

Present: Chairperson Schmitt; Members: Cobleigh, Davis, Harmon and O'Reilly

Absent: Greening and Mooney

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka

Chairperson Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 1999

In the list of those present, change "Brink" to read "O'Reilly".

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Cobleigh, that the minutes of a special Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on October 7, 1999 be approved as amended.

Motion passes unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 1999

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Cobleigh, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, October 21, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Pugh of 31935 Alden Court stated that she analyzed the list of people who purchased paving bricks to fund the new park entrance and was surprised to discover that less than seven percent of the bricks were purchased by residents east of Southfield Road. The list of people who are "Friends of Beverly Park" shows that 17 percent of the people who support the park improvements live east of Southfield Road. Pugh questions whether these figures are representative of the interest in Beverly Park Village-wide. She asked what can be done to pique more interest and more dollars from the entire population of the Village to improve the park.

Pasieka stated that the sale of paving bricks will be publicized in an article in the December Villager newsletter. An article drafted by O'Reilly on park activities and fund raising efforts will appear on the back page of the newsletter.

Phyllis Lauer mentioned that she is sending letters to all Village homeowner association presidents and business owners to promote the sale of paving bricks.

Pugh suggested that the use of the park by residents in certain areas can also be determined through the applications for reserving the pavilion. The Board asked administration to include a "buy a brick" note on the pavilion reservation form next year.

Pasieka indicated that a personal letter with the Village Manager's signature is being sent to each person who has contributed in some way to the Friends of Beverly Park.

Lauer asked when work will begin on the entranceway and whether the project will be completed before Memorial Day. Schmitt responded that the engineering report for the park entrance project has not been received as yet.

UPDATE ON FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Phyllis Lauer and Sharon Pugh reported on the sale of paving bricks. The total amount sold is \$7,950.

69	4 x 8 bricks @\$50 each
40	8 x 8 bricks @\$100 each
2	12 x 12 logo bricks @250 each.

Pasieka reported that the Friends of Beverly Park have raised \$17,145 in donations as of Monday this week. This does not include the brick sales or the proceeds from the fund raising dinner.

UPDATE ON PLANS/ENGINEERING STUDY FOR PARK GATE

There is no new information on this project. The Village is awaiting the engineering study for the park entranceway.

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Winter Family Fun Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 9 in Beverly Park. O'Reilly stated that he has received information on the previous years' Winter Family Fun Days. He has been in touch with former member Ann Woodman who will be assisting him in organizing the event. Barbara Pepper, Birmingham Public Schools environmental consultant, has agreed to set aside some time to be at the park on that day.

Planning is in the early stages, but Board members have offered their time. Mooney has volunteered to oversee the refreshments served in the pavilion. Harmon will tend the fire. O'Reilly will contact the men's softball coaches to arrange softball games in addition to the traditional events. He will need help in organizing games for younger kids and will be seeking assistance as far as supervising the ice-skating rink and the sledding hill. He will take care of the advertising aspect of the event. O'Reilly thinks we will be in great shape for this year's event as long as we have some good snow.

O'Reilly was informed that it is necessary to come before Council to seek authorization to spend up to \$500, which has been allocated in the current year's budget for this special event.

FOURTH QUARTER *VILLAGER* NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

O'Reilly drafted an article for the December edition of the Villager newsletter about Beverly Park Rejuvenation. The article incorporates items that the Board discussed at its last meeting. It is hoped that the piece will pique the interest of residents and let them know that the Village has been working towards improving the park. Schmitt thanked O'Reilly for preparing the article.

PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION FOR GRANT APPLICATION

Board members are in receipt of a letter from the Village's planning consultant firm Birchler Arroyo dated October 29, 1999. Birchler Arroyo submitted a proposal to the Village with a cost estimate for a work program that will bring the previously adopted Beverly Hills Park Master Plan in compliance with Michigan DNR Community Recreation Planning standards and DNR grant eligibility standards. The cost estimate from Birchler Arroyo for this work is \$3,850.00.

Pasieka stated that he and Schmitt have discussed the idea of going out for bids to determine if other planning firms would consider reworking the current park master plan to bring it up to standards acceptable for grant consideration. Information from the current Village Master Plan will be useful in preparing a revised park plan. Board members discussed the areas where professional assistance is needed to complete the current park master plan to be consistent with Michigan DNR standards for recreational planning guidelines. It was noted that the first step in receiving grant money is to have a master plan acceptable and on file at the DNR.

Board members discussed whether it is necessary to spend \$4,000 with Birchler Arroyo to update the current park master plan. Members have contacted municipalities in the area that have received grant money for their parks from the DNR through the Clean Michigan Initiative grant.

Harmon talked to staff from the cities of Berkley and Clawson who informed him that they prepared their grant application in house. Both cities offered to discuss the application process with Village staff. Harmon stated that people from both Berkley and Clawson indicated that the description of the project a community is undertaking is important. They think that the fact that the playground equipment in Beverly Park does not meet current standards makes the Village a strong candidate for grant money.

