

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 16, 2000 - PAGE 1

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

Absent: Harmon

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka
Council liaison, Stearn
Council member, Kennedy
Council member elect, Pfeifer

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 A REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2000

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by Davis, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation meeting held on February 17, 2000 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Lauer reported on the Village Woman's Club sale of paving bricks to raise money for the new park entranceway.

121	4 x 8 bricks @ \$ 50	\$6,050.00
76	8 x 8 bricks @ \$100	7,600.00
9	Logo bricks @ \$250	<u>2,250.00</u>
	TOTAL SALES	<u>\$15,900.00</u>

The sale of these bricks is equivalent to 318 4 x 8 bricks. Free delivery is offered for orders of 400 bricks.

Lauer commented that Sharon Pugh and she think that the positive response from residents, former residents, businesses, and homeowner associations of Beverly Hills has been rewarding. Lauer and Pugh will cease selling bricks in early June. The Gift Bricks company will need time to engrave the bricks.

Richard Kazmier of 31834 Nixon asked about the results of Monday's election. Schmitt responded that the ballot proposal failed. The Council members elected were Dorothy Pfeifer, Randy Munguia, Andrew Craig, and Robert Walsh.

Richard Holloway, Southfield Township Trustee in charge of the animal control subcommittee, asked the board to reconsider its position on releasing trapped animals that are not dangerous at the Douglas-Evans nature preserve.

Holloway stated that the goal of animal control service is to assist Township residents by removing animals that are trapped on their property. A new State Department of Natural Resources rule does not allow animal control officers to remove some of the animals that are trapped. Their philosophy is that an animal is not a nuisance just because it exists. A non-targeted animal must be released on its own property. Targeted animals are currently hauled to Romulus and released. The DNR rules must be followed in order for the contractor to remain licensed.

The Township thinks that the viable solution is to release targeted animals in the Douglas-Evans nature preserve. Holloway stated that there would probably be one animal a week released in the nature preserve at this time of year and four or five a week during the peak time. Most of animals will be opossums. The DNR has indicated that there would be no problem with the animal population at Douglas-Evans because the animals will settle their own territory.

The Township would like the Parks and Recreation Board's approval to deposit some of the trapped animals in the 18-acre Douglas-Evans nature preserve in order to comply with DNR regulations.

PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS VILLAGE PLANS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR BEVERLY PARK

Schmitt explained that the Village intends to apply for a Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond Program Grant. If the grant is approved, the State will match every local dollar allocated by the Village for park projects with up to three dollars. It is proposed to commit money that has been raised privately for park improvements along with money reserved in the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Fund as the "local match" from Beverly Hills in applying for this grant.

The grant application will request funding for four priority projects outlined in the park master plan. These are the gate and fence, parking lot paving, playground equipment, and landscaping. It is anticipated that the grant money will cover a large portion of the cost of these four improvements.

Richard Kazmier of 31834 Nixon asked questions about the four projects. He was informed that it is proposed to pave the parking lot. The existing fence along Beverly Road would be replaced as part of the park entranceway improvements. Playground equipment will be updated and replaced by equipment that meets current safety specifications.

Kazmier asked where the balance will come from if the grant does not cover the cost of the proposed projects. Schmitt hopes that money will become available to complete these projects. He affirmed that there are no current plans for an additional burden on the taxpayers to fund these improvements.

Kazmier was concerned about instituting programs that would result in future expenses. Schmitt stated that the Village would have to maintain the playground equipment just as it does currently. If there are grant requirements that the Village cannot accept, Beverly Hills has the option to reject the grant.

In answer to an inquiry, Schmitt indicated that the Village of Beverly Hills owns the park. The land was initially given to the State of Michigan by the Dodge Brothers. The State gave it to Southfield Township and the Township deeded it to the Village of Beverly Hills. The deed restrictions on the property state that the park must be open to the public.

