may have some comments at the end of the meeting.

4. Park Maintenance: Updates & Discussion

Chairman Farrell mentioned that Eton Park has been cleaned, the soccer lines have been added to the field and that fertilizer has been put down.

There was discussion regarding the current condition of the picnic tables and benches at the park. Chairman Farrell stated that the Village Board had increased the PRC 2014-2015 fiscal year budget to \$50,000 and that there would be money available this year for replacement if needed. It was agreed that their condition is sufficient for use this year and replacement with composite versions will take place in the future. Ms. Youkhana volunteered to research types and pricing of picnic tables and benches and present the findings to the PRC.

Chairman Farrell said that the soccer nets should be checked to make sure that they have the necessary stakes. Mr. Nolan stated he would go to the park and check.

Chairman Farrell stated the annual park inspection should be happening soon.

5. Walking Paths

Discussion was had regarding the amount of mulch on various walking paths and it was agreed that they currently have sufficient mulch.

6. Summer Concerts

Mr. Nolan stated that Better With Bacon is available to play June 7, 2014. He said he was still awaiting confirmation from Eleventh Hour for August 2 or August 23, 2014.

7. Fall Festival

Ms. McClure stated that the food contract has not been executed. There was discussion among members regarding food vendors, pricing and availability. Chairman Farrell volunteered to contact Bella Luke's to see if they are available and interested in being at this year's Fall Festival as Kooker's is also interested in doing the event.

Ms. McClure stated that she informed Chairman Farrell that she would not lead the coordination of the Fall Festival due to a lack of knowledge and that Chairman Farrell and Ms. Onyx have agreed to spearhead the event.

Motion: Ms. McClure moved to approve the expenses for contracts with Patch 22, Kraig Kenning and the magician at the same price as last year for the same amount of time; seconded by Ms. Youkhana.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

Chairman Farrell stated that she would like to distribute the workload of preparing for the Fall Festival more evenly amongst the PRC. She asked that members choose a category of their interest to manage and let the PRC know at the next meeting.

8. Old Business/New Business

Trustee Andrew stated that the Plan Commission is updating the Comprehensive Plan and that the Village Board has requested language and/or changes to Chapter 5 "Recreation and Parks" from the PRC. Chairman Farrell said that language was submitted to a Plan Commissioner member months ago. After review of the version that Trustee Andrew had brought to the meeting, it does not appear the submitted changes were yet included.

Trustee Andrew said that the south portion of Eton Park had recently been cleared and that no one on the Village Board could tell her who did it, where the bill was or who approved it. She mentioned that the Board is supposed to inform her of her requested information at their next meeting. Chairman Farrell said that she knows where the bill went and it came out of the PRC's budget. Trustee Andrew stated that she didn't sign for a bill of the clearing of Eton Park, nor has she seen one. Chairman Farrell mentioned she has not seen a bill either and that \$4,000 was taken from the PRC budget to pay

for it. There was discussion amongst members recalling the last meeting Ms. Schumm attended where she suggested the clearing of south Eton Park as something the PRC could consider as a project and the PRC stated that they would consider it. The PRC learned less than a week later that the clearing had already taken place. Chairman Farrell stated that she did send an email with a recap of that meeting which mentioned interest in exploring the possibility of clearing Eton Park. Trustee Andrew stated that residents near Eton Park were not notified of the clearing prior to it happening.

Trustee Andrew asked why Grassy Lake is inaccessible. Chairman Farrell asked if President Pino could speak to the inaccessibility of Grassy Lake. President Pino stated he believes the reason the Forest Commission hasn't opened up Grassy Lake is because it is a health hazard as it is a drain for the entire area and it seems to end up with the worst collection of water, and also it would cost the County money to maintain it. President Pino said that we would have to ask the Lake County Forest Commission to make Grassy Lake accessible since our Village does not own it. He said they have two board members that will listen to us and if the PRC wanted to use Grassy Lake, and it was safe, then we would try to open it up through those two board members.

Chairman Farrell inquired as to why Lake County is building a round-about on Roberts Road. President Pino explained that the Federal Government made this money available for shovel-ready projects; that this was on the shelf for a long time and they thought they could move traffic better than with a traffic light. He noted that Lake Barrington did not contribute to the project, the Federal Government funded this project and Lake County organized it, just like Miller Road.

Trustee Andrew inquired of President Pino what construction work was currently being done on Miller Road. President Pino explained that they are trying to get the bumps out of it; because the project was done late in the year and there were issues of drainage. He added that the removal of Oxford Road was to provide drainage for this and now they're doing the mechanical work to get it smooth.

Chairman Farrell inquired if the Village has ever looked into partnering with our neighboring communities to acquire land for parks. President Pino said that we hadn't but it would be a good, valid idea to do so. He said that Lake Barrington is our sister community; that we could also involve Tower Lakes, as Tower Lakes has no parks.

Chairman Farrell mentioned that she had heard that Tower Lakes recently purchased the old school house on Route 59 and they hoped to turn it into a community center but didn't have the finances right now. She stated that if the neighboring communities would work together that maybe they could get the funding. Chairman Farrell said that one PRC interest would be to explore the idea of building a crossover walking/bike bridge at Illinois Route 59 and another between the school and Biltmore.

The PRC discussed ideas that they are researching, including a gazebo, a permanent pavilion at Eton Park and working with our neighboring communities to acquire land for parks.

Chairman Farrell asked President Pino his thoughts regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement pertaining to the property on Rand and Old McHenry Roads and having ball fields there. President Pino said that the Village of Hawthorn Woods is very sensitive about the property because it's a great revenue stream for them and for the Village if it's ever built. He explained that there is no developer willing to step forward and take a risk so right now there is no project being planned – they are shopping the property to various developers.

Ms. Youkhana asked about the 38 acres that backs up to Lafferty Park off of Route 12 and Route 22. President Pino explained that it could be possible because it's in the Village's jurisdictional planning area. Chairman Farrell stated that she believes the asking price for the property is too high. President Pino said that the Conservation District acquired, 40 acres for \$500. Ms. Youkhana stated her friend knows someone on the Conservation District and that they think the property could be acquired on a grant but that they can't hold it – they would have to give it to North Barrington. President Pino said that they need us and they wanted the Village to give them \$93,000, but we are not interested in paying for a property they acquired for \$500, or interested in funding it.

President Pino explained that he was in attendance to give appreciation to the Parks & Rec committee; that he knows it is hard work and detail-orientated, and not everybody could do it. He asked the commission what their vision was for the Village's parks; that the Board would like to see them to be more accessible. He said, for instance, we like bike paths; we would like more leagues playing there; we would like soccer fields, and more community involvement. And we have the impression, that maybe the Parks Commission doesn't have the same vision and we'd like to know because we want to work with you. He said there are a lot of little parks around Chicago that are about the size of our park and they have parking all around it and they have baseball games, and community events with 300-400 people. He said that we like paths leading to the park if they're nice and maintained and easy to maintain. And we'd like to put a bridge over Oxford culvert. The reason it was opened up that way, he said, was to provide drainage for the Miller Road project; the County paid us \$150,000 to provide drainage for Miller Road so we opened up the two culverts and the water flows a lot better now. We would like to make it easier for residents to be able to get to the park on foot or bicycle rather than drive their car down there and park in front as there are only 10 spots there.

Trustee Andrew mentioned that the park is surrounded by a swamp. Ms. Onyx stated that the commission does not want to offend the residents in the area with 400 cars around the park. Ms. McClure stated she believes there is a difference in having an access area that is open, such as a bike path on the side of the road as opposed to a path through woods, of which the neighboring residents are opposed. She said the residents have been vocal about not wanting paths and that she feels their opinion should be respected.

Ms. Youkhana stated that Lafferty Park is too wet to be used very often. She inquired if there was someone we could work within Cuba Township or Lake County to acquire a part of the 38 acres behind Oaksbury to make it a usable park.

Chairman Farrell stated she'd like to see intergovernmental agreements to acquire property that can be used as a park in more subdivisions. She also said that she'd like to see bike bridges that can link neighborhoods together.

Mr. Menke mentioned the City of Chicago has bike paths that link Lincoln Park to Lake Shore Drive with bike paths, bridges and tunnels and that they are used regularly. Mr. Menke suggested that something similar may work underneath Miller Road. President Pino said that the Village has a plan for a bike recreational area around Route 22 and Old Barrington Road. We just did something with Lake County, State of Illinois IDOT where they're going to put a traffic light there and they're going to allow us access to a bike path down 22 and across at the light down Old Barrington Road and we're trying to put in more bike paths. Mr. Menke suggested tunnels from Oaksbury or Biltmore to the school so one wouldn't have to cross a busy major intersection. President Pino said that if we had discussed this a year ago he would have been able to make that a part of the Miller Road Project. Chairman Farrell stated that she has mentioned the idea for a couple of years.

