

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
September 24, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL. Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. via Zoom by Village Trustee and Chair Carolyn Clow. Roll call: Clow, Clair Utter, John Feldner, Sarah Kuba, David Wilson, Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Darrell Waldera, Katharine Pease, Andy Jakubowski, Dan Kolk (joined meeting in progress).

Staff present: Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator; Jim Hessling, Public Works Director; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; and Phil McDade, public works staff.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Discussion and action regarding the minutes of the meeting held on August 27, 2020. Kuba motioned, Waldera seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 27, 2020. Motion approved 7-0-2 with Utter and Jakubowski abstaining.

4. BUSINESS.

a. Presentation and public input regarding planning for pickleball court development project.

Schuenke presented information on potential pickleball court sites at Siggelkow Road Park and Lewis Park. The first phase of the Siggelkow Road park would include parking, playground equipment, restrooms and four courts at a cost of \$529,000; the second phase would include additional parking and four more courts for a cost of \$126,000, for a total cost of both phases at \$655,000. The Lewis Park option, with six courts, would cost \$300,000, with parking and restrooms available at the Lewis Park Shelter.

Public comments on the project included:

-- Ron Main, 5006 Valley Drive, raised concerns about traffic, parking and the impact on nearby home values with the Siggelkow Road park location, and preferred it be located at Lewis Park.

-- Tom Blau, 5412 Calico Court, supported bringing pickleball to McFarland, but did not have a preference between the two proposed sites.

-- Jeff Kolpek, 5271 Lodgecliffe Lane, supported pickleball courts and preferred Lewis Park for a site because of its lower cost.

-- Judy Sauer, 6501 Lani Lane, supported pickleball development but didn't think Lewis Park was a good location for it and urged the village to fully implement the master plan for Lewis Park.

-- Sue Richards, 6325 Lani Lane, opposed using Lewis Park for pickleball courts, saying it would diminish opportunities for other outdoor activities at the park.

-- Jim Summers, 6110 Holscher Road, said he favored pickleball courts in McFarland but did not have a preference for a site.

-- Terry Kramer, 5906 Juniper Ridge, said he favored pickleball courts in McFarland but did not have a preference for a site.

-- Mike Derr, 2765 Tower Road in the town of Dunn, favored the Siggelkow Road Park site for the court location, and said he was active in promoting the sport through the Capital Area Pickleball Association.

-- Tom Dahl, 5009 Valley Drive, said he was concerned about increased traffic, particularly near a day-care center across the street, with courts at the Siggelkow Road Park site. He said Lewis Park would be a better option for locating the courts.

-- Anita O'Keefe, 6414 Lani Lane, said she didn't object to pickleball courts but said parking at the Lewis Park shelter was not adequate for placing pickleball courts in the park and would also lead to traffic congestion in the Lewis Park area.

-- Kevin Meier, 6321 Lani Lane, said he was concerned about lights and noise from courts located at Lewis Park, and said the village should consider other sites entirely different than Lewis Park and Siggelkow Road Park.

-- Mark Daspit, 5202 Rustic Way, said pickleball courts were a terrible idea for both Lewis Park and Siggelkow Road Park, and the village should look at entirely different locations.

-- Matt Karls, 5007 Rustic Way, said he preferred that Siggelkow Road Park remain an open green space, and putting courts there would add to traffic in the area. He said the village should undertake an environmental impact study before locating courts there.

b. Discussion regarding planning for pickleball court development project. Pease said she would like the committee to review master plans for Lewis Park. Utter asked for information on nearby communities that have pickleball courts. Feldner asked if the pickleball courts could be located in the new Community Park planned for recently annexed village land adjacent to County Highway AB south of Siggelkow Road. Committee members also discussed with Schuenke conducting a survey to gauge community interest in the project.

c. 7:45 p.m. TIME CERTAIN - Presentation of an Eagle Scout project title Marsh Woods Interpretive Trail Rehabilitation. Max Andrew presented information on a proposed Eagle Scout project to replace worn benches and informational kiosks in Marsh Woods Park. Andrew said he has created a GoFundMe fundraising page to help raise money for the project, and hoped to finish it prior to the onset of winter this year. The committee took no action on the agenda item.

d. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding park plan for the proposed Rosewood Fields Subdivision. Representatives of Veridian Homes discussed with the committee plans for a park at the Rosewood Fields Subdivision, east of Tuscobia Trail and Prairie Wood Drive and west of County Highway AB. Committee members discussed whether the playground surface would have accessibility issues. The committee took no action on the agenda item.

e. Discussion regarding parks project planning for 2021. Clow motioned, Utter seconded, to move the discussion of parks project planning for 2021 to the committee's October meeting. Motion approved 9-0-0.

f. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the appointment of the Village Forester. Waldera motioned, Feldner seconded, to make a recommendation to the Village Board to appoint Sayer Larson, parks superintendent, as village forester. Village ordinances provide for the appointment of a forester by the village board. Motion passed 9-0-0.

g. Presentation of the Parks Superintendent monthly report. Larson provided updates on construction of a restroom and dog-washing facility at the Dog Park; fall tree plantings in the village; new signs installed in village parks; park volunteer clean-up initiatives; and water sampling at McDaniel Park beach.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

b. Discussion and proposal to set the upcoming November and December meetings. Meetings were set for Thursday, Nov. 19, and Thursday, Dec. 17, as the fourth Thursdays in November and December – the normal meeting day for the committee – fell on holidays this year.

6. ADJOURNMENT. Utter moved, Feldner seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Approved by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.