Marion Smitley of 31670 Southview informed the board that residents of Hartland, Michigan turned down a State grant when they learned of the restrictions that would be attached to the money. The community did not want the State to dictate the use of its park. Smitley asked about the requirements of the proposed grant.

Schmitt stated that the restrictions for the Clean Michigan Initiative grant funding require that the improvements funded be accessible to people with disabilities. The State requires that the park be open to the general public. Smitley suspects that the State will place further restrictions on the grant money.

Fred Steiner of 31885 Nixon asked if the wood chip path or sledding hill will be subject to any changes from their present condition due to the handicap accessible requirements of the grant or for any other reasons.

Schmitt stated that a gravel path could be constructed if the Village were required to modify the wood chip path through the park to make it accessible to individuals with disabilities. There are no such plans at this time nor are there plans to modify the sled hill.

O'Reilly emphasized that the grant application only addresses four areas from the list of proposed park master plan improvements. The Village can only request a certain amount of money from the State. To the extent that the State grants that money, those improvements will be required to meet certain standards.

Steiner questioned the boundaries or definition of items to be included under the landscaping project.

Schmitt stated that a landscaping plan has not been developed. The Parks and Recreation Board members envision a plan to include flowering trees, shrubs, and berming. A path will be included into the playground area and between the ball diamonds.

Kazmier questioned the rationale for paving the parking lot. Schmitt stated that a paved parking lot will cost less to maintain. Currently, the parking lot is wet and muddy when it rains, which makes it difficult to access the park. Paving will allow more cars to park in the lot.

Kenneth Krasity of 31964 Mayfair asked if only items that are funded through the grant have to comply with ADA provisions. He was informed that future improvements made to the park will have to comply with the Americans with Disabilities laws.

Krasity questioned where the drainage from a paved parking lot will be directed. David Jensen responded that the drainage from the parking lot will flow either into the pond or into a storm drain. Schmitt added that there is a drain pipe in the parking lot with a restrictor on it. If there is a heavy

rain, water sits in the park until it can slowly flow into the drainage system. The parking lot paving will not put an additional burden on the existing storm drains.

In answer to an inquiry, Schmitt stated that the Village proposes to commit about \$110,000 as the "local match" from Beverly Hills in applying for this grant.

Pat Lohrengel of 18346 Beverly Road asked if there has been any consideration to installing drainage in the rest of the park. She was informed that a drain field was installed in the playground area about a year ago, which improved the wet conditions in that area. A drain field was also constructed in the flat area between the parking lot and the ball diamonds.

Smitley restated his concerns about the terms and restrictions of this grant application. Schmitt assured him that the Village does not have to accept any money offered if it does not approve the conditions of the grant.

Todd Stearn of 15690 Kirkshire asked if there is more than one kind of grant available from the State. Pasioka answered that there is a grant for the acquisition of land that is different from a developmental grant. There are numerous categories of grants.

Pasioka stated that there are restrictions attached to grants. In those areas where improvements are made with grant money, communities must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The park must be a public park. It is also required that the governing body commit to using public funds in addition to funds awarded through the grant for the improvements set forth in the grant application.

Stearn understands that, if the money committed by the Village is matched by the State three for one, the money will just about cover the estimated cost for the four proposed projects. The board concurred.

Vince Borowski of 31115 Chelton asked several questions about the proposed improvements. He was told that it is proposed to lay a crushed rock path extending from the main park path going north and south towards the ball diamonds. Borowski thinks that this is a good idea.

Borowski expressed the view that it is critical that the drainage for the paved parking lot be contained in the park and not flow into the sewer system. He was informed that the parking lot will not be enlarged.

Borowski was concerned that the paved parking lot will attract roller blading, which may be a safety concern since the speed of cars in the parking lot will increase with the paving. Unintended uses of the parking lot should be anticipated. Borowski thinks that replacement of the playground equipment is important. The equipment receives heavy use and needs to be replaced.

Borowski questioned the extent of the proposed landscaping. Schmitt explained that the idea is to add ornamental landscaping to give the park color in every season. The board has talked about

flowering shrubs and trees and possibly berming to change the flat topography. Shade is needed in the playground area. There is a limited area to be landscaped.

Borowski supports the grant application and commends the board on its leadership in pursuing the grant. There is a need to arrive at ways to leverage Village tax dollars, and these are tax dollars that have already gone to the state. He feels that the Village is better off if it can get some of those tax dollars back.

Krasiy asked about the restrictions and procedures for renting the pavilion which were addressed by Schmitt.

David Jensen of 31130 Stafford does not believe that the State of Michigan has any interest in controlling this park. They are interested in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. This should be considered to whatever extent improvements are made. Jensen congratulated this board and Administration on its efforts in pursuing this park grant.

Jensen stated that he is acquainted with an individual who is involved in a non-profit organization called Kaboom. It is a company that comes into a community and organizes volunteers to assemble equipment for an entire playground in one day. The organization also helps a community raise money through donations towards this equipment. Jensen will be attending a workshop on this next month.

Eileen Smitley of 31670 Southview questioned whether the Village is aware of all the restrictions that may be involved in this State grant.

Elaine Kennedy of 16255 Amherst understands that there may be restrictions related to the CMI grant. She thinks that Pasioka will inquire into this further.

Pasioka stated that, if the grant is awarded, the Village will be required to sign an agreement stating that it complies with specific guidelines. It will be determined whether there are any restrictions in addition to those discussed tonight.

Kennedy congratulated Pasioka for his work on the park grant application and to the Parks and Recreation Board for easing the burden of the Village by undertaking park improvements. Kennedy gave credit to former Council member Toni Grinnan for initiating the idea of a park grant a few years ago.

Dorothy Pfeifer of 160 Charrington Court thanked the Parks and Recreation Board and Pasioka for pursuing this grant application. She asked if there is a time by which grant funds have to be expended if the Village accepts and receives funding from the state.

Pasioka will research this. He commented that a decision will not be made on whether the Village is awarded grant funds until at least July with funds released sometime after that. The board assured

Pfeifer that the Parks and Recreation Board intends to undertake the improvements as quickly as it can.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Davis, to recommend to the Village Council that Administration submit an application for Clean Michigan Initiative Grant funding.

Motion passes unanimously.

DISCUSS STATUS OF PARK ENTRANCE

David Jensen displayed a copy of the engineering plans for the new pedestrian entranceway. The plans were prepared based on a topographic survey of the north portion of the park showing elevations, trees, physical structures and the parking lot. Jensen reviewed the plans for the vehicular and pedestrian entrances with archways, lighting, fencing, and walkway. The Woman's Club has been raising money for the park entrance by selling paving bricks that will be laid in a walkway from the park entrance to the pavilion.

Jensen's engineers have been working on a parking lot plan with a vintage 1920's feel. There is an island with landscaping and trees around its perimeter. The parking lot has more than 100 parking spaces. It will look like a parking lot for a rustic village park and not a strip mall. Jensen will recommend that the drainage plan be developed to move the water off of the pavement and contain it on the 34 acres.

The next step is for the board to discuss the parking lot drawing and approve a plan in order to proceed with engineering drawings. Jensen is working on a large scale paving pattern for arranging the brick walkway.

Jensen commented on the process of developing details of the plan, which will involve discussion of the hedges, planting beds, water system, and lighting. Planning for this project has depended on funding. Money has been raised by the Friends of Beverly Park and by the sale of paving bricks to accomplish the new park entrance.

Schmitt asked what is needed in order to go out for bids on the entranceway project. Jensen stated that the Village can go out for bids now based on the drawings he presented tonight. He is preparing the walkway plan drawn to a larger scale, which will illustrate the arrangement of paving bricks. Once there is agreement on a parking lot plan, work can begin on a drainage plan with the assistance of Public Services Director Spallasso. Jensen stated that he will be glad to meet with Spallasso, Pasiaka and Hanlin regarding these drawings.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Cobleigh, to recommend to council that administration seek bids for the Beverly Park entranceway project.