Ms. McClure said that she feels that there's some frustration amongst the commission. She referenced the previous conversation regarding the clearing of south Eton Park and stated she feels there is a disjointed effort between the PRC and the Board. She said that the PRC budget is not used frivolously and that each money item is seriously considered and then to see a bill submitted and paid for thousands of dollars for something that was unplanned and not asked for by the PRC was frustrating. President Pino said that it shouldn't come out of the PRC's budget, it should come out of the Flint Creek budget. Chairman Farrell said she thinks the Village needs to inform the community more of their intentions. Trustee Andrew said she suggested to the Board at the last meeting that residents should be able to sign up and have the agendas for each meeting sent to them via email. President Pino said that it would be good if we had an interactive website and people could print up their own agendas. Chairman Farrell suggested paying someone not currently employed with the Village to do its PR. Trustee Andrew suggested the Deputy Village Clerks maintain an email list and send out agendas. Chairman Farrell suggested hiring someone part-time for PR, especially if the Board would like to expand access to the park. She said she feels without clear communication to the residents that the Board's actions may be misinterpreted.

Ms. Onyx said that the shelter was the top priority when the PRC was discussing future goals. There was further discussion about the clearing of South Eton Park, drainage and Ms. Schumm's projects. Ms. Onyx said that it was the way in which Ms. Schumm approached the subject at the PRC meeting that she attended. At that meeting, Ms. Schumm stated that one idea for the PRC to consider may be to clear out Eton Park. The PRC learned less than a week later that it had been cleared out without any communication to the PRC or the neighboring residents. Mr. Nolan stated that clearing out the buckthorn in that area does not make the park any more accessible to the residents, it's like a make-work project.

Ms. Onyx asked President Pino if Ms. Schumm has the authority to initiate projects on her own and/or has permission to allocate funds for projects. President Pino stated no.

Ms. Youkhana asked President Pino to explain the procedure for grants. President Pino explained that we have to apply for a grant based on our idea, if it's compatible, and then the grant money comes. Then we have to follow the terms of the grant until it closes. Ms. Youkhana asked if the Village fronts money in hopes of getting a grant. President Pino explained that some of the parts of the grant, our share, will be paid for by time invested and work time. Ms. Onyx stated that the Village needs to consider ongoing maintenance costs when considering applying for grants, such as building a path behind Eton Park where it's very wet and how much it would cost to mulch that every year and how much of that would wash away. Ms. Onyx stated that residents from Oxford Road were at the PRC meeting that discussed adding walking paths and they all stated that they did not want walking paths at Eton Park.

There was further discussion about bridges over Flint Creek on the removed portion of Oxford Road. Ms. Onyx stated that the area would need two bridges because there are two streams there now. President Pino stated that the smaller bridge would be something the Cub Scouts could do but the big one would have to be dropped in.

Chairman Farrell said she would prepare a list of the PRC's projects and goals by the next Board meeting. Ms. McClure stated that if the Board has any ideas that they are determined that they want it would be helpful if the Board provided a list to the PRC of such items. Mr. Menke asked President Pino if the accessibility idea included sidewalks. President Pino said that there would be no sidewalks,

but bike paths. We'd like to get people riding bikes out here – around the park and in the park. Mr. Menke inquired if there were plans for bike paths on the roads. President Pino said that it would probably be a shoulder, 12 foot shoulders where they can ride a bike two abreast.

Chairman Farrell said she would provide a memo to the Board about the Commission's vision for the Village's parks. She also mentioned that Trustee Pais had previously asked her for the same information at a recent Board meeting and they had tentatively scheduled for the PRC to address the Board regarding these goals in November. Chairman Farrell stated that there is a communication problem because the PRC has already presented goals to the Board and to a member of the Plan Commission for suggested changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Farrell told President Pino she appreciated his attendance at tonight's meeting.

9. Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Youkhana moved the Meeting be adjourned; seconded by Ms. Onyx.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

At 8:50 p.m. Chairman Farrell declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the PRC meeting held June 2, 2014.

ATTEST: _____

Karlin D. Gingrich

Deputy Village Clerk

Village of North Barrington