

GENEVA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2018
7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President VanderVeen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

President VanderVeen called for the roll. Commissioner Peggy Condon, Vice President John Frankenthal, Commissioner Jay Moffat and President Susan VanderVeen answered present. Commissioner Pat Lenski arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Staff members present were Executive Director Sheavoun Lambillotte, Administrative Assistant Amy McConnell, Supt. of Recreation Nicole Vickers, Supt. of Parks & Properties Jerry Culp, Supt. of Finance & Personnel Christy Powell and Manager of Peck Farm Park Trish Burns.

Guests: Ann VanVoren from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP; Landscape Architect Michelle Kelly from Upland Design; Grant Consultant Laura Stuart from Schrader & Associates; and residents of Geneva as follows: Patrick Carey, Paul & Jody Berberet, Ryan Lubniewski, Kara Frison, Laurie Lewis, Kangtai Ren, Molly Griffin, Morgan & Dave Crawley, Mike Chintala, Roger Kubitz, Sean Miller, Steven Miller, Christian Miller, Steve & Jeanne Miller, Liam Kelleghan, Kira Kelleghan, Fiona Kelleghan, Hugh & Mandy Kelleghan, Andrew Todd Fox, Nancy Peterson, Raymond Halbach, Charles Lambillotte and Erin Anderson.

Press: Brenda Shory from the Kane County Chronicle; and a representative from ABC 7 Chicago News.

HEARING OF GUESTS

None

READING OF MINUTES

Commissioner Moffat made a motion to approve the Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2018 as presented. Vice President Frankenthal seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

Commissioner Moffat made a motion to approve the claims and accounts as presented. Vice President Frankenthal seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE REPORT

Superintendent of Finance & Personnel Christy Powell reviewed the August financial reports. We are 33% through the fiscal year with revenue and expenses. Revenues are ahead of budget and expenditures are under what we would expect at this time of year. Commissioner Condon made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Superintendent of Finance Report as presented. Commissioner Moffat seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Moffat made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Condon seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Director Lambillotte shared the monthly press clippings with the board, pointing out that the Park District received a lot of nice press about Autumn Fair, construction of the Sunset Pool Spray Ground, the Harvest Hustle and our upcoming Halloween events.

OLD BUSINESS

PECK FARM NORTH TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Director Lambillotte began by reviewing the history of how the final trail plan proposal came together over the years, as well as the community input associated with the project. In 1998-1999, a group of committed residents and community members got together to form the referendum committee to work on passage of our 2000 Open Space Referendum. That referendum allowed us to purchase the 176 acres at the Peck Farm North parcel. When that referendum was passed it was passed with the understanding, as it was advertised to residents, that we would be developing that property in the future and that property would be developed for both passive and active recreation. In 2002 the Park District developed the Master Plan for the entire parcel at Peck Farm. It included substantial input by Geneva residential stakeholders, community input and task forces associated with the plan that incorporates both the North and South portions of Peck Farm. In 2002 we started with Phases A-G of the Master Plan with parcels of farm land being transformed into natural Illinois prairie, George's Circle, the interpretive signage, the perimeter trail and mown trails within at Peck Farm South. In 2006 we began planning for the North side of Peck. The first part of that development began with the annexation of the park, construction of the soccer fields and the Stephen D. Persinger Recreation Center. With that, came the portion of the plan being presented tonight. In 2008 a public meeting was held to review the plan. It received positive comments from residents, but there was input from residents on the perimeter of the park to look at moving the path further from their property lines. At that time the buffer was about 25 feet. In 2010 the Geneva Park District did a community-wide needs assessment survey and from that survey 84% of households, were in favor of or they felt there was a need for walking and biking trails in Geneva. In 2013 additional community input was sought through our Master Plan process and the further development of Peck Farm Park was laid out. In 2015 another community survey was done and in that survey 78% of households indicated they were very supportive or somewhat supportive of connecting existing walking/biking trails. In 2018 another public meeting was held to review details of the final portion of the Peck Farm Master Plan. At that meeting in February we further discussed the trail and the two biggest concerns that were brought up were its proximity to the yards of the homes that bordered the park and safety. We did receive positive comments about other amenities such as the solstice and the sundial, as well as the opportunity for environmental education. Based on comments from that meeting we made substantial changes to the plan. One being that we moved the solstice and picnic shelter to the other side of the lake, away from the residences and we also made a more substantial residential buffer with the minimum being 75 feet. Also, as it related to safety, we looked at numerous studies in regard to whether bike paths bring more or less crime to a bike path community and overwhelmingly research does not show that bike paths bring any more crime to an area. The Park District has kept the community engaged throughout the planning process since before 2000 and we feel this plan exemplifies community input of the 32,000 plus residents that we serve.

