

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 15, 1999 - PAGE 1

Present: Chairperson Schmitt; Vice-Chairperson Greening; Members: Brink, Cobleigh, Davis, and Woodman

Absent: Harmon

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka  
Council liaison, Stearn

Chairperson Schmitt presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

MOTION by Davis, supported by Cobleigh, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on March 18, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Brian Husband of 18255 Birwood, member of Scout Troop 1024, asked the Parks and Recreation Board for ideas relative to projects he could undertake to earn Eagle Scout recognition. Pasieka offered to meet with Brian and outline prospective projects that would benefit the community and the park.

**FRIENDS OF BEVERLY PARK**

Brochure

A Parks and Recreation Board committee met prior to tonight's meeting to work out details of a booklet to be mailed to every household in the Village providing general information about the Friends of Beverly Park program. Members reviewed the draft copy and suggested modifications that will be included in a revised brochure.

Dinner

Greening suggested that the fund raising dinner should probably be held in the early fall due to the preparation time needed to organize the event. After the "Friends" brochure is mailed to residents in May, the Board will be able to determine the initial response from the community.

Dodge Brothers Funding

Schmitt related that Council president Craig suggested that research be done to determine if there is money available from the Dodge estate for improvements to Beverly Park which was donated to the Village as Dodge Brothers State Park No. 6. Eleven park sites scattered over four counties have been presented to the State of Michigan by Dodge Brothers, Inc. as a memorial to John F. And Horace E. Dodge. Pasieka and Schmitt have checked several sources and were not successful in locating a source of funding.

Memorial Day Carnival

The Board anticipates having the Friends of the Park booklet distributed by Memorial Day. It is planned to erect a canopy at the Memorial Day Carnival and display the concept drawing for the park master plan, the artist rendering of the new entranceway, and the plans for the playground area. Members of the Board will be present to explain the plans and obtain citizen input.

### **PARK CLEAN UP**

Board members received their assignments for the Beverly Park clean up at the last meeting. The event will be held on Saturday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m. with a May 15 rain date. The banner will be hung on the fence saying "Park Clean Up - Second Saturday in May, Rain date third Saturday".

### **CONCERTS**

Greening has heard from five homeowner associations that are willing to contribute towards the concerts in the park. The Woman's Club is donating \$500 for one concert. Lemonade and cookies will be provided by the Greenings and served during the concert by children who have volunteered their time. A donation basket will be available. Greening will have a commitment by next month from all sponsors supporting the concerts.

Entertainment for the summer concert series in the park has been arranged. The Groves High School Jazz Ensemble and Chorus will perform at the May concert. The Birmingham Concert Band will play at the June concert. The Detroit Brass Society will perform in July, and Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjacks are scheduled for the August concert.

### **ROUGE CLEAN UP**

A community clean up of the Douglas Evans nature preserve is being organized for Saturday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to coordinate with the area-wide Rouge River cleanup sponsored by the Friends of the Rouge organization. This activity is being advertised in the Villager newsletter. Brink commented that resident Patty Clark will distribute notice of the event to the neighbors surrounding Douglas Evans.

Brink mentioned that the Friends of the Rouge group provides a packet of information for its clean up event including guidelines to be followed the day of the event and registration. They provide a comprehensive health advisory. Pasioka and Brink have talked about keeping the cleanup event low key this year with involvement limited to area residents and other adult volunteers. It is intended to clean up debris in the nature area and along the banks while keeping a distance from the river for liability purposes. Jim Graham, Director of Friends of the Rouge, suggests that volunteers pinpoint large items in the water and their organization will send someone to remove it.

Schmitt asked if there are provisions for parking at Douglas Evans. Pasioka referred to the deed restrictions on that property which prohibits vehicles. There is limited parking for volunteers in the nature preserve but it would be preferable if people parked at the school and walked to the park.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Woodman, to request that Council ask the Village Attorney for an opinion with respect to organizing a cleanup effort at Douglas Evans,

parking at Douglas Evans for the workers, and providing a temporary dumpster and porta john at the site.

It was emphasized that the Village is also responsible for maintaining the Douglas Evans nature preserve.

#### **COMPOST AND WOODCHIP LOCATION**

Board members have learned that administration is considering not restocking the compost material at Beverly Park. Residents would be able to obtain compost at the SOCRRA storage yard.

Pasieka explained the rationale for a proposed change in the practice of leaving a compost pile near the parking lot. Administration and Council members are aware of this Board's view that it is unsightly to store trucks and equipment in the park. Pasieka remarked that it is a convenient location for storing trucks and material when sewer or road construction projects are underway in the Village. If the deed restrictions prohibit that use, administration suggests that they may also preclude storing wood chip or compost piles in the park.

