

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka  
Council liaison, Stearn  
Director of Public Safety, Woodard

Chairperson Schmitt presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Beverly Park pavilion. Board members welcomed newly appointment member Janet Mooney.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by Davis, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on June 17, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Davis nominated Phil Schmitt as Chairperson and Pat Greening as Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Board.

MOTION by Davis, supported by Harmon, to elect Phil Schmitt as Chairperson and Pat Greening as Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Board by acclamation.

Motion passes unanimously.

**WELCOME PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR KARL WOODARD**

Schmitt welcomed Director Woodard to the meeting to answer questions from the Board or any members of the public.

Woodard was asked how often the public safety officers patrol the park. He responded that the officers patrol the park once or twice a day, depending on the number of people in the park. Officers checking the park usually get out of the car and walk around. The officers might spend from 15 to 30 minutes when they check the park, not including the times they drive through the parking lot to check on crowd conditions or dogs running loose. Patrols are not scheduled so they are unexpected.

Woodard stated that there are occasional requests from the public to check on the park for a particular problem such as noisy kids. The park closes at 10 p.m. An officer will periodically ask someone to leave because they are in the park after hours. This typically occurs on a weekend.

Schmitt related that he called the Public Safety Department one morning when he observed a dog running loose in the park. The officer responded that he would call the animal control officer when the Township office opened that day.

Woodard stated that the animal control officer is under the jurisdiction of Southfield Township. This would be the dispatcher's response to a call that close to Township office hours on Monday through Friday if it is not an emergency. If a dog were chasing someone, the public safety department would respond.

Pasiaka asked if Woodard recommends that the Township animal control officer be called when dogs are running loose in the park. Woodard answered that the Township office should be called. The only difficulty is that Township hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Public safety officer can pass on the message to the animal control officers if the problem occurs before 8:30 in the morning. The officers could respond themselves.

Woodard encourages residents to call the Department if there are problems in or around the park.

Pasiaka thanked Woodard for attending the Parks and Recreation Board meeting. There were residents present from the Nixon area at the last meeting who reported problems in the park. There was no one who could respond to them officially. They were advised to call public safety if there are difficulties in the park.

Pasiaka related that the park opener is concerned that people enter the park after the closing time at 10 p.m. He suggested the Department's bicycle patrol occasionally visit the park after closing to check on whether people are violating the curfew.

Harmon questioned whether the Public Safety Department has an opinion on the proposed new entranceway.

Woodard stated that the Department's concern for the entrance to the park as far as separation of pedestrians and vehicles would be that the plans be reviewed by Public Safety, Village Public Services Director Spallasso, and a traffic engineer from the TIA (Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County). If a drop off area is considered, input should be provided in the design phase by the traffic engineer from the TIA.

Woodward was asked about line of sight into the park. Most of the trees are trimmed high enough and the bushes are not that dense that drivers passing by have a good idea that they are in a park area which sometimes helps to slow people down.

#### **UPDATE ON "ART IN THE HILLS"**

Pasiaka has been in contact with Bette Sprague who was attempting to organize Art in the Hills. He reported that the event will not be held this year. Sprague felt that the number of artists who could be showing in the pavilion would be restricted by the need to reserve some pavilion space for people attending the Sunday concert in the event of rain or extreme heat. Sprague was also concerned that there would be no food sales allowed in the park. Pasiaka will write thank you letters to all of the individuals Sprague had contacted about being involved in the art show.

### **CONCERT UPDATE**

The third concert in the park scheduled for Sunday, July 25 at 4 p.m. will feature the Detroit Brass Society. Stearn has agreed to be master of ceremonies.

Schmitt asked that Board members who are planning to attend distribute flyers promoting the Friends of Beverly Park fund raising efforts. Greening volunteered to do this along with Phyllis Lauer who will be selling paving bricks.

### **FRIENDS OF BEVERLY PARK**

#### Dinner

Greening displayed the invitation that will be mailed to all Village residents inviting them to a fund raising dinner on September 22 at the Birmingham Country Club. The invitations will be mailed five or six weeks prior to the event. There are 250 tickets available and the deadline for responding will be September 8.

Greening has secured sponsors that have contributed sufficient funds to cover cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, printing, and decorations so that the \$100 from each ticket sold can go towards the park improvement fund. She has a dozen items so far for the silent auction. It is hoped to raise \$30,000 at this event. Greening anticipates that this will be a wonderful occasion.

Schmitt stated that Council President Andy Craig has volunteered to contact members of administration and solicit their participation in the event. Council liaison Stearn was asked to contact the Council members about this dinner.

Greening stated that Board members who attend the dinner will be asked help with the silent auction and to assist by circulating among guests at the cocktail party to promote the park fund raising efforts.

#### Paving bricks

Phyllis Lauer representing the Village Woman's Club reported that they have sold 12 \$100 bricks and 14 \$50 bricks for a total of \$1,900. This was accomplished without a lot of advertising. The paving brick fund raiser will be publicized in the August Villager newsletter. A letter and order form will be included in the newsletter. Lauer displayed a brick sample and asked that it be displayed at the Village office.

#### Letterhead

A copy of the "Friends of Beverly Park" letterhead was displayed.

#### Friends of Beverly Park Mailing

Pasieka reported that the total amount raised through the brochure as of today is \$11,515. He estimates that contributions have been received by approximately 150 residents with the range of contributions being \$25 to \$500.

Schmitt thanked Pasieka for doing a great job on mailing out thank you letters.

Villager Newsletter

Pasieka stated that the next Villager newsletter will be published in the first week of September. A notice has been distributed requesting that all information for the newsletter be submitted to Pasieka by the first of August.

Discuss timing and motion asking Council to seek construction bids

Board members discussed whether to approach Council for a commitment to allocate money to pave the parking lot since the Board's fund raising efforts are progressing so well for the park entrance. There are some members who thought that a better time to pursue this would be when one-half of the cost of the park entrance was accumulated.

Schmitt understands that the Council President has already asked Public Services Director Spallasso to begin work on a plan for paving the parking lot. The proposal could be acted on promptly if it receives Council approval.

It was the sense of the Board to defer pursuing a commitment from Council on paving the parking lot until more money is raised for the entranceway through the Friends of Beverly Park efforts. Board members were interested in taking initial steps to proceed with these projects. The first step would be to obtain cost estimates for the entranceway and parking lot projects.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Harmon, to ask that Council authorize a preliminary cost estimate be prepared for the Beverly Park entrance gate project using funds up to \$2,000 from the Friends of Beverly Park Fund; further, that Council authorize a preliminary cost estimate be prepared for the parking lot paving using General Fund money.

Woodard commented that he has reviewed the artist's rendering of the entranceway. He expressed a concern that the arch design provide for a clearance span over the entryway to accommodate the trucks and box vans that occasionally come into the park area. These vehicles may not use the east entrance. The legal height in Michigan is 13'-6".

Motion passes unanimously.

**LARGE GROUP SURVEY FOR AUGUST 26, 1999**

There were no objections to the large group request for pavilion rental for August 26 and August 28.

**LIAISON COMMENTS**

Stearn stated that the garden looks great.

**ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Pasieka informed the Board of an Eagle Scout project being undertaken in the park. Brian Husband is repairing and refinishing the benches in the north area of the park.

Pasieka mentioned that the dirt around the Douglas-Evans sign has been prepared for the planting of Prairie plants.

Pasieka related that a neighbor of the park, Clarence Chambers, has two ponds in his back yard and would like to donate some of his water lilies to the park pond. The plants are Hyacinths and water lettuce.

Harmon stated that they are floating plants with roots that hang into the water. The plants do a wonderful job of filtering the water. They are an annual in this area and will die in the winter. His only concern is that they will fall to the bottom and rot if they are not removed. He does not think this is a big issue in a pond of this size.

The Board recommended to administration to thank Clarence Chambers and accept his generous offer.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Brink announced that, after a lot of thought and discussion with other members, she will have to step down from the Parks and Recreation Board in September or October for personal reasons. She would consider a reappointment if there is an opening a few years from now. Brink would like to remain involved in issues if asked. She is pleased that there are some strong candidates who are interested in serving on this Board.

Mooney stated that she is glad to be a member of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Greening is thrilled with how the fund raising is progressing. She is sorry that Brink will be leaving the Board but understands her decision.

Greening stated that she has been asked to inquire whether this Board is interested in selling the Entertainment Book to raise money for the park entrance. Board members considered the offer but were not interested in pursuing this particular fund raising activity.

Davis commented that we are fortunate to have Janet Mooney serving on this Board. She is sorry the Board is losing Andrea Brink.

Schmitt thanked Greening for all the work she and her husband have done on the dinner and on the flyer. Pasieka has done a great job on the thank you letters. He is sorry to see Andrea Brink leave the Board. He noted that the Council President has asked for adequate lead time to appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy.

Harmon thinks it is wonderful that the Friends of Beverly Park has raised as much money as it has. He is sorry that Andrea Brink has decided to leave the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall  
Village Clerk**