

January 15th, 2015

## PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Maier, D. Wroblewski, J. Hewitt, Bob Eaton, M. Pierce, R. Hansen

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

STAFF: B. Sasse, J. Svoboda, J. Pulda, A. Giles- Barron

OTHER IS ATTENDANCE: Dave Voss, M. Wagner, N. Schiro, M. Gleason, D. DeGroot, and G. Feest. A.M. Clausen, B. Collins

1. Roll Call  
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by T. Maier
2. Approval of minutes from December 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 minutes- J. Hewitt motioned to accept the December 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 minutes as presented. D. Wroblewski seconded. Motion passed.
3. Public comment- Advisory board was presented with a letter sent to the Village from resident R. Cramer who resides in the Lake Park area of the village. R. Cramer had written to ask the village to trim vegetation that currently blocks the view of the Lake Michigan from the benches and hilltop of Lake Park. He felt a small investment by the village would enhance the look of the park and view of the lake. J. Hewitt stated that the fire station currently next to the park may go up for sale however there are some issues with that. R. Hansen stated he requested the trimming of this vegetation a couple years ago. Discussion concerning the delicate lake bank was brought up. J. Hewitt felt a professional company should be brought in to examine the work that needs to be done. R. Hansen felt this vegetation just needed a trim. J. Hewitt suggested that this be reexamined in the spring when a cleanup and evaluation of invasive species can take place. J. Hewitt stated that he would contact Mr. Cramer and set up a meeting at Lake Park to go over some of these issues with Mr. Cramer. B. Eaton requested to attend as well.
4. Reports- Staff: J. Pulda stated that 20,000 brochures were sent out for the recreation programs the village offers. Sign –ups will begin in February. A new playground program will be starting this year at Smolenski Park to offer our residents other recreation options as well. B. Sasse stated that the CORP goes before Plan Commission on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January and will be incorporated into the Village’s overall master plan. 5 new trash receptacles were ordered to replace the old ones in Phase 1 of the bike path. The old cans will be restored and placed in our other parks. Retro-fit kits have been ordered for 10 picnic tables and the highway department will begin to work on those as time allows. 75 tons of sand has been delivered to various parks within the Village as well. Staff is

continuing to work on individual master plans for each park the village owns. M. Pierce stated that the newly formed Civic Affairs Committee is working on ways to better promote the village and are looking into updating signage within our parks. He will present more at the next advisory meeting. J. Hewitt stated that he will continue to work with the other members of the Village Board to increase funding in the parks. J. Svoboda stated that there is a Joint Park Commission meeting scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> to formally announce the return of Kraut Fest to the Caledonia/ Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. Staff also stated that after review Drozd Park needs to stay open in accordance to Village ordinances.

5. Lakeside Neighborhood Park Proposal- D. Voss from Racine Community Outpost Inc. was present to discuss the possible new addition of a playground on the NW corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> St. and Mead on the village's eastside. Partnering with SCJ, Racine Community Outpost, and the COP House, this \$275,000 park would eventually become part of the Mt. Pleasant Park system once completed in the spring of 2015. The Outpost would gift the park over to the Village and provide funds for its upkeep for a designated amount of time. The park would sit on what are currently 3 parcels of land, 1 with a structure and the other two adjacent are vacant. An SCJ grant would provide the funding for the purchase and completion of the project. N. Schiro spoke on the need for a play area within the neighborhood as most children currently play in the streets or alley. This addition will help cleanup the neighborhood, stabilize the area, and allow the residents to take some ownership in the park. She stated that the playground will be geared towards the 13 and under age group with no basketball courts, and a covered shelter will be provided as well. Benches, picnic tables, and storage shed are slated for the area. D. Wroblewski asked why a fence was incorporated into the design. B. Collins, playground designer who was present stated that he felt fencing was needed because of traffic control. Bricks from the existing building will also be incorporated into the park design. The playground will also be fully ADA compliant. Other aspects of the project will be an environmentally friendly green space area and the hope is to have recreation programs run out of the park for the area children. J. Pulda asked about restrooms facilities. N. Schiro stated that the COP House would be open usually 10am-6pm everyday to provide bathroom availability if programs are run at the park. J. Hewitt felt the professional design of the park made it easy to maintain and provided long term stability in the neighborhood. T. Maier felt it would be the jewel of the neighborhood and area businesses are eager to help out. M. Pierce asked if the new park, Named Polzin Park, fits into our newly created CORP. Lighting was also a concern as the diagram only reflected streetlights at this time. N. Schiro stated that the COP House has a direct line of sight to the park and lighting on the shelter maybe added to provide extra security. D. DeGroot asked if water was going to be on site to water the native plants. N. Schiro stated that she hoped the residents of the neighborhood will take ownership of this park and work with her on maintaining the park and the watering that maybe needed. M. Gleason spoke on how much the Village appreciated the generous work of Racine Community Outpost and how much this park will not only improve the Lakeside area of the village but Lake Park as well. M. Pierce motioned to accept the concept of Polzin Park. R. Hansen seconded. Motioned passed unanimously. Discussion: J. Pulda

had some concerns with programs being run out of Polzin Park once the village takes possession. He stated that starting a new program takes time, man power, and of course funding. Where will this come from? T. Maier stated that programs will indeed be run out of this park. J. Pulda stated that he wants this done correctly and he feels this year may not happen as far as a full recreation program. T. Maier stated that funding will be provided for the first few years from SCJ. M. Pierce, B. Eaton, J. Hewitt felt that we need to take it slow and not force programs onto the residents. A. Giles- Barron stated that the park will be overwhelmed with children initially and we may need to let the park grow onto the community first. B. Eaton stated that we need to keep an open mind and when developing something new like this it's a social engineering mechanism that this advisory board has not dealt with before. J. Pulda stated that he has playground leaders in mind from that neighborhood that could help as well as speaking to the city as to how they run some of their drop-in playground programs. Having a traditional playground program like we run at our other parks may not work at Polzin Park. G. Feest stated that we need to error on the side of caution and that speeding up a program just to have it in place may not be wise. A. Giles- Barron stated we should let the park marinate for awhile. J. Svoboda suggested a couple of pre-planned events later in the year that we can have playground leaders present and do activities to gauge resident interest. This could be a good test as to what the neighborhood really wants and if programs are truly needed and at what capacity. T. Maier asked that if indeed programs or events are held that the playground leaders or who ever is running the programs feel safe, and that protocol call is done, forms are filled out and contact info of participates are on file. She feels this type of recreation program needs to be no fee and a drop-in, much like the city of Racine offers.

6. Adjourn: D. Wroblewski motioned to adjourn. R. Hansen seconded. Adjourned at 5:16pm

Respectfully submitted,  
J. Svoboda- Park Staff