

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 17, 1999 - PAGE 1

Present: Chairperson Schmitt: Members: Brink, Davis, Harmon and Woodman

Absent: Cobleigh and Greening

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 Harmon, supported by Woodman, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, May 20, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kenneth Krasity of 31964 Mayfair stated that he received a brochure in the mail soliciting funds from the Friends of Beverly Park. The mailing contains a schematic of the park master plan which includes a pavilion in the northwest corner of the park. The new pavilion appears to be located about 50 feet from the property lines of houses adjacent to the park. The sidewalk near a proposed drop off area is the only sidewalk exit from Beverly Woods Subdivision.

Krasity is opposed to the new pavilion and does not see a reason to have it in that location. He thinks that erecting a pavilion 50 feet from adjacent homes and placing a drop off lane close to the sidewalk is inappropriate and dangerous. He thinks the pavilion will attract a lot of people and invade his privacy. He questioned how the need for bathroom facilities will be met. It is proposed to have a paved path leading to this pavilion to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The shelter may be used as a gathering point for people who skateboard and roller blade.

Krasity also objects to the fact that affected residents were not given specific notice of this pavilion through a certified letter. He gathered 13 signatures on a petition from people objecting to the proposed pavilion. None of the people who signed the petition knew that a pavilion would be built in that corner until they received the Friends of the Park brochure. Krasity questioned why this brochure was not sent out earlier in the process if the Village was interested in receiving input from residents. He maintains that any notice provisions adopted by the village in this respect were wholly inadequate for something that will determine the quality of life in his house and his property values. Krasity will attempt to gather more signatures at the neighborhood association meeting tomorrow and will address this issue at the Village Council meeting next Monday. He outlined the documents he requested in a Freedom on Information Act letter addressed to the Village.

Krasity commented that the Friends of Beverly Park is an organization funded with residents' tax dollars and the brochure soliciting donations to the park was mailed with Village tax dollars. Once the pavilion is built, the Village will have to maintain it with tax dollars. Krasity stated that he has

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been told that the pavilion will probably not be built in the near future. He questioned why there is something in the master plan that is not intended to be built. Krasity objects to the pavilion and to the notice provisions and hopes that area residents join with him in petitioning the Village to try to remove this feature of the park master plan.

Schmitt thanked Krasity for his input and stated that the Parks and Recreation Board will take his comments under advisement.

Helen Lewis of 18990 Beverly, who has lived in the Village for 46 years, has observed a trend to take away the naturalness of this park. The northwest area of the park is currently used to play frisbee, touch football and for other activities. Lewis does not think the current pavilion is used to its potential, and she sees no need for another pavilion. She expressed concern with bringing outsiders into the park and with the safety of the park.

Thelma Potrykus of 31985 Mayfair questioned the need for the smaller pavilion. She thinks a pavilion at the northwest corner of the park would make that area more congested and noisy. She commented on the design of the proposed park entrance comparing it to an entrance to Disneyland or a cemetery.

Woodman stated that the small protected area at the northwest corner of the park was intended to be a covered area for residents to use when the current pavilion is rented. She asserted that the pavilion is reserved and used a good deal in the summer.

Maggie Cumming of 31964 Mayfair Lane commented that people play soccer and football in the northwest area of the park. She thinks the park is a great place to have open space to use for these activities. She maintains that a drop off near the sidewalk on Beverly Road will create a dangerous situation for children who cross the road in this area.

Phyllis Lauer of 31965 Alden Court stated that she has been aware of and has attended Village meetings on the park master plan. She questioned why others did not know about these meetings. The community meetings at Beverly School were well attended.

Schmitt stated that the Parks and Recreation Board will consider the comments made by residents. Harmon clarified that there were several mailings from the Village soliciting public comments on the master plan. It has been a topic at many Parks and Recreation Board meetings, which are all public meetings, and has been a subject of joint meetings with the Village Council. Harmon maintains that there have been many opportunities for citizen comments, including two meetings at Beverly school a year and a half ago, which were attended by 200-300 people. The master plan for the park was a summation of comments gathered at master plan meetings, at Parks and Recreation Board meetings, and at joint Council meetings.

Harmon stated that there is no plan for a restroom at the proposed shelter. The drop off area is not planned to cross the sidewalk. The fence will be moved farther inside the park.

ART IN THE HILLS PRESENTATION

Bette Sprague was not present. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

ROUGE CLEAN UP

Brink reported that the clean up at Douglas Evans park on June 5 went very well and was attended by a couple of dozen people. The volunteers picked up debris and large pieces of refuse, wood and building supplies in the nature preserve. Bags of trash were removed by the Village on the following Monday. The retention treatment facility was open for people to get water and use the restrooms.

Special recognition was given to Gerry LaDue and Doyle Downey who worked on breaking up log jams. Patty Clark was also thanked for her assistance in organizing the event. Lillian Dean supplied Brink with prairie plants to place around the signage at the entrance. Board members thanked Brink for her work in organizing the clean up at Douglas Evans.

CONCERT IN THE PARK - JUNE 27 AT 4:00 PM

Board members received a copy of the handout prepared for distribution prior to the June 27 concert in the park featuring the Birmingham Concert Band. Patriotic music will be performed at 4 p.m. in Beverly Park.

This concert will be sponsored by Jiffy Lube and Oil and the West Beverly Homeowners Association. A Jiffy Lube banner will be hung inside the show mobile.

FRIENDS OF BEVERLY PARK

Brochure

The Friends of the Park brochure was mailed to all Village residents. The Board hopes to receive positive responses from that mailing.

A resident in the audience who spoke earlier in the meeting thanked the Parks and Recreation Board for its work on behalf of the park. She asked when residents will have an opportunity to voice opinions and ask questions on the park master plan. Residents received a brochure yesterday requesting money for park improvements. Members of the Village Woman's Club also received a letter from that organization asking residents to buy paving bricks to raise funds for the park entranceway. Schmitt clarified that this is a joint effort with the Parks and Recreation Board to raise money for park improvements.

A resident asked if the park could be restricted to Beverly Hills residents only. Schmitt responded that a grant from the Dodge Brothers deeding the park to the community states that it is open for all people to use. Generally, a park is used by people within near proximity. This is not a park that someone will drive ten miles to frequent. There will never be a feature in this park that draws people from miles around.

Residents in the audience who live adjacent to the park commented that they endure the noise and traffic whereas people who come from further away enjoy the park without that noise and traffic. It was mentioned that the park was originally a natural area. Each feature that is added takes away from the naturalness of the park.

Woodman commented that there have been master plan meetings, questionnaires, and articles in the Villager newsletter about the park master plan. Tonight is the first time this group has heard negative comments. People have requested that the park be updated. Residents have been taking their children out of the Village to other parks that have safer play equipment.

The comment was made by a resident that the park is not safe. Residents were urged to call the police department when they see people in the park past the 10 pm closing hour.

Maggie Cumming asked how many people the proposed pavilion will accommodate and what it will look like. Woodman responded that it was proposed to be a gazebo type of structure. The exact size and location has not been determined.

Schmitt asserted that the pavilion under discussion is not high on the priority list of park improvements. Priorities include a new entranceway, paving the parking lot, park fence, landscaping, playground area, and possibly a gazebo by the pond.

Woodman remarked that the purpose of having a master plan is to have a vision to work towards. The plan does not have to include architectural scaled drawings for each feature that is planned. Professional planners create a scheme that will meet the needs of the residents. Everything the Parks and Recreation Board does is for the safety and enjoyment of the residents.

Cumming emphasized that it is important to people living 50 feet away from a proposed pavilion to know if there will be 20 to 30 people using the facility. Having people that close to your home on a regular basis represents a change in your lifestyle.

Schmitt stated that the Parks and Recreation Board would conduct a detailed review of all the features of a pavilion if it were considered at some time in the future. There would be an effort to accommodate everybody. At this time, there is no plan for a pavilion and no funding in sight nor being requested.

Letterhead

Schmitt displayed a prototype sheet of letterhead that has been designed for Friends of Beverly Park letters. It will be the official stationary of the Parks and Recreation Board for writing thank you letters and for other administrative correspondence. Village Administration will approve the letters going out on this stationary. The cost of printing 500 sheets and envelopes is \$115.

