

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 18, 1999 - PAGE 1

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka
Council President, Craig
Council member, 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 of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on February 18, 1999

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

Motion passes unanimously.

Approve minutes of a special Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on March 4, 1999

The minutes of the March 4 special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board were amended as follows. The first paragraph on page 1, second sentence, should read: "Notice of this special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board *had been given personally to all members of the Board on Wednesday, February 24, 1999*, and has been posted on the bulletin board at the Village office since Friday, February 26, 1999." It was noted that Craig should be deleted from the list of those present.

On page 6, replace existing text with the following language beginning from the motion by Harmon:

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Woodman, to amend the *resolution* to remove the second paragraph from the *resolution* and submit the second item separately to Council so that the challenge and commitment by the Village *are* separate proposals.

The amended *resolution* will read as follows:

RESOLVED by Greening, supported by Davis, to request Council's support to establish the Friends of Beverly Park and to support the Parks and Recreation Board and the Friends of Beverly Park in their efforts to raise funds to implement the Master Plan, with the direction of the Village administration to assist the Friends of Beverly Park.

FURTHER RESOLVED to request Council's support to accept the Friends of Beverly Park's challenge and commit the Village to paving and striping the parking lot at Beverly Park when the Friends of Beverly Park has raised 3/4 of the funds necessary to complete construction of the proposed new main entrance.

Vote on *motion to amend resolution*:

Schmitt	- no
Greening	- no
Brink	- yes
Cobleigh	- no
Davis	- yes
Harmon	- yes
Woodman	- yes

Amendment passes (4-3). The Parks and Recreation Board then unanimously agreed to send these two *resolutions* to Council as soon as possible.

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by Woodman, that the minutes of a special Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on March 4, 1999 be approved as amended.

Motion passes unanimously.

Verdi-Hus Park landscaping plan update

Resident MaryAnn Verdi-Hus, who has a background in landscape design, offered her services on a volunteer basis when she learned of the Board's interest in developing a landscape plan for the park. Schmitt learned recently that Verdi-Hus is no longer available to draft the design due to other commitments. Schmitt thanked her for her thoughts.

Concert fund raising update

Greening will verify by next month whether three of the four summer concerts in the park will be sponsored through donations. The Village has received about \$600 to date from Village homeowner associations to fund the summer concerts. Other sponsors include the Village Woman's Club and possibly a bank in the community.

Park Clean Up

The Beverly Park clean up will be held on Saturday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m.. Harmon distributed maps of the park divided into work areas. Board members selected the area that they will be responsible for on that day with respect to directing volunteers and facilitating work. There was discussion about equipment that will be needed on that day and who will provide it.

Members shared the task of contacting community and school groups to request their participation in the event. Cobleigh will see to it that refreshments are provided for everyone compliments of the Beverly Hills Lions Club.

It was clarified that a community clean up of the Douglas-Evans nature preserve will be conducted on Saturday, June 5 in conjunction with the area-wide Rouge River clean up organized by the Friends of the Rouge organization. The Board discussed requesting grant funds through the Friends of the Rouge group for next year's Rouge River clean up efforts in Beverly Hills. The cost of having Comeau Equipment Company provide a truck at Douglas Evans for the day will be obtained for the next meeting.

Large Group Surveys

Comments on the large group event request form were addressed by Pasieka. Board members had no objections to the large group requests for pavilion rental for June 13, June 20, and July 10, 1999.

Follow-up on Village Council meeting of March 15, 1999

Schmitt stated that Council acknowledged and supported the Board's proposal for a Friends of Beverly Park program for fund raising activities to implement the park master plan. Council did not commit money for paving the parking lot at this time. Council authorized the expenditure of \$2,000 for the printing and mailing of a Friends of Beverly Park booklet to all Village residents.

Phyllis and Jack Lauer of 31965 Alden Court suggested a means of fund raising for the entrance gate at Beverly Park by selling engraved bricks to be laid as part of the design of that project. Phyllis Lauer submitted information she compiled on this type of fund raising event to the Board. Phyllis and Jack Lauer will donate \$100 to the Village for the first brick.

Board members indicated that selling engraved bricks has been talked about and will be part of the fund raising activities. The first fund raising effort will be a direct mail solicitation to all Village residents followed by a fund raising dinner.

Greening related plans for organizing a fund raising dinner and silent auction at the Birmingham Country Club to kick off fund raising events. The idea is to charge \$150 a plate for the event with \$100 of that amount donated towards park improvements. Greening will ask the artists who have participated in the summer art show in Beverly Park as well as other people and businesses in the Village to provide an item for a silent auction. Don Greening has agreed to donate a carving or a birdhouse to launch the event.

There was a lengthy discussion of the coordination, scheduling, publicity, and strategy of fund raising activities for the park. The Parks and Recreation Board was cognizant of the importance of including everyone interested in helping the community's park. There will be people who attend the dinner, those who will buy a brick, and others who will donate \$10.

There was unanimous agreement to proceed with a fund raising dinner and silent auction. Greening will be asking members for their help.

It was suggested that the brick fundraiser could start in May during the Memorial Day Carnival and continue this summer. If enough money is raised, the new entrance to the park could be constructed this fall.