Board members stated that residents have come to expect easy access to the compost and wood chips that the Village is allocated as part of its contribution to SOCRRA. It was thought that the aesthetics of looking at a pile of compost or wood chips in a natural woodland park is different from looking at heavy equipment and supplies, particularly while the parking lot remains unpaved.

MOTION by Davis, support by Woodman, to request administration to continue the generous supply of compost in Beverly Park.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### **LARGE GROUP SURVEYS FOR MAY 23 AND JUNE 9**

There were no objections to the large group requests for pavilion rental for May 23 and June 9.

#### **ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Pasieka outlined the capital purchases that are budgeted for the current fiscal year. It is proposed to purchase three sets of five-tier, metal bleachers to replace the worn and outmoded bleachers near the ball diamonds and the pavilion. Bids on the bleachers will be submitted to Council for approval. The cost is estimated at \$1,500 for three sets of bleachers.

Repairs to the tennis court have been deferred for several years. An amount of \$7,000 has been budgeted for this expense. The pavilion roof has been leaking and should be replaced. The cost will be \$3,000 or \$4,000 if the old roof is removed.

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by Brink, to support administration purchasing bleachers and reroofing the pavilion.

Motion passes unanimously.

The Board considered whether to support the cost of repairing the tennis courts. It was agreed that the tennis courts are used and that they are in bad shape; they should either be repaired or removed.

MOTION by Woodman, supported by Greening, to support the repair of the tennis courts for an estimated cost of \$7,000.

Motion passes unanimously.

Pasieka related that Lillian Dean from the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority is in the process of drafting a brochure on the Douglas Evans Nature Preserve. Pasieka received a memo from her indicating that a group is convening at Douglas Evans on Tuesday, May 4 at 3:30 for a site tour with ecological expert Dick Wolinski. The Parks and Recreation Board members are invited to attend.

Flyers are available advertising compost bins that are on sale at the SOCRRA facility for \$33.

Pasieka mentioned two contacts he received from residents. Mrs. Donnelly who lives at 18714 Chelton asked that the Village remove the buckthorn trees that are intertwined on the park fence which borders her property. Pasieka recommends seeing what the volunteers can do on the Village side of the fence at the park clean up.

Pasieka received a call from Jeff Despard from the Cub Scouts asking about the troop doing some clean up of the pond area. Pasieka thinks that work on the pond may be a task for an older group of scouts.

Council held a budget review session on April 12 at which time Council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board, Todd Stearn, requested support to increase park capital expenditures in the next fiscal year budget. An additional \$12,000 was allocated in the capital fund.

Pasieka walked the park recently with a supervisor from Comeau Equipment Co. They observed that the benches around the play area and throughout the park have deteriorated and need maintenance. This could be an Eagle Scout project to replace bad boards and reseal the benches.

At the March 15 Council meeting, public services director Spallasso was directed to prepare plans for a parking lot design. Schmitt asked for an update. Pasieka responded that Spallasso is in the process of gathering information and preparing plans. Spallasso reaffirms that the \$100,000 figure estimated for parking lot paving and striping is accurate but may not include curbs, gutters or medians.

#### **COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS**

Stearn relayed that Doyle Downey and other members of Council have expressed interest in the possibility of federal funding for Rouge River Clean up in Beverly Hills.

Brink stated that she looked at the Douglas Evans site last week with Jim Graham, Director of Friends of the Rouge. He had no major concerns in terms of major work that needs to be done at that segment. There is a potential problem with a couple of trees falling over and branches caught in the river. She does not know if he has looked at all of the river throughout the Village. Much of the riverbank is in people's back yards.

Stearn commented that he walked through the Hidden Rivers nature preserve recently and remarked on how difficult it is to find. He asked if the Parks and Recreation Board is interested in taking up the issue of placing a sign somewhere in the area. He read the deed restrictions and thinks it can be done.

Stearn stated that he asked Council to consider adding \$40,000-\$60,000 to the Parks and Recreation capital fund to begin implementation of the park master plan. Council agreed to allocate an additional \$12,000 in that fund.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Woodman commented that she has recruited an able person to take her place supervising work in the area of the baseball fields during the park clean up. She will not be attending the park clean up because her daughter is graduating from Michigan State University on that Saturday.

Schmitt made a presentation at the March 15 Council meeting and mentioned the people from the Parks and Recreation Board who were in attendance. He missed Irene Davis and apologized for not acknowledging her and her significant services to the community.

Cobleigh noted another park that has added a dog run section. The Parks and Recreation Board has put that suggestion aside to consider more important issues. Cobleigh remarked that people who own dogs would like to see a dog park within Beverly Park.

Davis commented that there is debris in the pond that could be cleaned up during the park clean up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

**Philip Schmitt, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Board**

**Ellen E. Marshall  
Village Clerk**