Michelle Kelly, landscape architect on the project, reviewed the most recent plan for the development of Peck Farm North that includes changes based on concerns expressed from the neighboring residents at the February 13, 2018 public meeting. Ms. Kelly also explained that there would now be a safe passage crossing for trail users at the corner of Peck Rd & Kaneville Rd, which does not exist today. Lastly, Ms. Kelly reviewed the details of the cost estimate for the project.

Laura Stuart, the Park District's grant consultant, explained the upcoming OSLAD grant cycle, the history of grant funding for Peck Farm and the benefits of moving forward with the project at this time. The Park District plans to apply for \$400,000 in grant funding for this project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Patrick Carey (proposed trail, Geneva resident) expressed his concern with how close the trail is to his home, as he feels the trail being so close to the homes will lead to an increase in crime. He would also like to see the sundial being moved further south and away from his home.
2. Paul Berberet (proposed trail, Geneva resident) feels that the trail is too close to the homes and that security will be an issue.

3. Jody Berberet (proposed trail, Geneva resident) feels that security will be an issue and that the trail is too close to her home. She also feels that the possibility of someone being harmed on the trail due to the high grasses is more likely because people are less likely to hear anything to be able to help and that the animals living in the prairie will be disturbed. She would like to see the trail moved closer to SPRC, as in her opinion this would save money for the park district and make everyone happy.
4. Ryan Lubniewski (proposed trail, Geneva resident) echoes the above comments already made. He feels that his family's safety is at risk. Now his kids can play in the backyard by themselves and that will change if the path is on the west side, as it's too visible to the homes there.
5. Kara Frison (proposed trail, Geneva resident) echoes the above comments already made, is concerned about safety and privacy. There's no light out on the path and that's a concern.
6. Laurie Lewis (proposed trail, Geneva resident) supports her neighbors and everything that has been said thus far.
7. Kangtai Ren (proposed trail, Geneva resident) echoes the above concerns already expressed. He also fears for his family's safety and privacy. He believes that this trail will lower the value of his property and disturb the animals living in the prairie now.
8. Molly Griffin (proposed trail, Geneva resident) echoes the above concerns already expressed. She also feels the park district underestimates the impact this will have on public safety, as well as the public's support for this. She feels that when the original plan was created the Mill Creek homes were not there and that was not taken into context at the time. She also believes that additional up to date research needs to be done and that the park district needs to take a step back in the process to take those research findings into consideration.
9. Morgan Crawley (proposed trail, Geneva resident) spoke in support of the project. Her and her family are avid bikers and runners. They are very excited to have this safe access to the Peck Farm Park trails, the park district's facilities and programming. The trail will also provide safe passage to the park and middle school, as they would no longer have to travel down the side of Keslinger Road. She and her husband think the path's proximity to the homes is great because if something happened to one of her teenage daughters that some nice neighbor would be able to help them if they needed assistance. Also, as a science educator she feels that the path needs to be as close as possible to the perimeter of homes to ensure a healthy habitat for the animals living in the area.
10. Mike Chintala (proposed trail, Geneva resident) understands the connection points for safety, but would like to see the portion of the paved path that runs behind the homes removed all together. He also doesn't feel that we need to add as much mileage to the trail system and by reducing the amount of trail being put in would save a lot of money.
11. Roger Kubitz (proposed trail, Geneva resident) agrees with there being a security risk and that after the winter season the prairie is "matted" down giving people direct access to their yards. He also suggested a berm be built behind the homes along Morrill Drive.
12. Steve Miller (proposed trail, Geneva resident) (time ceded by 4 family members present) gave a power point presentation regarding his concerns with the proposed trail plan. His concerns include: the ecosystem, the prescribed burns being done, who is choosing to move forward with this plan, the fiscal and ethical responsibility, safety/security, the wildlife, snake and rabbit infestation, disruption to the prairie and waste of tax dollars. He believes that crime will instantly increase, that this plan does not benefit the community and that he doesn't feel that the park planning staff have taken resident comment into consideration. He referred to a petition signed by himself and his neighbors that do not support the trail. He agreed that the residents were shown a map of a proposed future trail at the time of purchasing their homes, but that it was very different from the current proposal. He also referred to the sundial/council ring, stating that it would provide a place for teenagers to drink etc.
13. Mandy Kelleghan (proposed trail, Geneva resident) echoes the negative comments already made. She is concerned with safety, the lack of privacy and doesn't feel that middle school aged kids will be safe walking on the path. She agreed that she knew a path would be going in, but didn't think it would be so close to their home.

14. Hugh Kelleghan (proposed trail, Geneva resident) (time ceded by 4 family members present) thanked the Board and Park District for everything they have done for the community and his neighbors for attending the meeting to voice their concerns. He also gave a power point presentation regarding his concerns with the proposed trail plan. He asked that we amend the plan and move the path further out and away from the homes and that we put the plan off a month to all sit down as a community to discuss other options. He believes the council ring will be a place for teenagers to get into trouble and that it should be removed from the plan. Safety and privacy is a big issue for him and his family, he's concerned with property values decreasing, that taxes are too high and that the trail isn't necessary. Also, that people biking on the path could actually hurt those walking on it. He believes this trail will bring criminals into the homeowner's backyards. He believes that times have changed and that this connection to all the schools can be both good and bad. He also reviewed the petitions that were signed by neighbors.
15. Andrew Todd Fox (proposed trail, Geneva resident) stated that he and his wife were aware of the open space, were shown a trail proposal prior to purchasing their home and that he spoke with the Park District at that time to voice his concerns. Even though the plans have changed over the years he and his wife are very excited about the new trail and its connectivity to Peck Farm South and the rest of the community. He thanked the Park District and outside contractors for hosting the public meetings that have allowed the residents to express their concerns and that he feels the Park District has taken those concerns into consideration. Over the years he has anxiously awaited this plan and it's encouraging to see the Park District moving forward. He believes the Park District has compromised by moving the trail further from the homes after the first public meeting this year. He stated that he knows there are tax concerns, but residents knew moving into Geneva the tax rate that they would be paying for the school district, the great parks and law protection that residents in this community enjoy. He and his wife's only concern is with the buffer zone around the park and that while it has gotten better over the years with the burns, he asks that the Park District continue to improve that area and add any possible landscaping enhancements as well. He again thanked the Board and Staff.
16. Nancy Peterson (proposed trail, Geneva resident) lives off of Peck Road backing up to this property with her husband. She stated that she has learned two very important things in the 35 years she has lived on Peck Road having watched the area evolve over the years into what it is today. That to "never think a corn field will always remain a corn field because you know all of our houses were built on cornfields AND, when there is a plan for that corn field to change, do your homework, know the facts and don't show up with the attitude "not in my back yard"." Her family feels that this path is a very welcome addition to Peck Farm, as it provides more recreational space for families to enjoy. Her family has always felt safe with this path being so close to her backyard. She enjoys seeing it being used by so many others and even better to enjoy the path themselves. In 35 years, not once has someone from the path entered her yard and she feels fortunate to live in a community with a park district that bases projects on the community as a whole, not just a few people. She thanked the Park District for their vision and their time.
17. Raymond Halbach (proposed trail, Geneva resident) doesn't believe that the council ring makes sense and shared that there has been some history of vandalism on his property. He would like to see the path moved to the middle of the prairie, so vandals have less of a view into his backyard.
18. Erin Anderson (proposed trail, Geneva resident) asks that the Board not to move forward based on a deadline for a grant application. She seconds the safety concerns of her neighbors and would like the Park District to do more research with the police on what distance from the homes would be appropriate for less crime to occur. She and her husband would be okay with the path if it were a safe distance from the homes. She feels that the sundial should be removed from the plan because it is an invitation for people to stop and sit, as opposed to continuing to move along the path. Also that people from neighboring communities come to Peck Farm and those people will also have access to the homeowner's backyards.

After Public Comment the Board shared their views with those in attendance.

BOARD COMMENT

Commissioner Condon has been on the Board for almost 20 years and part of the reason she wanted to join the Board was the development of Peck Farm because it is such a wonderful resource for the community. She believes very strongly in community access to natural areas and safe bike access to schools and parks throughout the community. She would love if a kid could ride to any park or any school on a bike.

Commissioner Moffat likes that so many residents are involved in the process and that hearing from the public helps the Board to make informed decisions. He performed a simple online search for how trails effect crime and nowhere in his search did he find that crime increased due to neighboring trails. He found that the majority of resident responses were positive in having a trail so close to their homes and that it actually helped in the sale of those homes. No public safety issues were found to be directly linked to the trails. In the year 2000, the majority of Geneva's tax payers voted to purchase this open space for public access. Also in looking at plans dating back to 2008, it shows the path far closer to the neighboring backyards than the most current proposal. The close to 32,000 residents of the Geneva Park District are expecting the Board to live up to the referendum's promises and make sure the residents are given their public access as long promised and planned by prior Boards. Commissioner Moffat understands that this will upset the less than 1% of the community that does not favor this proposal and appreciates those that have elegantly voiced their concerns, but the majority of the community is in favor and expects the Board to follow through with this plan.

Commissioner Lenski is a life-long resident of Geneva and he and his wife are trail users. When they are walking their focus is talking with each other, not looking at houses. During a recent visit to Peck Farm with his daughter, where the proposed trail area has been mowed, he mentioned that their focus was what was right there in front of them. His experience on the mown trail was that he couldn't see two-thirds of the way up to the houses, they were just enjoying the walk and the prairie.

