

VILLAGE OF WALWORTH MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OUTDOOR COMMITTEE
Wed, July 31, 2024 at Walworth Village Hall, 227 N. Main St., Walworth, WI 53184

JULY 31, 2024 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by chairman Arlene Vorpapel at 5 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL** - In attendance: Dana Goheen, Arlene Vorpapel, Cara Pfeiffer, BF Rec District Rep Dean Connley, Village President Louise Czaja, Public Work Committee Rep Bob Ball and Public Works Operations Mgr Mat Nickels. Also in attendance Village Board member Kristi Reiersen and citizen Cathy Bolger. Parks Committee member Perry Weborg has an excused absence.
3. **JUNE 26, 2024 PARK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES** – Motion by D Connley, 2nd by C Pfeiffer, unanimously approved to accept the June 26, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.
4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS WELCOMED** – None

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. VILLAGE BOARD, CLERKS OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT REPORTS

Village President L Czaja

- report on the Village Board July 8, 2024 meeting: the swing set at Devils Lane Park was painted and the chains were replaced.
- In the future, the Public Works Committee minutes will be made available to the Park Committee.
- Impact Fees, TIF Funds as reported at the 1-8-2024 Village Board Mtg - L Czaja cannot provide balances yet. (TIF district: 2021 estimated balance, \$101,185 and Park impact fee balance, \$47,619.80 (Less expenses associated with new park signs.) President Czaja has no further information at this time. An audit firm will be chosen within a month.
- President Czaja will attempt to verify expiration dates for Park Impact Fees and the TIF funds by the next meeting.

Village Clerks Office

- A Vorpapel requested a different symbol be used for park reservations on the Village webpage calendar for park reservations. The clerks do not know how to do that. Catalyst is webpage provider. D Connley will check to see what BF Rec has for their designations.
- Reservations made/not made – Girls Fast Pitch League is not scheduling their Toynton Park events with the Village Clerk's Office. The Parks Committee will request the league reps attend (an off-season) Park Committee meeting to discuss their use of the park as well as possible future use.

Public Works Dept Operations Mgr M Nickels

- Reported on the July 29, 2024 PW Dept meeting. The swing set at Toynton Park has been painted and new swings and chains were installed.
- Park name signs update - The park signs have been installed, mulch put down at Devils Lane Park and the PW Dept has been watering the flower plants.
- Park regulatory signs update – The new signs were received July 29, 2024 so the PW Dept will plan to install signs as time allows.
- Heyer Park Light Options – Working with Alliant on who owns the lights.
- Toynton Park Softball Use – Problems with Girls Fast Pitch Softball League not locking up bathrooms.
- Recent tournament at Toynton Park - 59 teams signed up for tournament, 82 in Janesville. Season ended the weekend of July 28, 2024. We will invite the league reps to a fall Park Committee meeting after Labor Day. Need their input regarding Toynton Park use.
- Park benches have been updated and stained.

6. ASSESSMENTS - Report by M Nickels, PW Dept

- Park and playground assessment updates provided as well as report on general upkeep done.
- There is mold on the playground equipment at Toynton Park. M Nickels will check it out.

7. REC DEPT NEWS - Report by D Connley

- Up-coming events include a photography contest, a Touch a Truck event on Sept 14, 2024 at BFHS, and Pedal the Parks on October 12, 2024, a bike ride from Devils Lane Park in Walworth, taking the trail through Badger Park, the Fontana Fen, Reid Park, and Duck Ponds in Fontana.

- The next activity guide has been sent to print so it will be distributed soon.

8. UW-MADISON CAPSTONE PROJECT - Report by A Vorpapel

- Thanks to proof readers, President Czaja, Mary Heyer, Fred Noer, Cathy Bolger and Amanda Bender. Extra thanks to Fred Noer for donating an entire Saturday to photographing the parks and for 172 photos taken that are now property of the Village of Walworth.
- The application will be submitted to UW-Madison Thursday, August 1, 2024 with a complete report, photos, and the Village Parks Comp Plan. Notification is expected mid-September.

9. PARK COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

- A Vorpapel presented the Park Committee (Proposed) Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Village of Walworth Parks Committee to advocate for the Village parks and outdoor recreational and green-space properties by being good stewards of the land and natural resources while preserving and honoring the history and unique legacy of these properties. Furthermore, the committee seeks to create and maintain an integrated park system suitable for today and the future by working collaboratively and maintaining open communications with the Village of Walworth Board of Trustees, Public Works Department and committee and the residents of this community.

- Motion to approve Park Committee mission statement made by D Goheen, 2nd by C Pfeiffer, unanimously approved.
- President Czaja will request action by the Village Board at their next meeting. (To be added to Board Agenda for action.)

10. PROJECTS

- **Volleyball Pits** - D Connley no info yet on sand cost. Will be going to Duck Pond on Aug 2 to request info on their vendor, the type of sand used and estimated cost. M Nickels will contact the Village vendor for an estimate, too.
- **Sledding in Rotary Park** - A Vorpapel asked about the feasibility of adding dirt to create more of a sledding hill for younger residents in Rotary Park. Mat Nickels will look into it but not at likely at this time.
- **Little Tykes Adventure Woods at Badger Park** - Cathy Bolger and D Goheen viewed the wooded area west side of Badger Park playground. Would like to create a discovery nature trail thru these woods with a butterfly house, sitting areas, etc. Weather-permitting we will hold the October Park Committee meeting at Badger Park to look at the area.
- **Badger Park: Park vs Conservancy?** - L Czaja will help Vorpapel research this information.
- **Project Daffodils** - A Vorpapel talked with Richard Rasmussen about his Alden Road daffodils. He has offered bulbs to the parks when he's digging and splitting bulbs next Spring. Park Committee will need to identify where we would plant the bulbs. C Pfeiffer made a motion to invite Mr. Rasmussen to a winter meeting. D Connley 2nd, motion, unanimously approved, motion carried.

11. UPCOMING PARK EVENTS & COMMITTEES

- **City-Wide Rummage Sales** - Sat, Aug 3, 2024; A Vorpapel promoted on various Facebook pages in conjunction with Rotary Club Corn & Brat Festival. Need everyone to "Share" this notification on FB to help get the word out. L Czaja also suggested a "Junk in the Trunk" Rummage Sale in the municipal parking lot during 2025 Corn & Brat.
- **Christmas Committee** - C Pfeiffer and D Connley need to recruit community support and volunteers to help with this event.
- **Park Brochure** - Subcommittee: A Vorpapel, D Goheen & D Connley will work on the brochure. Brochure will include a list of parks and amenities, info on pavilion reservations and park memorials such as planting trees plus park activities.
- **Walworth Grade School Open House Festival** - Cathy Bolger invited everyone Tuesday Aug 27, 2024 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. There will be a band, representatives from the Walworth Fire Dept, a school bus and food service. This event will be inside and outside the school.
- **Referendum Info Sessions** - L Czaja shared Interested Citizens Group will host a meeting at Walworth Library on Aug 1, 2024 to discuss the up-coming referendum. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

12. NEXT MEETING 5:30 pm, Wednesday, September 4, 2024

(*IMPORTANT NOTE: change in regular schedule to meet one week later, agreed by committee.)

13. ADJOURNMENT - D Connley motioned to adjourn, D Goheen 2nd, motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 5:45 pm.

7/31/2024 Meeting Minutes submitted by Dana Goheen, 9/4/2024