

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - MAY 20, 1999 - PAGE 1

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

Absent: Davis

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

Chairperson Schmitt presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Beverly Park pavilion.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION by Greening, supported by Woodman, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on April 15, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

FOLLOW UP REPORT ON PARK CLEANUP

Harmon stated that there are about 140 names on the sign up sheet but he estimates that double that number joined in the park cleanup on Saturday, May 8. The weather was beautiful and the clean up went very well. The Board thanked everyone who participated in the event. Schmitt thanked Harmon for organizing the volunteers.

DISCUSS BRIDGE PLAN PROPOSAL

Don Greening designed and will build a bridge across the drainage ditch between the gravel path and the section of the pond where the bench is located. He will do this at no expense to the Village. Comeau will build the ramps up to the bridge and cement and anchor the posts. Spallasso has approved the bridge design with a change to a 42" footing.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Woodman, to support Don Greening in building a bridge near the pond and request administration's cooperation in facilitating its completion.

Motion passes unanimously.

UPDATES ON "FRIENDS OF BEVERLY PARK"

Schmitt stated that the Village Woman's Club proposes to sell paving bricks at the Memorial Day Carnival to assist in raising money for the new park entranceway. The name of the person donating is placed on a brick that will be used in the sidewalk at the park entrance. A flyer will be distributed at the event to apprise people of the fund raising activities planned for park improvements.

Greening learned that Beverly School will also be selling bricks late this year or next spring to help pay for a building expansion.

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by Greening, to support the Village Woman's Club undertaking to sell paving bricks to raise money for the new park entranceway.

Motion passes unanimously.

Brochure

Greening reported on the status of the booklet to be mailed to every household in the Village providing general information about the Friends of Beverly Park program. She anticipates getting it to the printer next week and having it ready to mail mid-June. Address labels will be provided by the Village office and the brochures will be assembled with the help of volunteers.

A condensed version of the brochure explaining fund raising activities will be prepared in the form of a flyer and printed for distribution at the Memorial Day Carnival.

Dinner

A fund raising dinner at the Birmingham Country Club is set for September 22. Many details remain to be decided. Invitations and response cards will be printed. Greening is seeking sponsors to assist with the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres to defray costs so that \$100 per person can go towards park improvements. The cost for the dinner will be \$150 a person.

Items are being sought for the silent auction. Anyone with contacts for any type of silent auction item should make the request and bring the item to the Parks and Recreation Board. There will be approximately an hour of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction before dinner.

Janet Mooney of 19111 Devonshire questioned the cost and whether it would exclude young families. Greening stated that the idea is to raise the maximum amount of money for the new park entrance. About \$150 a person seems to be the norm for a fund raising dinner event. The Board looks forward to strong support from Council and administration.

Tent at Carnival

The Parks and Recreation Board will set up a tent at the carnival and display the concept drawing for the park master plan, an artist's 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. A flyer will be distributed to people outlining the Friends of Beverly Park concept. A sign-up sheet for working at the tent was distributed.

ROUGE '99 CLEANUP

Members are in receipt of an opinion letter dated May 12, 1999 from Attorney Tom Ryan in response to the Board's request that Village legal counsel render an opinion with respect to organizing a clean up effort at Douglas Evans, parking at Douglas Evans for workers, and providing a temporary dumpster and porta johns at the site. The Village's attempt to become involved in the '99 Rouge River Cleanup activities at the Douglas Evans nature preserve will be kept low key and will not involve a dumpster, porta john, nor Village organized effort.

Pasieka outlined the cleanup activity on Saturday, June 5 from 10 am - 12 noon at the Douglas Evans nature preserve. Brink will monitor the volunteers. The current plan is for the Village to provide 30 gallon plastic bags for a clean up of litter at the nature area, especially along the banks of that portion of the Rouge River that flows through the Douglas Evans property. The filled bags will be stored near the Retention Treatment Facility (RTF) and picked up on Monday morning by Comeau Equipment Company. Phil Sanzica from the Oakland County Drain Commission will open the control building so that the volunteers will have access to restroom facilities and water.

Area resident Mrs. Ladue has offered her driveway and property for parking a few cars from the high school volunteers on that day. The gate to the nature area can be opened to accommodate a nominal amount of cars. Volunteering Board members will meet at Beverly Park at 9:45 am on June 5 and drive over to the nature preserve together.

