

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMISSION
Minutes

Conference line 612-351-3093 code:449001

April 6, 2021

Parks Commission Meeting was brought to order at 6:pm by Brent Urbach

Commission members in attendance were Tom Johnson, Jane Webster-Urbach, Brent Urbach, and Mike Blair. The conference line was out of commission.

The March 2, 2021 minutes were read and approved.

Park Updates:

1.Frontenac Station: Tables are re-done, Merry Go Round removed, chains for swings will be replaced. Jane and Peggy will be painting the ducks when weather permits.

2.Wakondiota: Discussing equipment updates(new swings and chains) with Dale Messenberg

3.Swimming Beach and Boat Ramp: Sportsman's Club wants the Park Commission to get an industrial dock and put the old dock up at Pleasant Valley Lakelet. Jane will be talking to Joe E.

4.Steamboat: 9 spots have been reserved in the kayak racks. A second one has been ordered using leftover Frontenac 160 funds. A motion was made and passed to use the remaining \$370.00 towards planting in Valhalla.

5. Valhalla: Phase 2 work in progress as reported by Tom. Walked the park with NRP to assess seeding needs putting erosion areas first and other bare areas with seeds and forbs. There will be a controlled burn before balance of seeding – too much leaf litter and debris.

There was concern about where the stormsewers at the intersection of Garrard, McLean No. 2, and Lake Ave Way drained. Ethan Seaberg from Goodhue County sent over a detail of the 5 sewer lines that drain under the

intersection and drain out of a small culvert spilling over small riprap and grass between Garrard and the beginning of Lake Ave Way. None of the water is directed over the slope of the overlook.

The view zones in Valhalla will be marked by a third party - WSB. They will stake the 4 corners plus the middle. A motion was made and passed to recommend them to the Town Board.

Seeking bids from third party for Planting Plan- WSB, NRP, or Heritage Shade Trees.

Planting sub-committee will meet after tonight's meeting.

New Business:

Jean Ponser submitted some material which is summarized below.

A letter from Bill Bleckwenn was delivered to the Park Commission in the 3rd or 4th quarter in 2020. She also included 2 letters from Lee Frelich from earlier 2019. Some summarized notes of this are.

- 1. View zones are intended to be portals.**
- 2. Small trees are intended to be removed within view zones only.**
- 3. Canopy trees should be maintained in areas of non-view zones.**
- 4. All Black Locust trees should be removed as they are highly invasive.**
- 5. The intent of this plan is not to create a savanna.**
- 6. Prescribed burning should not be done with the intent of creating a savanna.**

Bylaws/Ordinance subcommittee of Kathy, Kristin, and Brent will take a look at recommendations from meetings next month.

Lake wall repair needs to be addressed this year.

Jake Gaster from the Frontenac State Park spoke on Ecological Restoration at the Annual Township Meeting.

There is a new grant available for the removal of invasive trees. Need to get bids. John Lane, Don Bauer, and Dennis Dick will be looking at it.

The letter of Park do's and don'ts should be put in the Graphic in addition to being sent out.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

