

**VILLAGE OF PLOVER
PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

April 3, 2023

5:00 PM

Members Present: Steve Fritz, Kraig Brooks, Larry Schweitz, Mike Helmrick, Gary Wolf

Members Unexcused: Mike McGinley

Others Present: Tom Davies, Dominique Swangstu, Julia Mann, Ross Ballard, Al Tessmann, Roy Hopfensperger, Scott Klemm

1. Mr. Fritz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Mr. Helmrick moved and Mr. Schweitz seconded approval of the minutes of the Parks Development Committee meeting of December 19, 2022 as printed.

3. There were no persons wishing to address the Committee.

4. PWYA Hall of Fame Pavilion – Concept Review

Mr. Swangstu briefly reviewed the conceptual plans for a new park building at the Woyak Sports complex. He stated that given the agenda item language the committee can only take action on the conceptual plans for the pavilion, all other proposed park improvements shown in the supplemental materials would need to be reviewed separately and/or when the final pavilion plans are brought before the committee. Mr. Chizzo, from Ellis Stone, distributed a copy of supplemental plan materials. Copy attached. Chris Brooks from PWYA gave an overview of the concept including batting cages, warm-up area, pavilion with upper story viewing deck. PWYA has 1/3 of the funds needed and discussed fundraisers. Dumpsters will be moved to a new location. It is estimated that the upper deck will hold 100 people in addition to the landing areas along the ramp moving up to the top. There will be no concessions or restrooms proposed in this building. Yet, they would like a water bottle filler. There will be dusk to dawn lighting on the exterior and along the walkway, as well as under the canopy. There will not be an elevator in the new building, this option was looked into but would be very costly and would require the area to be heated all year long in addition to yearly inspections. Mr. Hopfensperger, of the public works department, has no concerns at this time with the concept.

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Brooks seconded to approve the PWYA Hall of Fame Pavilion Concept Review. Motion carried.

5. 2023 Parks and Recreation Survey Results

Mr. Fritz acknowledged and thanked Mr. Swangstu for all his hard work on this survey. Mr. Swangstu gave an overview of the survey and how it was made available to the public. The data analysis will be ongoing as the updated Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan is being drafted. Responses were mostly favorable, with the lowest ratings coming from those

living outside of the Village of Plover. The survey collected emails of those people wanting to be updated on improvements, etc.

Mr. Fritz received a lot of calls about people wanting a dog park. He asked what are the thoughts on making several of the low use village parks dog friendly. Concerns were discussed on the need for people to clean up after their dogs. This is already a problem even though dogs are not allowed in the parks. The liability for the village regarding a new dog park was discussed and will need to be explored further to ensure the development and siting of a dog park would be done appropriately given the potential risks. Mr. Klemm talked about the issues he had to address regarding dog parks in his previous position while living in Colorado, as well as provide first hand experiences with some pet owners in the Village whom do not clean up after their dogs in the public parks.

Mr. Fritz stated people want more or newer playground equipment in the parks and stated that people do not know/understand how costly these structures are and asked if there is a way to communicate that to residents. Mr. Hopfensperger added that the companies that sell the playground equipment must do the installation due to liability purposes which adds to the cost.

Mr. Davies commended Mr. Swangstu on his work on the survey.
There was no action needed on this agenda item.

6. Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan Review – Part 1

Mr. Swangstu reviewed a public participation outline related to the Parks and Recreation Plan update process. The timeline for the parks survey was shifted to allow people more time to respond. Mr. Swangstu indicated staff have not visited schools for additional input as of this point and asked the committee what additional outreach they would like to see in this phase if any to gain additional input. Mr. Schweitz suggested if Mr. Swangstu goes to the schools, perhaps he can talk to the children about cleaning up after their dogs. Mr. Brooks inquired if guns are allowed in the parks and what could be done about that? Mr. Davies said we can check with legal counsel on that.

Mr. Wolf moved and Mr. Brooks seconded to approve the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan Review – Part 1

Mr. Swangstu would like another Parks meeting in late April and/or two meetings in May to keep moving forward with the plan drafting and review.

7. Grant Award Update – Springville Pond Park

Mr. Swangstu reviewed the \$3,000 grant that was awarded through the Healthy Lakes and Rivers program implemented through the Portage County Conservation Department. The Village received \$1,000 for three different conservation practices/activities at Springville Pond Park. Staff will work with the county to design and implement the conservation practices in 2023. There is not action required on this item.

8. Such other business as is authorized by law.

Mr. Swangstu gave a quick update on the Little Plover River and the past, ongoing, and proposed projects within the watershed. He also gave another overview of the \$50,000 grant the Village of Plover was awarded in March 2023 for a ditch fill, wetland scrape, and

other conservation activities on private property within the watershed property(ies) near the headwaters of the Little Plover River.

Mr. Fritz commended Mr. Swangstu for all his work for the Village of Plover.

9. Mr. Brooks motioned and Mr. Helmrich seconded to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.

Submitted by Tammy Wojtalewicz