Ryan understands that there are more demands being placed upon the Village for access by various people to the nature preserve. It is the Village Attorney's suggestion that the Parks and Recreation Board become involved in recommending to Village Council regulations and guidelines for the utilization of the Douglas Evans Nature Preserve consistent with the Deed Restrictions. The Board requested the administration's recommendation.

Board members received copies of the latest draft of the Douglas-Evans Nature Preserve brochure prepared by Lillian Dean. The flyer talks about the history of the location, the CSO basin, and the natural wildlife and plants that can be found on this prairie landscape. Pasieka intends to print copies of the brochure and have them available to people who visit the nature preserve. He displayed the box that will contain the flyers to be hung from the Douglas-Evans sign in the road right-of-way.

Board members commended Ms. Dean on doing a nice job of putting the pamphlet together.

RIVERSIDE PARK FUNDING

Harmon related that he read an article in the Eccentric newspaper about what is being done at Quarton Lake by the City of Birmingham with grant money from the federal government through Rouge River clean water projects. Riverside Park has a pond which is an extension of the Rouge River. It is about six inches deep and would benefit by being cleaned up and dredged. Harmon will look into this further and keep the board informed.

Pasieka remarked that an interested citizen came into the Village office recently asking about maintenance of the trees and shrubs on the island at Riverside Park. This individual thought that someone from the Village should be trimming the vines that are choking out some of the valuable trees.

LARGE GROUP PAVILION REQUESTS FOR JUNE 4 AND JULY 18

There were no objections to the large group requests for pavilion rental for June 4 and July 18.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka announced that the Village Newsletter has been mailed to all Beverly Hills residents.

Repairs have been made to the sled hill. Sod was laid to cover two protruding pieces of cement on the top of the hill. A six inch layer of dirt and grass seed was placed on the top of the hill where there were some depressions. Comeau filled in the south side slope and put mesh and screening over it to promote growth. It has already been partially torn away.

Pasieka stated that the Village has budgeted money to do an engineering study to determine what can be done to improve the safety of the sled hill. Schmitt suggested having the engineering study done this summer so improvements can be made before winter.

Some of the brush has been removed west of the drainage ditch in the area of the park between the pond and the pavilion. Pasieka thinks that it looks better where Buckthorn has been cleared away, providing a better line of sight of the Pilgrim Oak from the pavilion.

Pasieka announced that Ann Woodman has indicated to administration that she will not be seeking reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Board. Her term will expire at the end of June and administration will miss her greatly. The first announcement of a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Board was made at the last Council meeting.

Election of officers for the year will be an agenda item for the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

There will be a concert in the park on Sunday, May 23, at 4 pm featuring the Groves High School Chorus and Jazz Ensemble. Groves has not provided a program for the concert. Pasieka will prepare flyers announcing the featured group and concert time. The Band Director is James Zarzycki and the Chorus Director is Tim Thomas.

Schmitt stated that the most recent financial statement indicates that there is \$12,500 in the Capital Purchases/Park Site Improvement line item in the current year's budget. It was clarified that \$12,000 was added to that fund as part of the 1999-2000 budget. On July 1, there will be \$24,500 in the Cap-Park Site Improvement budget. The Parks and Recreation Board can recommend to Council how this money should be spent.

BOARD COMMENTS

Schmitt thanked administration for a doing a great job of clearing out the Buckthorn in the area between the pavilion and the pond. He thanked Harmon for organizing the park clean up. Schmitt thanked the Beverly Hills Lions Club for providing refreshments at the event.

Schmitt suggested that the Village Council might like to have one of its summer meetings in Beverly Park. It would be a great way to get people there and show support for the park.

Greening asked if the Birmingham Concert Band will prepare programs for its concert in the park. Pasieka will check into that. Schmitt will make a card saying "donations for the park" to be placed on a basket that will be set out at the lemonade stand. Donations will go toward park improvements. Greening stated that the Beverly Hills Lions Club has made a contribution towards the concerts in the park.

Greening recounted a phone call she received from the Garden Club regarding a couple of issues. It appears that children using Beverly Park for the day camp play soccer around the flower bed at the front of the park and have damaged the plantings upon occasion. Pasieka responded that administration will contact the YMCA to discuss how the Village expects the campers and the counselors to conduct themselves in the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**