

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 21, 1999 - PAGE 1

Present: Chairperson Schmitt; Vice-Chairperson Greening; Members: Cobleigh, Harmon, Mooney and O'Reilly

Absent: Davis

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 Greening, supported by Harmon, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, August 19, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sharon Pugh of 31935 Alden Court asked for information about a grant application for park sidewalks mentioned at the last Village Council meeting.

Stearn responded that administration is exploring the subject of grant applications, which will be a topic of discussion later in this meeting.

**UPDATE ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

Pasieka reported that the Friends of Beverly Park have raised \$15,965 from donations in response to the mailing sent to all Village residents. Gross revenue received from the sale of paving bricks is \$6,651. A list of people who have donated to the Friends of Beverly Park is posted on the information board in the park.

**UPDATE ON PLANS FOR PARK GATE**

The Village Council has authorized the expenditure of \$2,000 for an engineering study for the park entranceway. A proposal has been submitted by Civil Engineers and Surveyors, Fazedal, Khan & Associates, to perform an engineering study that will include the gate, parking lot and extend to the playground at a cost of \$2,000. Schmitt stated that David Jensen has worked with this civil engineering firm and recommends that their proposal be accepted.

Schmitt asked the Board for a decision on whether to engage this firm to proceed with the work or go out for bids on an engineering study for the park entrance project.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Mooney, to recommend that administration accept the proposal of Fazedal, Khan & Associates to conduct an engineering study of the parking lot, gate, and playground area for an amount not to exceed \$2,000.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY**

Pasieka announced that the Village of Beverly Hills won first prize for its Winter Family Fun Day in a Michigan Municipal League competition for achievement in the area of improving life for youths and families. The Village was presented with a plaque from the MML in recognition of outstanding commitment of local officials and employees to improve the quality of life for citizens in the community. Ann Woodman was recognized at the last Council meeting for initiating the event and for her interest and involvement in the Village's parks. This award was the subject of an article in the Eccentric newspaper today.

If the Board agrees to continue sponsoring a Winter Family Fun Day, a volunteer from the Parks and Recreation Board is needed to oversee the event. O'Reilly volunteered to be in charge this year.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Greening, that the Parks and Recreation Board sponsor the Winter Family Fun Day in Beverly Park on January 9, 2000 with O'Reilly as chairperson.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **CONCERT IN THE PARK SERIES**

It was the consensus of the Board to continue presenting concerts in the park this summer. Cobleigh brought it to the Board's attention that there are people in his subdivision who are opposed to concerts in the park as a preferred use for Beverly Park. Cobleigh supports new ideas for use of the park and will go along with the Board's decision to continue the concerts.

Last year there were four concerts from May to August on the fourth Sunday of the month starting at 4:00 in the afternoon. Greening suggested eliminating the May concert this year and sponsoring only three concerts. Reasons for this include the fact that the annual park clean up and the Memorial Day carnival take place in the park in May. Weather may be a concern for a May concert, and that date was the least attended concert last year. Greening noted that the Groves High School marching and jazz bands perform in the park during the Memorial Day carnival.

The May concert featured the Groves High School jazz ensemble and choral group last year. May is probably the only month that the school can perform at a concert. There were board members who wanted to continue to build this relationship with the schools. Pasieka remarked that the quality of the performance was great. There was agreement that all of the concerts in the park should be highly publicized this year.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Harmon, to continue the format of sponsoring four concerts in the park on a monthly basis next summer.

Ayes - Harmon, Mooney, O'Reilly and Schmitt

Nays - Cobleigh and Greening

Motion passes (4 - 2).

### **APPROVE CALENDAR DATES**

The Board reviewed the proposed year 2000 event dates that will appear in the calendar mailed to Village residents. A couple of changes were made which will be incorporated into the calendar.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Cobleigh, to approve the proposed 2000 calendar event dates as revised.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **CONTINUED BUCKTHORN THINNING IN PARK**

Schmitt reviewed that a swath of Buckthorn was removed from Beverly Park from the pond to the pavilion last year at the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board. There remains a growth of Buckthorn and other vegetation that is immediately west of the path. Schmitt is under the impression that the Board gave administration the okay to remove the remaining Buckthorn from that area. It will be easy to thin out the Buckthorn in the park in the next few weeks.

Schmitt read from the minutes of the February 18, 1999 Parks and Recreation Board meeting, which was a joint meeting with Council:

*Harmon explained that Buckthorn is considered a noxious weed. The Nature Conservancy spends thousands of hours each year trying to eradicate it because it spreads so quickly. Craig added that Buckthorn competes with good trees for nutrients in the soil. It blocks out the seedlings from other trees and helps kill a forest.*

*Schmitt commented that you do not have to be a plant specialist to remove Buckthorn because it is the last plant to lose its leaves in the fall. Craig stated that this is a \$500-\$1000 annual expenditure if the Village removes a section of Buckthorn each year. Council members gave specific direction to administration to address these concerns.*

Administration requests direction from this Board before removing the remainder of the Buckthorn. Schmitt is in favor of clearing out the Buckthorn to open the view and leaving the remaining good vegetation. Harmon concurs. Schmitt proposed a motion to recommend that administration remove the Buckthorn from the area immediately west of the path and east of the cleared area between the pond and the pavilion.

Greening is opposed to clearing out that particular area until a landscaping plan is developed and other trees are planted. Removing the Buckthorn would result in clear cutting the area since almost all of the vegetation is Buckthorn.

Board members discussed whether to remove the Buckthorn in the area designated. A motion was not forthcoming.

### **FOURTH QUARTER VILLAGER NEWSLETTER**

Pasieka asked Board members to submit articles or information they would like to see in the fourth quarter newsletter by the first week in November. The newsletter will be mailed to residents the first week in December.

Board members discussed information that should be included in an article highlighting the activities of the Parks and Recreation Board. The piece should inform residents that the Board is attempting to implement the park master plan through fund raising activities. The fund raising efforts and money raised to date should be indicated. Plans for the park could be outlined in the newsletter. Residents should be told that an engineering study for the park entrance is underway and that work will begin in the spring.

O'Reilly volunteered to write the article for the newsletter.

### **HALLOWEEN HOOT**

The Halloween Hoot will take place in Beverly Park on Sunday, October 24. Topping and gutting of pumpkins will begin at 10 until 12 pm. Children will come to carve pumpkins at noon to 2 pm. The pumpkins are lit and placed around the path in the evening. The children arrive at about 6 pm to walk the path and receive candy. There will be refreshments in the pavilion. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities.

### **NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETING DATES**

The November and December meeting will remain on the schedule subject to cancellation depending on receipt of the engineering report for the park entrance project or another pending item.

### **LIAISON COMMENTS**

Stearn referred to a recent Detroit News article about suburbs that are applying for \$49 million available in State grants to improve municipal parks. He mentioned that Pasieka filed a grant application last year without success. Village representatives met with Birchler Arroyo to determine whether to obtain a proposal for assistance in the grant application process.

Stearn related that he met in August with Hanlin, Pasieka, Schmitt, and representatives from the Village's planning consultant firm, Birchler Arroyo. There was discussion on the fairly complex procedure of filing for grants with the state of Michigan. Dave Birchler claims that Birchler Arroyo can do this with some level of success. He indicated that they have at least a 50% chance of obtaining significant money for Beverly Park. Birchler Arroyo agreed to provide the Village with a cost estimate for preparing these grant applications prior to the fund raising dinner of September 22. Their proposal has not been received. Pasieka will follow up on this.

Schmitt remarked that a previous grant application was rejected because the master plan prepared by McKenna Associates was determined to be unacceptable for grant applications. Dave Birchler was expected to submit a proposal to the Village prior to the fund raising dinner. Administration may need to seek another source for grant writing since there seems to be a great deal of money available. O'Reilly quoted from a Sunday, October 15 article from the Oakland Press listing the grant money received by neighboring communities for their parks from the DNR through the Clean Michigan

Initiative grant. Board members volunteered to contact someone from each of those communities to learn who they may have used to help with their grant applications.

Stearn remarked that Birchler Arroyo does have expertise in the area of grant applications. Pasieka will contact Birchler Arroyo about their quote. Birchler Arroyo indicated at the August meeting that they were targeting completion of the application for a February DNR deadline.

Pasieka stated that Council approval of the grant application will be required. One of the purposes of the grant application is to obtain Council commitment for a certain number of dollars to make the improvement if the community does not receive the grant. The wording of the grant is a significant issue.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Harmon commented favorably on the blacktopping that was done at Riverside park in conjunction with the paving of Riverside Drive. It makes the parking lot area much cleaner and nicer. Schmitt applauds administration for the paving of the Riverside Park parking lot.

Greening questioned how much longer the pile of asphalt shavings will remain in the Beverly Park parking lot. Pasieka anticipates that the material will be spread on the parking lot by this weekend.

Greening hopes everyone comes and enjoys the Halloween Hoot on Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall  
Village Clerk**