

# Village of Germantown Hills

## Special Village Board Meeting-Public Hearing

### Park Development-Recreational Trails Program Grant

March 2, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance-** Jeff DeGroot, Village President called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Village President/Trustees	Roll Call	1	2	3
Jeff DeGroot – President	Present	Y		
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y		
Heather Armistead	Present	Y		
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y		
Tom Eckstein	Absent	-		
Karl Figg	Present	Y		
Todd Rice	Present	Y		

Also, in attendance:

Zack Hecht, Public Works

Scott DeSplinter, Village Engineer

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeff DeGroot noted the meeting and public hearing was concerning the proposed recreational trail on the village’s 26-acre park. Jeff noted the board is also interested in ideas for the development of the park.

2. **Public Hearing- Recreational Trail Project Description-Tract 2, Part of the E1/2 of Sec. 29, T27N, R3W, Woodford County, IL (26.11 acres) Commonly known as 205 Fandel Road**

Jeff DeGroot opened the public hearing and stated the project description.

3. **Presentation on the Intent to Develop a Recreational Trails Program Area to construct a 10’ recreational trail on the property, along with a parking lot area.**

Heather Armistead, Committee Park Chairperson, stated last fall the village acquired the 26-acre property. She noted the village would like to start putting together a plan, but we know we can’t afford to do it all at once. We will look to have a long-term vision and do what we can as funding allows. The IDNR Recreational Trails Program Grant became available, so the board agreed to look to do a perimeter recreational trail. The hope would be to do half of the trail at a time, due to the grant and funding limitations.

Scott DeSplinter stated the perimeter recreational trail would allow us to look at developments of the park both inside and outside of the trail construction. This would be a 10' wide asphalt trail with a parking lot at the entrance of the park. Scott noted the site plan shows the future connections to the sidewalk along Fandel Road, Oak Grove Park and the J.R. White Park recreational trail. Scott noted that the village previously had applied for and was granted an IDNR RTP grant for the J.R. White Park recreational trail.

Ann Doubet explained parts of the grant application and that holding a public hearing to gather public comments was required. Ann shared comments from the community so far that include residents wanting a pavilion, kids splash pad, dog park, frisbee golf, and pickle ball court.

Scott DeSplinter stated they are showing a 20' radius at the end of the first phase to show a logical ending where a bench could be placed on the trail. Scott noted the trail is currently being proposed as a 10' trail but wasn't sure if 10' was required.

Ann noted the trail could have bump outs for benches along the path if needed with lighting to be added in the future.

#### **4. Public Comments/Questions**

Jeff DeGroot opened the public hearing for comments.

Ronnie Pollitt, the White Oak Lake Homeowners Association President stated he loves the plan of a recreational trail in our community. He would like to see it go along the outside of the parking lot so that people aren't running or walking through the parking lot. Ronnie noted the green space will be a nice addition for the village.

Dennis Miller, resident that lives adjacent to the property asked if there would be a crosswalk to connect the sidewalk to the trail.

Scott DeSplinter, village engineer, stated there could be, but they will need to check the location for a safe site distance.

Chad Dykes, village resident asked if the trail had to be 10 feet wide.

Scott DeSplinter noted we would check as it could be specific by definition of a trail for the grant but the trail may be able to be constructed at 8 feet wide. The J.R. White Trail is 8 feet wide.

Jack Hoffman, village resident asked if people think the trail will draw people from elsewhere.

Stephanie Chaon stated there are so many people currently walking and running the streets that the trail will be a safe alternative. She noted when she runs, she tries to incorporate areas that have sidewalks but also green space and nature, which she loves to see as she runs or walks within the village.

Ann Doubet noted there have been so many requests from people for more sidewalks and trails over the years so they can safely stay off the streets.

Jeff DeGroot noted he's so happy that the village has a place for trails, so that residents can stay off the road.

Suzy Hoffman noted people speed down Fandel Road all the time and she is concerned for their safety.

Heather Armistead noted the .25 trail won't be a destination right away but will be a destination in the future especially with the completed trail, park plan and additional recreational opportunities for the community.

Dennis Miller asked if there would be playground equipment in the park.

Heather Armistead stated that eventually those ideas will be considered with the plan development.

Dennis Miller noted years ago there was some drainage in one corner of the property.

Scott DeSplinter stated this will be looked at as a part of the design.

Jeff DeGroot noted he would like to see some more prairie grasses put in.

Chad Dykes stated he would like to see native grasses be put in for people that walk the trail and put things back to nature. This will minimize the maintenance. Chad explained his background in biology and has done prairie restoration with a vast knowledge of local birds and prairie grasses. Chad noted the trail and park land will be good for schools and groups for fieldtrips and other activities around nature and recreation.

Jack Hoffman questioned if there would be a possibility for a festival on the property.

The board noted probably not due to the limited parking at this time.

Ronnie Pollitt stated the Homeowners Association would be supportive of a trail. They are working with a consultant to do a study on the siltation in the lake and will share the information with the village.

Jeff DeGroot noted there are two terraces on the property that will help slow the water down along with the natural grasses.

Heather Armistead stated that if anyone has any comments or recommendations to let the village know.

5. **Adjournment**-A motion was made by Nathan Henricks to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. **Motion passed #1.**

Ann Doubet  
Village Clerk