Vice President Frankenthal thanked the residents for their passion displayed and for taking a stance in the community. He uses trails to walk his dog and he's more interested on keeping an eye on his dog while walking, not looking in people's backyards. Commissioner Frankenthal has lived in a community for 23 years that has bike paths that are as close as 15 feet from people's backyards and to the best of his knowledge there's never been an issue with anyone looking into someone's backyard. There are paths throughout Geneva and it's part of what our community is made of.

President VanderVeen also thanked the resident's for their impressive passion on this matter. In a report from Vancouver about bike paths, it says that bike paths are actually safer because bikes travel at slower speeds than vehicles. Bikes paths give us more eyes on the street and presence in the neighborhood. We are a community and we look out for each other. The paths are important in the connectivity of our community.

After the Public and Board members commented, Commissioner Moffat made a motion to approve the most recent plans for the Peck Farm North Trail Development as presented. Commissioner Condon seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Conden-aye, Frankenthal-aye, Lenski-aye, Moffat-aye and VanderVeen-aye. All ayes. Motion carried. Vice President Frankenthal made a motion to move forward in applying for a 2019 OSLAD grant in the amount of \$400,000 to help fund the Peck Farm North Trail Development project. Commissioner Lenski seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Conden-aye, Frankenthal-aye, Lenski-aye, Moffat-aye and VanderVeen-aye. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Board and Staff took a break from 9:05-9:15 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Foundation Autumn Fair fundraising event was held on September 15th from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. The event was very successful & everyone had a wonderful time.

The Cetron property developer is interested in pursuing completion of the path from Route 31 to Route 38 in lieu of a land cash donation.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Capital Planning Meeting	October 10	5:00 pm	Sunset Community Center
October Board Meeting	October 15	7:00 pm	Sunset Community Center
October Foundation Meeting	October 23	7:00 pm	Sunset Community Center

STAFF REPORTS

MANAGER OF PECK FARM PARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Manager of Peck Farm Park Trish Burns reviewed her report. A public open house hosted by CMAP will be held at Peck Farm Park on September 27th from 4:30-7:00 p.m. to discuss the water quality-based protection plan for Mill Creek. Over 250 pounds of produce was donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank from our Community Garden. The Butterfly House closed for the season on September 15th after the Geneva Park District Foundation's event.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND PROPERTIES

Supt. of Parks & Properties Jerry Culp reviewed his report. He reported that staff has been very busy preparing for Autumn Fair this past weekend and the event went great. Staff continues to work with Williams Architects to finalize construction drawings for the restroom project at Peck Farm. Staff has also been focusing on mowing and the renovation of the ballfield at Eagle Brook Park. Lastly, Supt. Culp reported that there is a drain tile survey being done at Peck Farm North to help better manage groundwater.

SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION

Supt. of Recreation Nicole Vickers was present to review her report. She reported that she spoke with the couple that attended the August Board Meeting to address their concerns about the pool. They have since visited the pool again and were very happy with the changes made.

NEW BUSINESS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT PROPOSAL FOR 2019 PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

Commissioner Moffat made a motion to accept the proposal from Upland Design of Plainfield, IL in the amount of \$11,200 for the design work associated with the Clover Hills Park Playground replacement as presented. Commissioner Lenski seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDIT FY 2017-2018

Ann VanVooren from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP was present and reviewed the FY 2017-18 Audit Report and Management Letter. The audit presents the financial position and operational results of the District. The income statement was reviewed and discussed. Ms. VanVooren highlighted the Management's Discussion and Analysis for the year ending April 30, 2018 and reviewed various pages in the report. Ms. VanVooren explained that there was one comment in the Management Letter due to a change in law for the GASB Statement No. 74 & No. 75. This statement is in all management letters, not only Geneva Park District's. Commissioner Moffat made a motion to approve the Geneva Park District Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Period ending April 30, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Lenski seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

GARDEN CLUB PARK INTERGOVERNMENTAL LEASE AGREEMENT

Commissioner Lenski made a motion to approve the Garden Club Park Intergovernmental Lease Agreement between the Park District and City of Geneva as presented. Commissioner Moffat seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

PECK HOUSE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL

Commissioner Condon made a motion to approve the Tip-Top Roofing proposal in the amount of \$18, 860 for replacing the roof on the Peck House as presented. Commissioner Lenski seconded. President VanderVeen confirmed that references for Tip-Top Roofing were checked. All ayes. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Frankenthal made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Litigation at 9:39 p.m. Commissioner Moffat seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

The board returned to the regular meeting at 9:50 p.m.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Moffat made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Vice President Frankenthal seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Secretary

Submitted By: Sheavoun Lambillotte / Amy McConnell