

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 20, 2000 - PAGE 1

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

Absent: none

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka
Council Liaison, Stearn

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

MOTION by Davis, supported by Cobleigh, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, November 16, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

UPDATE ON FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Pasieka reported that the Friends of Beverly Park has received a total of \$17,990 in donations. The fund raising dinner at the Birmingham Country Club raised \$30,799.01 for the park.

Phyllis Lauer related that \$11,500 worth of paving bricks have been sold to date, with the profit of approximately \$7,000 going towards the pedestrian entrance. She stated that shipping is free when 400 bricks are sold. Because the bricks are different sizes, the amount sold is equivalent to 224 bricks.

She and Sharon Pugh will end their sale of bricks after the Memorial Day carnival in the park. The continued sale of bricks could then be undertaken by others.

In answer to an inquiry, Lauer stated that a gift card is sent when a brick is purchased as a gift. She displayed the cards that are either mailed to the recipient of a gift or to the purchaser of a brick. The newer order form has an area where a person can request a gift card and indicate to whom it should be mailed.

Engraved paving bricks will be on display at the Memorial Day carnival in Beverly Park. The event is an ideal opportunity to sell bricks. An application to purchase bricks will be included in the next Villager newsletter.

Pasieka stated that he is sending a letter to people who purchase a paving brick acknowledging their contribution to the park. The letters indicate exactly what will be engraved on the brick. This prompts purchasers to contact the Village if there are any corrections to be made. Copies of the letters are kept on file.

UPDATE ON PLANS/ENGINEERING STUDY FOR PARK GATE

A topographic survey of the north portion of Beverly Park has been prepared by David Jensen's engineers. The plan shows elevations, trees, physical structures, and the parking lot. Jensen's engineers will use the study as a basis for drawing plans for the new pedestrian entranceway. The plan will then come before the Parks and Recreation Board for approval. It was noted that the topo map will be useful when designing an updated playground area.

The comment was made that there was more work involved in the topographic study than the \$2,000 paid for the project.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Harmon, that the Parks and Recreation Board thanks David Jensen for his generous contribution of providing a topographic survey of the north portion of Beverly Park.

Motion passes unanimously.

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Winter Family Fun Day was rescheduled from January 9 to Sunday, January 30. The events will begin in Beverly Park at 1:00 p.m. Jim O'Reilly, chairperson of the event this year, reported on activities planned for the day. He estimates that 95% of the park will be used.

There will be sledding at the sled hill. He is trying to arrange softball games at the Little League baseball diamond. A four or six-hole golf course will be set up at the north diamond. People will use nine irons and whiffle balls to hit at flags in the ground. Groves High School students as well as adults will supervise this game.

One skating rink will be used for ice skating. A curling area will be set up on the second skating rink along with a game involving kids sitting on saucer sleds being pushed towards pylons to score goals.

Barbara Pepper, Birmingham Public Schools environmental consultant, will conduct habitat hikes through the park during the day. Snow shoes will be available in the pavilion. If there is enough snow, the boy scouts will make a snow cave.

There will be an ice sculpturing demonstration. The artist will bring a finished piece and work on a sculpture in the park. O'Reilly is open to suggestions for the design of the ice sculpture. There was a suggestion to have the individual create the Village of Beverly Hills flag.

Board members who are available will be assigned an area by O'Reilly. Mooney has arranged for several Berkshire Girl Scouts to serve refreshments in the pavilion. Harmon will tend the fire in the grill at the pavilion.

The Village Council allocated an expenditure of up to \$1,000 for the Winter Family Fun Day at its January 18 Council meeting.

UPDATE ON 2000 CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Pasieka is in the process of reserving the showmobiles and scheduling entertainment for the summer concert series in Beverly Park. He is working on arrangements with the Birmingham Schools for a May concert featuring the Birmingham High Schools String Orchestra which involves Seaholm and Groves high school students. The Birmingham Concert Band will perform on the August date. Suggestions are welcome for the June and July dates.

Mooney has been contacted by Bobby Lewis, who asked if Beverly Hills is interested in booking Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjacks this year. She remarked that it was a popular concert. Mooney asked if funding will be available to contract with this group.

Pasieka stated that \$6,000 has been budgeted this year for the park concert series. The cost of presenting the concerts was defrayed last year through fund raising efforts by board members and sponsorship by local businesses and neighborhood homeowner associations. Greening was asked to spearhead the fund raising efforts for the concerts again this year. Funding will be requested from the Village Council for the cost of entertainment and renting the showmobiles.

It was the consensus of the board to contract with Bobby Lewis for a July concert.

Board members discussed how to publicize the concerts this year in order to stimulate more interest and enthusiasm for the concert series. Mooney volunteered to lead the publicity efforts and will work with Pasieka on advertising the concerts.

DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPING A PARKS AND RECREATION CALENDAR

Mooney understands that the focus of the Parks and Recreation Board has been on Beverly Park. She requested this item on the agenda to ask board members if there are other activities or events within the jurisdiction of parks and recreation that they are interested in pursuing.

Harmon stated that the Planning Board is undertaking a study involving bikeways, walkways and pedestrian safety in the Village. He believes that this is a recreation function that should involve this board.

Pasieka distributed a notice informing Village bodies of a public discussion being held by the Planning Board at its February 9, 2000 meeting at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the forum is to ascertain and quantify the need for sidewalks, bikeways, crosswalks or pedestrian safety paths in Beverly Hills and solicit and define target areas for these amenities.

Parks and Recreation board members will try to attend this meeting and offer their input. Copies of background material on the Planning Board's sidewalk study will be distributed to board members who request it before February 9.

The annual activities that occur in the park were outlined with respect to how they are organized. Mooney asked if board members had any other goals for this year. Schmitt expressed the view that implementation of the park master plan is a big project in itself.

Pasieka related that Council member Kennedy presented a proposal at the last Council meeting to establish a beautification program in the Village to recognize properties that have demonstrated an outstanding job of renovation or historical preservation. She proposes that Council establish a committee to serve in an advisory capacity and make recommendations to the Council regarding an annual beautification awards program.

The Parks and Recreation Board will be asked to select a representative to serve on a beautification committee. Davis volunteered to represent the Parks and Recreation Board on a beautification committee.

PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION FOR GRANT APPLICATION

Schmitt reviewed that the Village engaged its former planning consultant firm McKenna Associates to prepare a park master plan. This plan was submitted to the Michigan DNR last year as a part of a grant application. The Village's Park Master Plan was rejected by DNR resulting in denial of grant consideration. The Village was informed that the plan was deficient in several areas.

Grant money is now available through Clean Michigan Initiative Local Recreation Bond Program. Municipalities in the area have been making application and receiving funds through this program. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2000. Before applying for a grant, the Village Park Master Plan must be accepted by the DNR.

Schmitt proposes that the Village prepare for the submission of a grant application by adding appendices that will contain the missing items to the existing Park Master Plan. The Park Master Plan and appendices can then be placed on file in Lansing. If the documents meet State approval, the Village can submit a grant application for recreation funds.

Schmitt has prepared a resolution for the board's consideration. It requests Village administration to prepare the necessary Park Master Plan appendices and grant application for submission to the State DNR. He explained that the Clean Michigan Initiative program involves matching funds. The State will match every local dollar allocated for park projects with up to three dollars.

The Friends of Beverly Park has raised \$60,000. There is \$55,000 available from the Beverly Park Capital Improvement Fund for park improvements. The proposed resolution asks Council to commit these funds to those park improvement purposes with the highest priority as determined by the Parks and Recreation Board. This will commit \$115,000 to use as matching funds to obtain a grant of up to \$345,000 and result in a possible total of \$460,000 available for park improvements.

If the Council is able to allocate \$10,000 a year for five years towards park improvements, the commitment of that \$50,000 could increase the grant funding and result in \$660,000 for park improvements, which would allow for implementation of the park master plan projects.

RESOLVED by Greening, supported by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Board requests that the Village of Beverly Hills administration prepare the necessary Park Master Plan Appendices and a grant application suitable for submission to the State of Michigan for

public funding consideration for Beverly Park renovations from the Clean Michigan Initiative Local Recreation Bond Program; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board requests that the Beverly Hills Village Council commit to the following:

Commit that the \$60,000 in the Friends of Beverly Park Fund (which has already been privately raised) and \$55,000 from the Beverly Park Capital Improvement Fund (which has already been budgeted by Council) will be used solely for park improvements in order to attempt to secure matching funds from the Clean Michigan Initiative; and

Agree to limit the use of the aforesaid funds to those park improvement purposes with the highest priority as determined by the Parks and Recreation Board, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board requests that the Beverly Hills Council adopt this Board's Resolution as expeditiously as possible in order to meet all grant deadlines.

There was board discussion on the resolution. Pasieka summarized the grant application process. He credited the enthusiasm and diligence of Phil Schmitt and Todd Stearn in pursuing these grant funds. The Village needs to place its Park Master Plan and appendices on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The appendices will include the Village's Master Plan and about nine other enclosures that will provide the required information. Administration is doing this work rather than engaging a planning consultant to prepare the material and go through the grant process at a cost of \$3,800. Only when these documents are on file with the DNR can the Village pursue a grant application process. The Village will be advised if anything is absent from their submittal. Beverly Hills has until April 1 to submit an application.

Stearn commended Pasieka for his efforts in preparing material to be appended to the Park Master Plan for resubmission to the Michigan DNR. Hopefully, the Village will be successful in its grant application.

Resolution passes unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PRIORITIES FOR GRANT APPLICATION

Board members and those present in the audience have copies of the July 16, 1998 Parks and Recreation Board cost estimates for implementation of the park master plan projects. This list of Beverly Park improvements are ranked as having a high, medium or low priority.

Schmitt asked the board to prioritize the list of park master plan projects in numerical order for the purpose of the grant application. There was discussion on how the Village should proceed with the projects that have been identified.

There was general agreement that the safe pedestrian entrance and north fence replacement should be the number one item to be accomplished considering that funds have been raised by the community for this particular project. It was the consensus of the board that, if grant money is not secured, the pedestrian entranceway will be constructed with money available now.

It was the consensus of the board to list the playground equipment as the second priority. Playground equipment replacement is a popular and necessary improvement that members of the board originally proposed to be pursued after other high priority items were addressed in order to retain public interest and momentum for supporting park projects. It was agreed that updating existing playground equipment should have a high priority for the purpose of the grant application. The Village has equipment that does not meet current standards which will be a selling point for grant consideration.

It was questioned whether the Village has to commit to following certain priorities if a grant is not received. Pasieka stated that the Council will make a public declaration that it agrees with the priority list proposed by the Parks and Recreation Board and that it will pursue these projects in a particular order. The Village is asking the State for funds to assist with completion of these improvements.

The Parks and Recreation board members agreed on the following priorities.

**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
BEVERLY PARK PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

1. Safe Pedestrian Entrance and north fence replacement
2. Playground Equipment
3. Parking Lot Paving and Striping
4. Landscaping throughout the Park.
5. Pond Area Improvements
6. East Pavilion Upgrades
7. Multi-purpose Building Near Pond
8. Sled Hill Safety Changes
9. Ball Diamond Reconfiguration and Upgrade
10. New West Pavilion
11. Upgrade Existing Courts
12. Upgrade Paths Outside Woodchip/Woods Area

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PARK FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Greening expressed her displeasure with the Village Council's allocation for park improvements on the basis that there is enough community spirit to warrant a larger allocation to the park than \$10,000 a year.

Greening informed the board that she has been offered the use of the Beverly Hills Club for one evening to host a community fund raising event. She proposes organizing a family fund raiser for park improvements on Friday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day. The Village will have the use of the entire facility for the evening, although the Club will not be closed to the public. Food can be brought in for sale.

If the board is in agreement, Greening will organize this fundraiser with the input of the members. Board members expressed enthusiasm for this event.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by O'Reilly, that the Parks and Recreation Board unanimously supports Patricia Greening's efforts to organize a fund raising event at the Beverly Hills Club on Friday, March 17, 2000.

Motion passes unanimously.

Greening asked that the Villager newsletter be mailed the last week in February to allow people time to plan on attending this event. Greening will prepare a flyer to be included with the newsletter.

MOTION by Davis, supported by Harmon, to schedule a special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board on Tuesday, February 1, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the March 17 fund raiser.

Motion passes unanimously.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Stearn gave a brief presentation on the ballot proposal for the March 13, 2000 Village Election. Council has decided unanimously to ask the voters of Beverly Hills to raise the millage cap from 11 to 13 mills. He asked the Parks and Recreation Board members to support the millage cap increase and talk to their friends and neighbors about it. Stearn addressed questions from board members.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka related that he is inviting Linda Brooks, coordinator for YMCA Camp Beverly, to the next meeting to make a presentation on the summer day camp program.

BOARD COMMENTS

Davis and Harmon thanked Pasieka for his work on the grant application.

Greening observed that the spotlight at the park pavilion is shining on the ground rather than on the flag. Pasieka will correct this. She would like to see the ice skating rinks graded before they are flooded.

Greening stated that there are two natural wells flowing in Beverly Park which could be directed to flow into the pond to keep the water moving and cleaner. She and her husband have obtained the

assistance of Comeau Equipment Company staff to do this with flexible hosing. Greening was hoping that there may be scouts that would be interested in digging a trench for this hose as an Eagle Scout project.

Schmitt thanked administration for all the pictures of the park in the calendar. He asked if members of the Parks and Recreation Board along with a few former members would be interested in contributing to the purchase of a large paving brick to be used in the new pedestrian entrance to the park. Board members expressed interest in this endeavor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**