MOTION by Woodman, supported by Davis, to approve the proposed Parks and Recreation letterhead and recommend its adoption by Council.

Motion passes unanimously.

Carnival Booth

Members of the Parks and Recreation Board spent some time in a booth at the Memorial Day Carnival displaying the park master plan, the design for the entrance way, and the paving bricks that are being sold to raise funds for the pedestrian entrance. Schmitt remarked that people were receptive of the idea of the master plan. Board members agreed that most of the comments were supportive and enthusiastic.

Bricks

Phyllis Lauer from the Village Woman's Club displayed the paving bricks that are being sold for \$50 and \$100 to raise money for the new park entranceway. The Village Woman's Club is selling the bricks as its promotion for beautification of the park entrance.

Dinner

A fund raising dinner is scheduled for September 22 at the Birmingham Country Club. Greening has one sponsor at this time, Realtor Maryann McBroom, who has donated \$2,200 to the cause. Greening has commitments for at least 25 tickets at \$150 per person. Numerous items have been donated for the silent auction.

LARGE GROUP PAVILION REQUEST FOR JULY 24, 1999

There were no objections to the large group requests for pavilion rental for July 24.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

Board members commented on what appears to be a lack of response by the Public Safety Department to dogs running loose in the park. Pasieka suggested inviting Director Woodard to a Parks and Recreation Board meeting to discuss this issue as well as a concern about people in the park after 10 pm.

Pasieka reported that a box to hold brochures was installed on the Douglas Evans entrance sign. The flyers are being picked up by residents.

There will be a new gate installed at the entrance to Douglas Evans nature preserve. The purpose of the gate is to restrict vehicular traffic. It will be moved back and made wider to accommodate the large trucks that enter the site to maintain the CSO facility. The new gate will be more decorative.

Pasieka informed the Board that the FAR Conservatory, which supports developmentally disabled children, will sponsor a celebrity softball game in the park featuring "behind the scenes" celebrities at WKJB.

Pasieka invited Board members to attend next Monday's Council meeting at which time Ann Woodman will be honored for her contributions as a long time member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Gerry Miley will be recognized for his service on the Planning Board.

BOARD COMMENTS

Davis thinks the brochure sent to all the Village residents was wonderful and hopes there will be many positive responses.

Harmon thanked Ann for many years of service on the Parks and Recreation Board. The list of accomplishments that have been realized during her tenure is significant. She will be greatly missed.

Schmitt thanked Ann for her years on this Board. Some of the things that have been accomplished during her term have been the volleyball court, the basketball court, dredging the pond, the path extension, completion of the master plan, and initiation of concerts in the park. Ann was personally responsible for originating the winter family fun day event in the park. The Board will miss her. Brink added that it has been a pleasure working with Ann.

Woodman hopes that the Board will continue pursuing signage at the parks. She would like to see uniform signage at Douglas Evans, Beverly Park, Riverside Park and possibly at Hidden Rivers. Hidden Rivers is also a public nature preserve that the residents should know about. As caretakers of the parks, it is this Board's responsibility to let the residents know what is theirs to enjoy.

Woodman was pleased that the Parks and Recreation Board was involved in the Rouge River cleanup. The Village has a lot of private frontage on the Rouge River. Residents who have frontage on the river are probably not aware of the responsibility that they have to the Rouge River watershed. Woodman suggested that the Board may want to consider sending out an educational letter to those people informing them of how their actions affect the river further downstream.

Woodman commented that she has adored being a part of the Parks and Recreation Board for 12 years. She had many commitments on her time when she was first appointed to the Board. Woodman wanted the residents present earlier to hear that they can take time to do things that they are interested in. The park is something that she has been passionate about. Woodman has treasured every experience on this Board. She told the Board that it has been a real pleasure working with all of them and the people that came before them.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Stearn thanked Ann Woodman for her service to the community. He has not known Ann for very long, but has heard wonderful comments about her from others.

Stearn has copies of applications from individuals interested in filling the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Board if any members are interested in reviewing them after the meeting.

Stearn is also the Council liaison to the Finance Committee. The possibility of a joint Finance Committee and Parks and Recreation Board meeting was brought up at their last meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**