Craig remarked that the reporter from the Eccentric newspaper is interested in doing a comprehensive article on the park fund raising program. Board members may want to contact that individual with detailed information as it becomes available.

Board members discussed the content and wording of a marketing booklet to be distributed to every household in Beverly Hills. Greening and her husband prepared a draft brochure for distribution to Council members for consideration at their March 15 meeting. Council allocated \$2,000 for the

printing and mailing of a Friends of Beverly Park booklet. The Board unanimously commended Don Greening on the art work.

Woodman has offered the assistance of her husband who is creative director at an advertising agency to work on the wording and layout of the booklet. The Board talked about what additional information should appear in the brochure and the manner in which to present it. The purpose of the book is to provide general information about Friends of Beverly Park and to implement the master plan. The first step will be to raise money for the new entrance and gate. The list of master plan projects will be included in the booklet so that residents understand that this fund raising effort will be around for a while. It will be emphasized that the Friends of Beverly Park will have an annual drive every year with additional fund raising opportunities throughout the year.

Members discussed whether to list funding categories in the booklet. A straw vote of four to three favored including multiple levels of giving as long as there is a low level so as not to discourage anybody. The suggestion was made to list the names of people who are generous with donations to the park in the Villager newsletter and on the bulletin board in Beverly Park. Donors have the option of remaining anonymous.

Donations to the park will be eligible for both Michigan tax credit and itemized charitable deductions in 1999. Checks will be made payable to "Village of Beverly Hills – Park".

Administration comments

Pasieka stated that park pavilion reservations were taken from residents on March 3. Many of the dates have been reserved.

Pasieka related a recent situation involving an executor of an estate requesting to plant a memorial tree in the park. This led to discussion on planting and marking trees with plaques. It was the consensus of the Board to defer planting of memorial trees until a landscape plan for the park is prepared. There was interest in naming opportunities and in pursuing donations according to an established plan.

The Beverly Hills Garden Club has expressed concern about damage being done to the Memorial Garden in the front of Beverly Park. Pasieka stated that a one-foot fence around the garden is being considered. Participants in games and sports come too close to the garden and accidents occur.

Board members suggested asking the YMCA camp leaders to have the children play on the other side of the pavilion away from the garden. The Parks and Recreation Board does not think fencing around the garden is a good idea. Pasieka will contact the YMCA representatives and request that summer camp activities take place in the area between the pavilion and path.

MOTION by Woodman, supported by Harmon, that administration communicate with YMCA representatives about summer camp participants using the area between the pavilion and the path for games and sports so as not to damage the Memorial Garden. Reviewing the condition of the Memorial Garden will be added to the checklist of the park closer.

Motion passes unanimously.

Board members received a memo dated February 19 from Renzo Spallasso stating that the sewer contractor will no longer be using the storage area in the Beverly Park parking area. The memo also addresses the entrance gate at the Douglas Evans nature preserve. The Oakland County Drain Commissioner's office is preparing a proposal requesting that the approach to the entrance in the right-of-way be modified to allow for larger trucks delivering the calcium hypochloride necessary for the waste water treatment at the combined sewer overflow basin. Pasieka suggests installing a more inviting gate at Douglas Evans when the gate is relocated at the expense of the County.

There was discussion about relocating the Douglas Evans gate on the other side of the bridge. It would allow maintenance vehicles to pull off of the road and drivers to get out and open the gate without posing a safety issue. It was questioned whether the location of the gate on the west side of the bridge on the most interior side of Douglas Evans would violate the deed restrictions.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Woodman, that the Parks and Recreation Board ask Council to seek an opinion from Village Attorney Ryan on moving the gate to the Douglas Evans side of the bridge.

Motion passes unanimously.

Craig questioned the status of the brochure about the Douglas Evans nature preserve being prepared by the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority. There has been discussion about placing the brochures in a box attached to the Douglas-Evans sign so that people can take one as they enter.

Pasieka commented that the Village is waiting to receive the camera-ready copy of the brochure from SOCWA representative Lillian Dean this spring. He will follow up on this. Craig would like to see the brochure available before the Rouge clean up at Douglas Evans.

Woodman referred to a letter from Dan Badgley, manager of the E. L. Johnson Nature Center for Bloomfield Hills Schools, to Renzo Spallasso thanking him for arranging for students to visit the Acacia Park Retention Basin at the Douglas Evans Nature Preserve. The tour was conducted by two people from the County.

Board comments

Schmitt congratulated Andy Craig on his election to Council President. Schmitt thanked Council for its support of the Parks and Recreation Board at their last meeting and looks forward to Council's continuing support.

Schmitt thanked LaVerne Cleary on a great job of organizing the Scouts in the area to join in the annual Beverly Park clean up.

Schmitt thanked the Township Animal Control operation for sending staff to apprehend dogs running in the park recently.

Cobleigh commented that a friend of his, who is the president of a paving company, will provide the Village a cost estimate for paving the parking lot at Beverly Park if he is furnished with architectural drawings. It was mentioned that Public Services Director Spallasso was authorized to prepare plans for the parking lot design.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**