O'Reilly stated that White Lake Township prepares its own grant applications. It appears that proceeding with a grant application is a matter of submitting the correct paper work.

Schmitt reported that Mooney talked to individuals from the City of Southfield who indicated that they write their own grant applications. Schmitt contacted Ferndale and Lathrup Village and learned that their administrators write their grant applications. This is an extensive undertaking, and Village administration is interested in obtaining competitive bids to do this work.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Harmon, to support administration obtaining bids for updating the current Park Master Plan to satisfy Michigan DNR Community Recreation Planning standards and DNR grant eligibility standards.

Motion passes unanimously.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Council liaison Stearn has informed Schmitt that a recent Council meeting topic was the inadequacy of the park master plan prepared by McKenna Associates, and whether McKenna should be pursued to revise the plan.

Schmitt recalls that Council authorized \$4,500 for McKenna Associates to produce a park master plan that was suitable for grant applications. A decision was made to prepare a master plan in lieu of

a less expensive operational development plan for this reason. He does not question that this amount was spent by McKenna Associates on the plan; but that plan is not productive. Schmitt does not think there is any question that McKenna was aware that the plan was intended to be used for submission in grant applications. This may not have been specifically stated in the Council resolution that authorized the project or in the proposal submitted by McKenna.

Sharon Pugh questioned whether other agencies offering grants need the same information as the DNR. It would be prudent for the firm engaged to update the park master plan to know what information other agencies require with respect to grant application eligibility.

Board members discussed whether to recommend any action to Council or administration.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Davis, to recommend that administration send a letter to Phil McKenna asking him to correct the park master plan prepared by his firm so that it will be suitable for submission for grant money.

Motion passes unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka stated that resident Larry Smith on Nixon in Beverly Woods Subdivision attended recent Council meetings with a request that the Village provide a crossing guard at the intersection of Beverly Road and Norchester. He is concerned about the safety of children walking from the Beverly Woods area to Beverly School. The Council responded by arranging for the sidewalk on the south side of Beverly Road to be completed connecting the existing sidewalk along Beverly Park and Allerton to the new parking lot at Beverly School. This project will be done in the spring.

Pasieka related that Smith made a comment during his presentation to Council that children feel that walking past the park in the morning is intimidating. Pasieka wants to make the Parks and Recreation Board aware of Smith's concern that children are fearful of the park. He noted that there is nothing on record to his knowledge indicating that there have been any incidents in the park where a young person has been in jeopardy.

It was the strong sense of the Board members that there is no reason for children to be fearful of walking by Beverly Park.

Pasieka stated that he will be inviting Linda Brooks, YMCA supervisor, to present an update on Camp Beverly at an upcoming Board meeting.

Schmitt stated that Janet Mooney could not be present tonight but asked him to mention that there are continually cars parked in the Beverly Park parking lot with "for sale" signs on them. She asks that administration look into this.

Pasieka responded that this situation is being addressed by administration. The individual selling the vehicles was contacted and promised to remove them. They have not yet been removed, and

citations will be issued to that party tomorrow for illegal plates and for the sale of a vehicle in the park.

There was discussion on whether to cancel the December meeting. It was the sense of the Board that the meeting in December will be canceled the week prior to the regular meeting date unless engineering studies are received for the park entrance project.

BOARD COMMENTS

O'Reilly commented that the Halloween Hoot was a fabulous event with a large turnout. Harmon added that Pat Greening deserves a lot of credit for organizing the Halloween Hoot.

Harmon noticed that a suggestion was made on the park rental surveys that the people reserving the pavilion should be able to post their permit. There were two comments about the legs of the picnic tables sticking out in a hazardous manner.

Schmitt thanked and congratulated administration on the write up the Village received in the Michigan Municipal League Review for its Winter Family Fun Day. Schmitt offered condolences to Pat Greening on the passing of her mother.

Council is proceeding with a ballot question for a 2 mill millage cap increase. Schmitt expressed disappointment that the millage proposal, which will support the five year capital improvement plan, only anticipates capital spending in Beverly Park of \$10,000 a year. That is a decrease from the current spending, which this Board considers to be woefully inadequate.

Schmitt counted 309 individuals who either contributed to the Friends of Beverly Park or attended the fund raising dinner. He suggests that those people, who will probably vote in the election, are interested in the park. Council would probably like the wholehearted support of this Board, the Friends of Beverly Park, and the people who attended the dinner. Schmitt contends that Council could obtain more support from those individuals if it allocated a greater sum of money to the park.

Davis expressed her condolences to Pat Greening on the loss of her mother.

MOTION by Davis, supported by O'Reilly, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
Motion passes unanimously.

Phil Schmitt, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk