

Special Village Board Meeting-Public Hearing

Recreational Trails Program Grant-Oak Grove Park Phase 2-Trail & Park Improvements

February 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**-Village President Karl Figg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Village President/Trustees	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5
Karl Figg, President	Present					
Heather Armistead	Present	Y				
Elizabeth (Betsy) Cunningham	Present	Y				
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y				
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y				
Paige Patel	Present	Y				
Todd Rice	Absent	-				

Also, in attendance:

Chuck Urban, Village Attorney

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, Germantown Hills, IL**

Karl Figg opened the public hearing and stated the purpose of the public hearing is to develop a Recreational Trails Program Area to construct an 8' recreational trail on the property, along with a restroom, small dog park, and a flashing crosswalk signal along Fandel Road

3. **Proposed Project-To Develop a Recreational Trails Program Area to construct an 8' recreational trail on the property, along with a restroom, small dog park, and a flashing crosswalk signal along Fandel Road.**

Heather Armistead, the park committee chair, explained the proposed Oak Grove Park Improvement project. The village purchased 26 acres with the plan to do a perimeter trail around a portion of the property but to keep it a more natural setting. The village intends to build as much as we can with grant opportunities. The village received a grant for the first phase of the trail along with a parking lot which was constructed this past year. The village applied for a grant for the second phase but wasn't successful in receiving grant approval. The village has decided to submit another grant application for phase 2.

The village will look to build future phases and be fiscally responsible for seeking additional grant opportunities to help fund the improvements. The additional phases may include more lighting, pavilions, playground equipment, additional parking, splash pad, hiking trail, pickle ball courts, larger dog parks and areas with native grass and wildflowers as funding is available. The village doesn't currently have a connection from the park to Holland Road but has received feedback from the residents that they would like that to happen in the future for accessibility and connectivity to the park. The Village has an easement that connects the small original Oak Grove Park off Sunset Lane to the larger Oak Grove Park off of Fandel Road to provide access between the two parks.

The village is in the process of updating the comprehensive plan and recently held a comprehensive plan open house. The open house was well attended, and the village received a lot of positive comments about the development of Oak Grove Park and what they would like to see in the park.

4. Public Comments/Questions

Nicole Wilson asked about the cost of the project and if the village would apply again if it was unsuccessful.

Ann Doubet noted the IDNR RTP grant is for \$200,000 with a total cost estimate of \$455,000 but could change slightly with updated cost estimates. The village will be utilizing general local funds for the remainder of the improvement costs. The feedback the village received was that the previous grant cycle was very competitive with a lot of applications submitted and that with the village updating the comprehensive plan the additional public input on the project would be beneficial to the application.

Heather Armistead noted we won't know about resubmitting a grant request until we get to that point but would make that decision at that time based on available funds and the needs for the community. The additional phases are for a long-term vision of the park. The feedback is that the community wants to see the park develop but the village will need to prioritize the improvements when we get to that point with additional improvements depending on funding.

Chase Hill stated ten years ago that the community wanted more sidewalks and asked if we know what they wanted now.

Karl Figg noted the comprehensive plan open house gave the village another source of input on what the community wants. The comprehensive plan committee along with Tri-County Planning Commission put out a survey to gather input from the community for updates to the comprehensive plan. The village will be getting the information in March.

Alex Jackson asked about input from others outside of the community.

Karl Figg noted with the development of MTCO Park athletic complex that there are going to be a lot of people coming into the community, so it does benefit us to hear from people outside of the community on what attracts them. The community survey did have a question as to where the person lived so we will be able to gather information from others outside of the village.

Betsy Cunningham noted with the grasses, and wildflowers in the park there are grants we can look at applying for as there are many things we can do at the park with nature to bring kids into the park for recreational and educational purposes.

Heather Armistead stated there have been two public hearings on the Oak Grove Park development plans previously with the development of phase one and the grant applications for phase two.

Karl Figg closed the public hearing.

5. **Adjournment**-A motion was made by Heather Armistead to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Nathan Henricks. Motion passed #1.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk