

**VILLAGE OF PLOVER  
PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
5:45 PM**

Members Present: Larry Schweitz, Kraig Brooks, Mike Helmrick, Darcy Grabski and Sara Luchini

Members Unexcused: Adam Raabe and Steve Fritz

Members Excused:

Others Present: Dominique Swangstu, Gary Wolf, Adam Dekleyn, Steve Kunst, Roy Hopfensperger, Scott Klemm, Chris Brooks, and Ross Ballard

**1. Mr. Wolf (Village President) called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.**

In the absence of the chair, Mr. Wolf asked for the nomination of a temporary chair for the meeting.

Mr. Brooks nominated Mr. Helmrick, Mr. Wolf called for any additional nominations three times and the committee unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Helmrick as temporary chair of the meeting.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the Parks Development Committee meeting of June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as printed**

Mr. Swangstu noted a few comments regarding the minutes as well as suggested two amendments including correcting the dates for the celebrate plover event as well as the excused/unexcused members at the last meeting.

Mr. Schweitz made a motion and Ms. Luchini seconded the approval of the minutes of the Parks Development Committee meeting of June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with the proposed amendments. Motion carried.

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

No one was in attendance who wished to address the committee.

**Discussion with possible action on the following:**

**4. Woyak and Easlan-Weslan Park Improvements – PWYA Pavilion and Site Plan Review**

Mr. Swangstu briefly reviewed the staff report and identified the recommended conditions and asked the committee if they had any questions or concerns regarding the proposal.

Mr. Brooks made a motion and Mr. Schweitz seconded the approval of the proposed park improvements as presented and recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. (DRAFT) Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan Review – Part 3

Mr. Swangstu presented the staff report and reviewed the packet of materials and asked the committee for recommendations regarding the draft plan sections. Staff and the committee discussed the plan sections as well as addressed questions related to existing park usage and amenities.

Discussions continued regarding the community's input from the parks survey (earlier in the year) and the possible implications as well as park improvements and actions from the existing plan that may or may not have been implemented.

*Ross Ballard (Village Trustee in Attendance)* – Noted the playground equipment in Eason-Weslon and Woyak Parks sorely need replacement/improvements due to the age and condition of the systems as well as the intensive usage.

Staff (Mr. Swangstu, Mr. Hopfensperger, and Mr. Kunst) provided input regarding possible playground equipment options, funding sources, as well as provided some insight and history about how park improvements and expansions have and will take place in the Village of Plover. Staff understand there is a need to make improvements in these older parks and will review all available funding sources to make the appropriate changes.

Mr. Swangstu reviewed the existing CPRP bicycle and pedestrian section and provided insight regarding the survey results and indicated the community (based on the survey) would prefer to expand and improve "off street" trails and infrastructure rather than installing new bike lanes on the roads themselves. Staff indicated the Village, Portage County and other municipalities have recently submitted a US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application which could provide funding to create a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (in addition to a County-wide Action Plan) which would produce updated information and recommendations related to pedestrian infrastructure and access within and around the Village of Plover.

Staff asked the committee if they would like to keep the existing section in the plan given it may change in the near future, yet Mr. Helmrick and the committee agreed to keep it in the plan for now while understanding the Village will need to address more updated information and recommendations regarding bicycle and pedestrian access/infrastructure.

Mr. Helmrick asked about potentially dissolving unused parks or consolidating them, staff indicated no additional discussions have taken place at this point but the Village can review opportunities and options in the near future.

Mr. Schweitz provided input regarding state law and the regulations associated with bicycling in streets and roads, and asked staff to see if there is any federal/state funding for bicycle lanes or infrastructure improvements.

Staff thanked the committee for the discussion and recommendations and will present the full draft plan at the next meeting for review.

## **6. (Update) Springville Pond – Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant**

Staff indicated due to the availability of the variety of species requested for the project, it was recommended then later determined that the planting will take place in Spring 2024. In addition to the unavailability of the number and variety of plants for this project, staff have identified significant amounts of poison ivy near the shoreline and indicated additional site prep is needed prior to the planting onsite. Staff will update the committee as new information becomes available.

## **7. Such other business as is authorized by law**

Staff asked the committee and those in attendance if they had any potential park improvements or photos they would like included in the plan and asked that they reach out prior to the next meeting so the suggestions and information can be incorporated within the draft document(s).

Mr. Brooks thanked the Village Public Works Department and PWYA for their continued maintenance and upkeep of the Woyak sports complex after attending a state tournament onsite the previous weekend, noting the facility looked great and was well maintained. Mr. Brooks also thanked the Village for Lake Pacawa and the recent improvements and asked if there were any treatments within the Lake. Mr. Hopfensperger provided information on the treatments that have and are taking place to ensure the lake is clean and safe to recreate in.

Mr. Helmrick and *Chris Brooks (PWYA representative in attendance)* indicated there are some additional photos and imagery that could be provided for the plan update.

## **8. Adjournment subject to call of the chair**

Mr. Brooks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schweitz to adjourn the meeting, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:39pm.

Minutes submitted by: Dominique Swangstu