Motion passes unanimously.

DISCUSS 2000/2001 PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

Board members are in receipt of a Parks and Recreation revenue and expense report as of February 2000. Pasieka does not propose any changes in the budget for fiscal year 2000/2001 except for a request for a three percent increase in maintenance costs associated with the park. At Stearn's request, special events line items will be moved into the Parks and Recreation budget.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Pasieka informed the board that he has arranged with Village resident Ernie Skuta to have his band, The Spirit of America, perform patriotic music at the May concert in the park if there are no objections from the Parks and Recreation Board.

The Motor City Brass band will perform at the June 25 concert. Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjacks will be featured at the July 23 concert. The Birmingham Concert Band will perform at the August 27 concert.

Pasieka asked Mooney to oversee the publicity for the concert series. She will meet with Pasieka to discuss a plan for promoting the concerts in an effort to achieve a better response than last year.

Pasieka proposes designing and ordering a banner to display in the show mobile to identify Beverly Park. He asked board members for ideas.

PARK CLEAN UP

Discussion of the park clean up was deferred until next month.

LARGE GROUP EVENTS

There were no objections to the large group request for pavilion rental for May 20, June 2, and June 16, 2000.

MICHIGAN PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (MPRA) COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

At last month's meeting, O'Reilly referred to a newspaper article reporting that the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association (MPRA) awarded a community service award to the Friends of West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation.

O'Reilly did some research since the last meeting on the MPRA, a non-profit agency located in Lansing. It is comprised of almost 2,000 people and organizations. The group does some lobbying in Lansing with regard to enhancing recreation and park services. MPRA also provides assistance with financial strategies as far as improvements and renovations of parks. They provide services for development programming and informational needs. A MPRA newsletter is published once a month.

There are a number of communities and individuals in this locality that are members of this organization. O'Reilly proposes that Beverly Hills seriously consider becoming a member of the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association so the Village can make use of the services and information it provides. The Village could contact this organization for any inquiries it might have and assistance it can offer with regard to the Parks and Recreation plans that the board has or that the

public wants the board to address. The cost of a membership for an organization is \$350; an individual membership is \$85.

Pasieka commented that communities that have a Parks and Recreation Department generally belong to this type of association. The Village is expanding its role and doing more things in the park. A membership would help Beverly Hills become more connected. Pasieka would encourage the board to pursue a membership in MPRA.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Greening, to recommend to Council that the Village of Beverly Hills become a member of the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association in order to take advantage of the resources that this group provides.

Vince Borowski of 31115 Chelton suggests that this is the kind of organization where the administrator responsible for the Parks and Recreation function in a community is the contact person. He questions whether Pasieka or other members of the Village administration should be assigned another responsibility. He suggests that the Parks and Recreation Board appoint a liaison to manage that contact.

Motion passes unanimously.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Stearn congratulated all of the people who were elected to the Village Council on Monday.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka stated that the Jaycees are sponsoring the Eleventh Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Beverly Park on Saturday, April 22. The annual MS Walk through Beverly Hills will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2000.

Park reservations were accepted on May 1 for Beverly Hills residents and will be taken for non-residents on the first Wednesday in April.

Pasieka thanked those members of the Parks and Recreation Board who attended the public hearing on the park grant application held at the March 6 Council meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members congratulated the new Council members. Schmitt stated that this may be Stearn's last meeting as liaison. He thanked Stearn for his support.

Mooney would appreciate it if the Parks and Recreation Board meetings were not started before 7:30 p.m. if all the board members are not present.

Cobleigh stated that a number of people from Huntley Subdivision were concerned that a bandstand would be constructed near the hill in the park. Cobleigh assured these residents that such a structure was not contemplated, and that all band concerts will take place near Beverly Road.

Davis commented that she appreciated the participation of the public at tonight's public hearing. She hopes that those residents will also join in the park clean up. Davis and the board thanked Dave Jensen for the time and effort he has spent on the entranceway project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Phil Schmitt, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk