

**VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
GERMANTOWN VILLAGE HALL
Wednesday, January 18, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room A at the Germantown Village Hall. Chair Laszewski read the State Regulations regarding public meetings.

ROLL CALL: Present were Chair Laszewski, Commissioners Miller, Knop, Gray, Barney, and Trustee Rep. Vanderheiden . Also present was Director Altergott and Secretary Lemke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Motion by Laszewski, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.*

Motion by Vanderheiden, seconded by Miller to move to “New Business, item #1”. Motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

VILLAGE BOARD REPORT: Trustee Vanderheiden stated that budget was approved. Property tax bills were sent out, all taxes went down except the village portion went up slightly.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Director Altergott stated that we should have a new representative for the February meeting. The IGA (Inter-Governmental Agreement) re-negotiations will be starting after the spring election.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Every year department heads are asked to submit a list of goals to the village administrator. We are in the process of establishing those goals and will have them available for commission members at next month’s meeting. In 2011, we accomplished 14 out of 20 goals. The six (6) goals that were not accomplished have been moved to 2012.
- I have been asked by the village administrator to serve on the Chamber of Commerce Board beginning in 2013 and Joe has been asked to serve on the Holiday Festival Committee. Joe and I will begin attending meetings in 2012 to gain a feel for our roles with the chamber.
- Due to the unseasonably warm conditions we have experienced this winter it is unlikely that we will have an ice rink at Kinderberg Park.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – PETITION REGARDING REVISION OF DOG ORDINANCE & CONSIDERATION OF DEDICATED OFF LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREA: Director Altergott stated that after our summer meetings in the parks, a group from Lake Park has come forward with a petition containing 154 signatures to change the “No Dogs in Parks Ordinance”. Director Altergott researched area communities as to what their ordinance says in regards to dogs in parks. Police Chief Hoell feels that changing the ordinance would be in the best interest of the village, because the more people using the parks the safer they are.

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Negative Feedback:

- Fecal matter not picked up
- The Village does not have any land to turn into a dog park
- Dogs running at large (off leash)
- Busy times at parks ie; special events, sports activities
- What happens if a dog attacks somebody

Positive Feedback:

- Dogs would help control the geese and ducks in the parks
- Dog people are pro-active and will remind others of the ordinances and/or contact the Police Department
- Parks would provide a safe area for people to walk their dogs

The group representing the dog ordinance change stated that it is not the dogs that are the issue at Haupt Strasse, it is the mess left by the kids that are at the skate park. There is trash all around the playground and around the skate park and tennis courts. Director Altergott stated that there will be “hurdles” to address.

During busy times, there could be a sign in the individual parks posted stating that no dogs are allowed during such stated times. (i.e. Saturday’s @ Friedenfeld)

Motion by Gray, seconded by Barney for Director Altergott to produce a draft of an amended ordinance allowing dogs on leash in the park and forward to the Village Attorney and bring back to the commission in February for further review and action. Motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion continued.

Amendment to the motion by Barney, seconded by Laszewski to have leashes allowed, no more than 6 ft in length and also allow the Park and Recreation Board, to designate by signs, areas where dogs will be prohibited even on leash.

Aye – Barney, Knop, Trustee Rep. Vanderheiden, Laszewski
Nay – Gray, Miller

Motion by Laszewski, seconded by Barney to move back to Public Input. Motion carried unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION – ADVOCACY (SEE ATTACHED ORDINANCE 1.33): Director Altergott and Chair Laszewski gave an overview of what is expected of commissioners. How involved should you be?

- You as commissioners should have a voice
- Talk with your Trustee/Village President
- Talk with your neighbors and community members
- Support us with feedback (negative and/or positive)

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DISCUSSION – REPLACEMENT OF SCHOEN LAUFEN EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE:

Director Altergott stated that the educational signage was an Eagle Scout project done by Nick Damico. The current signs have been vandalized over the years to the point they need to be replaced or removed. Commissioner Gray would like to visit the park in spring and see what plants still exist in the park before replacing the signs. Gray also mentioned that we should create a brochure at the entrance to the park with pictures of plants and then just have signage on the major trees and then number the plant area. Director Altergott also stated that we could do QR Codes (for Smartphones) that would take you to more information about the plant. (This is what the Domes and Milwaukee Public Museum use) The Public Works employees will be doing major clean up in the park to make the river viewable from the path.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST: Commissioner Barney is running for School Board.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Lemke
Reporting Secretary

