

## Florence Township Park Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2013

Attendance: Brad Stone, Julie Karlsrud, Dean Nelson, Bill Siewert, Ron Knudsen and 5 guests

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Park Activity Applications - 1 pending application for Carolyn Hedin

### Old Business:

Sentence to Serve – very busy from all the snow storm damage in May. Ron will be in contact with them in early August to get on their schedule for fall buckthorn removal.

Ron will also contact Lynette Nadeau and get a price to have the goats come in the area at Wakondiota park by the ball field. The idea is to test how well it works and focus on the mature buckthorn.

### Park Business:

Wakondiota – Roof over bleachers – spring project – outhouse has been delivered.

Frontenac Station – Playground equipment – in process. Discussion was had regarding the old cottonwood trees and safety around the play park. There are many cottonwood trees in town and removing the trees around the park would likely have a minimal impact in reducing the amount of cotton in the environment. Safety should be our primary concern in any decision to remove the trees. To date there have been no PAA's submitted by residents.

Community Center – Sidewalk repair – waiting on additional bid. The Sportsman's Club was broken into and the doors damaged. A motion was made and approved to accept a grant from the Sportsman's Club in the amount of \$5,000 to pay for the sidewalk repair and replace the damaged doors.

Valhalla – dock should be going in this week – pending the water rising and outhouse delivered. Will call the volunteers to get the area cleaned up once the water goes down.

Steamboat Landing – waiting for park design

### New Business:

Tim Schlagenhaft with Audubon Minnesota gave a presentation on what they would be able to do to help improve the parks. The Audubon Society is interested in the Mississippi River Valley and completing habitat projects on both private and state lands and doing outreach and education. Once they get a plan of what is being proposed for the parks they will see what they can do to help. They have access to funding to help with these projects. Tim would like to see the invasive plants removed, address the erosion problems and improve the bird community.

The history fair was a success and a few township residents signed up to volunteer to help when the time comes.

The trees that were left from the Sportsman Club were planted on the hillside by the boat landing in Valhalla Park. Bill planted approximately 30 trees in the area that was cleared last year.

Bill will contact the DNR to request an additional bow hunting season to see if that will help lessen the deer herd in Old Frontenac and also keep in mind the deer tick concerns.

Nancy Eustis inquired about donating a bench on the Lake Pepin overlook. A form was given to her to complete and we will work with the Heritage Preservation Commission to move forward with this request.

Bill Flies informed us that he had the area by his place resurveyed and that the flood plan is now 2.9 feet higher than it was in the past. He also let us know that the rock wall by Frontenac Point needs tuck pointing. This will be put on the list to be completed.

Brad will contact Bill Bleckwenn from McGhie & Betts to see where they are with the park design proposal and get the information needed to set up a community meeting for input on the park design. The commission discussed having the gathering at our June or July meeting and having McGhie present a preliminary plan so that residents would have a chance to react to a design that would encourage their comments.

Park Commissioners contact information:

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Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Julie Karlsrud