

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF  
THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BARRINGTON, WHICH WAS HELD  
AUGUST 14, 2014 AT  
THE NORTH BARRINGTON VILLAGE HALL LOCATED AT  
111 OLD BARRINGTON ROAD IN SAID VILLAGE**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

At 7:35 p.m. Chairman Jane Farrell called the meeting to order and Karlin D. Gingrich called the roll:

Present in Person:	Jane Farrell, Chairman Lisa Onyx Mary McClure Chris Nolan Michelle Youkhana (arrived at 7:48 p.m.)
Absent:	William Menke
Also Present:	Darcy Herrmann, 257 Kimberly Road Karlin D. Gingrich, Deputy Village Clerk

**2. Approval of Minutes from the June 2, 2014 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting**

The Minutes of the June 2, 2014 Parks & Recreation Commission (“PRC”) meeting were made available to the commission members.

Motion: Mr. Nolan moved to approve the Minutes of the June 2, 2014 PRC Commission meeting; seconded by Ms. Onyx.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote by Roll Call:

Ayes:	Chairman Farrell, Ms. Onyx, Ms. McClure and Mr. Nolan
Nays:	None
Absent:	Ms. Youkhana and Mr. Menke
Abstain:	None

Chairman Farrell declared the Minutes of the June 2, 2014 PRC meeting approved and put on file.

**3. Public Comment**

Mrs. Herrmann wished to speak regarding a path that a resident is proposing that would run behind her and her neighbor’s properties. Ms. Onyx informed Mrs. Herrmann that the PRC has not yet been presented with the proposal and that the proposal from the resident is on the agenda for the next PRC meeting. The commission stated that they would like to hear her concerns. Mrs. Herrmann stated that she believes the proposed path would be costly for the Village, that the topography of the land is such that it would be difficult to install and maintain since there is a natural waterway for rain water that runs from Mockingbird Lane down to the creek, that the bridge across the creek would need to be approved by the Army Corp of Engineers, that bridges upstream of her property washed out in storms and caused damage to her property, that there are liability issues for the Village regarding children

crossing the creek using a bridge, that there is a steep hill from the proposed bridge going toward Kimberly Road and that few residents would be serviced by the path and bridge.

Mrs. Herrmann also stated that the plan would have the bridge built on private property and that the owner has agreed to use of his property only if he is able to rescind his permission at any time. She stated there are ethical issues for the Village to build on private property.

Ms. Schumm explained that at the point of the creek where the bridge is proposed there is an oxbow and that it would be a difficult and complicated to build a bridge there.

Mrs. Herrmann reiterated that she feels a low number of residents would use and benefit from the proposed path and bridge and that the cost of maintenance and possible liability are high. She said she thinks the path leads towards her property and that people may then trespass on their property and raise her own liability.

Trustee Andrew suggested that Mrs. Herrmann and any interested residents attend the next Board meeting and the PRC meeting when the proposed path is on its agenda

Ms. Onyx stated that the residents on Essex Lane probably enjoy the privacy they currently have and would be opposed to people intruding on that. Ms. McClure said it would be interesting to see how many residents would want a path running behind their homes.

Chairman Farrell said that the Village plans to notify the nearby residents of the proposed path before the September PRC meeting.

There was some discussion about the notification process of the public hearing about the proposed path at the next PRC meeting.

Trustee Andrew said that the Board had instructed the resident making the path proposal to present it to the PRC for approval before the Board would consider it.

#### **4. Nancy Schumm, Schumm Consulting LLC**

##### **a. Eton Park Updates**

Ms. Schumm provided the PRC with a soil map of Eton Park which identifies the soils. She said, per the map, Eton Park is not a wetland but that it does have hydric soils. She explained that it does not prohibit the PRC from building a small structure, such as a band shelter, but the PRC and the builder would want to be mindful that the area has hydric soils.

Ms. Schumm stated that she researched some grants to see if there was one available for a band shelter and said she has not found one to date. She mentioned her research found grants that would apply for construction of a formal ball field or a recreation center under the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant but would not apply to a band shelter in mostly open space. She said she would continue researching grants.

Ms. Schumm said some interns from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources worked for a day in south Eton Park helping to manage natural resources. She stated that she addressed the Environmental & Health Commission (“E&H”) with a proposed contract from Integrated Lakes Management (“ILM”) to continue maintenance in south Eton Park for next year and to ask E&H to make a recommendation to the board to approve the contract. She said she inform them that ILM would manage the invasive species in south Eton Park through 2015 and the cost would come out of the Flint Creek Watershed budget. Ms. Schumm informed the PRC that E&H felt signage near the areas being restored would be informative for the residents. The PRC agrees that the signage would be a good idea and supports E&H in doing so. Ms. Schumm said that there are grants available for signage.

Trustee Andrew ask Ms. Schumm why the maintenance project continues after the clearing was completed. Ms. Schumm explained that south Eton Park is a part of the Flint Creek Watershed and that it is an area that collects a lot of storm water from upstream and off of Biltmore Drive. She said maintenance provides the potential to reduce flooding.

Ms. Schumm stated she had been reading through the works of Julian Steyermark, curator for the Natural History Museum in Chicago for many years. She said in 1945 he started the Natural History Society in the Barrington area and this was an area he documented very carefully. She also said in Steyermark Woods there is a tiny parcel that Citizens for Conservation owns and it is a really important conservation area for wildlife habitat, wetland protection and for some endangered species. She stated that the area used to have a very diverse ecosystem and it has been degraded and that the Village has a responsibility to maintain it in its best form. She feels these types of restoration efforts contribute to and support a natural environment that is a diverse and healthy ecosystem. Ms. Schumm said living in an ecosystem that is groundwater-dependent, she feels it is critically important to divert storm water and maintain it so the water is clean by the time it gets to resident’s wells. She stated the goal is to improve the habitat to all native species and for it to be a sustainable, natural resource that would attract good wildlife, such as dragonflies that would eat mosquitos. She said a balanced ecosystem is diverse, it supports a hundred species of wildlife and the need for maintenance would decrease over time.

#### **b. Pathways**

Ms. Schumm provided a large map of the Village that shows existing paths in and around the Village and she suggested the PRC use the map to consider possible places for a pathway or trail system throughout the community. There was some discussion about the map.

Ms. Youkhana stated her neighbors would really enjoy paths in Lafferty Park but they do not think it is possible because the land is swampy. Ms. Schumm said that it is not impossible to put a path there. She said that no restoration work has been done in Lafferty Park and that there are different types of paths that could possibly work.

Ms. Youkhana stated that the nearby residents are concerned about the water in Lafferty Park because of the high amount of mosquitos. Ms. Schumm said that this has been a

bad year for mosquitos but that restoration of Lafferty Park would help to reduce the number of mosquitos because birds, dragonflies and bats eat mosquitos.

Chairman Farrell said that pathways or trail systems are a long-term process and that she feels it might be best addressed as an intergovernmental project.

Ms. Schumm offered to send smaller versions of the map to the commission members via email. The members said they would appreciate that.

## **5. Park Projects**

No one had further comment regarding park projects.

## **6. Summer Concerts**

Motion: Ms. McClure moved to approve payment for Eleventh Hour at last year's rate; seconded by Ms. Youkhana.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Vote by Roll Call:

Ayes:	Chairman Farrell, Ms. Onyx, Ms. McClure, Mr. Nolan and Ms. Youkhana
Nays:	None
Absent:	Mr. Menke
Abstain:	None

Ms. McClure offered to place signs regarding the concert throughout the Village. There was some discussion as to the dates and locations of the sign placement.

## **7. Fall Festival**

Chairman Farrell provided member with a checklist regarding the Fall Festival. The PRC reviewed the checklist and unfinished tasks were assigned.

Motion: Ms. Youkhana moved to approve payment for pumpkins and decorations in the same amount as last year; seconded by Ms. McClure.

Discussion: There was some discussion.

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

## **8. Santa Event**

Discussion of the Santa Event was tabled.

## **9. Old Business/New Business**

Chairman Farrell stated that she will be resigning as Chairman after the Fall Festival. She said she's been on the PRC for 9 years and that resigning is difficult.

Ms. Onyx stated that she will be resigning after the Santa Event and that she has been on the PRC for approximately 5 years.

**10. Adjournment**

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

Discussion: There was no discussion.

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

At 9:53 p.m. Chairman Farrell declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the PRC meeting held September 8, 2014.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Karlin D. Gingrich

Deputy Village Clerk

Village of North Barrington