

Present: Chairperson Schmitt; Members: Cobleigh, Davis (late), Harmon, Mooney and O'Reilly

Absent: Greening

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka  
Council members, Kennedy and Pfeifer (late)

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 MARCH 16, 2000**

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by Mooney, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on March 16, 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. They have sold (143) 4 x 8 bricks, (95) 8 x 8 bricks and 12 logo bricks for a total amount of \$19,650.00. The sale of these bricks is equivalent to 393 4 x 8 bricks. Free delivery is offered for orders of 400 bricks. Lauer noted that this delivery must be taken before November or a storage fee will be charged.

Lauer stated that the June 1 deadline for the sale of bricks by the Woman's Club could be extended to July 31, if necessary. Board members would appreciate Phyllis Lauer and Sharon Pugh overseeing additional purchases of paving bricks.

Board members have received copies of a letter sent to Pasieka from the contractor who recently installed a paving stone porch at the Lauer residence. The contractor indicates that he would be happy to provide the Village with a bid for its brick walkway in Beverly Park.

**DISCUSSION TO CONTINUE GRANT APPLICATION**

Schmitt read the following memo from Council liaison Stearn who could not be present tonight:

*"It has come to my attention that during the process of applying for Park Grant money, some of the Parks and Recreation Board may have been under some incorrect assumptions. For example, some of the members of the board did not realize or understand that the public and private money that we 'committed' to be used as matching funds could not be touched or used in any way until the grant was either approved or denied. In addition, some of the board members have expressed concerns over the timing of the award. My understanding is that we will have a pretty good idea of whether the money will or will not be awarded by the end of July. I apologize for any miscommunication.*

*Now that these issues have been somewhat clarified, I have asked Mr. Schmitt to take a vote on whether the board feels that we as a Village should continue on the path of applying for the grant*

*money or whether we should pull the grant application and begin the process of spending the money that we already have.*

*In an effort to give you some additional information, last week I spoke with Debra Apostle, the woman in charge of all CMI grant applications for Oakland County. She informed me that Beverly Hills had a competitive application and that, in the event we are awarded the grant, we will be awarded the multiplier that we asked for. In other words, the State will either grant us our three to one match or they will grant us nothing. I hope this information assists you in your deliberations.*

*To conclude, I prefer to stay on the path of applying for the grant. I think the potential benefits far outweigh any timing risks at this point in time. In addition, I think it will be very difficult to explain to the public at large why we are giving up a potential pot of money. Thank you for listening and good luck with your discussions.”*

Schmitt stated that he was under the impression that the gate project could begin while the Village was waiting for a decision on the grant application. He now understands that the Village cannot spend any of the money it has committed for the matching grant until Beverly Hills accepts or rejects the grant money. Also, undertaking the priority projects outlined in the grant application with non-committed funds would require revising the grant application submitted and approved by the state.

Schmitt stated that there has been some discussion that the Village should pull its grant application and start constructing the new entranceway now. He asked if there were any advocates of rescinding the grant application. There were none.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by O'Reilly, to proceed with the grant application.  
Motion passes unanimously.

#### **DISCUSS PLAN FOR ENTRANCE BID**

Schmitt thought that the Village could start laying the brick path now with money that is not committed to the matching grant in order to show some progress being made in the park. He was informed that there may be a problem with installing the paving bricks at this stage.

David Jensen, who designed the park entrance plan, stated that starting the pavers now could lead to redoing portions later. He understands that the Parks and Recreation Board would like to show signs of progress in the park. He thinks that this could be done by communicating by letter to all the people who have donated to the park improvement fund and update them on the schedule.

Jensen suggested that the Village could finalize plans for electrical service to the entranceway and possible plans for a sprinkler system. They could remove a portion of the fence and remove trees in the construction area. There is infrastructure work that could be done in advance of constructing the entrance gate. Bid proposals could be solicited and awarded for the work. Jensen remarked that a contractor should be able bid on the brick walkway using the existing plans. He thinks that a plan should be in place so that the project is ready to go when a decision is received on the grant.

Schmitt related that the Village expects to learn in July whether it made the cut to receive a grant. The money is not awarded until the Legislature meets again in October. While there are no guarantees, Schmitt stated that the Legislature has never turned down a grant in October that made

the cut in July. Schmitt was informed by Todd Stearn that the Village will have an indication of how it stands in another month, depending on whether the state sends out a survey team to look at our park. It is not a good sign if they do not do that.

Mooney asked how the Village would pay for necessary infrastructure work in preparation for the entranceway if all its park improvement money is committed to the grant. Schmitt responded that the Village recently received a \$5,000 donation to Beverly Park capital improvements from the Village Woman's Club. Money from the purchase of paving bricks is continuing to come in. The Council has budgeted \$23,000 for Parks and Recreation capital improvements for the 2000/01 fiscal year.

In response to a question from board members, clarification is needed on whether the Village can go out for bids on work related to the new entranceway.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by O'Reilly, to request administration to determine what needs to be done relative to the bidding process and request administration to proceed with obtaining bids for the park entrance project.

Motion passes unanimously.

There was discussion on removing 50 feet of fence in the area where the new entranceway will be constructed. It was suggested that this be done in conjunction with the Annual Park Clean Up on Saturday, May 13.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by O'Reilly, to recommend to administration and Council that about 50 feet of fence located at the park entrance be removed in anticipation of the new entranceway project.

Motion passes unanimously.

Jensen offered to fasten a decorative sign to the park entrance sign that tells the community what is being done in the park. He will bring a proposal before the Parks and Recreation Board for approval.

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by Mooney, to recommend to administration and Council that David Jensen be authorized to proceed with his generous offer to provide a sign at the park entrance informing residents of plans for park improvements.

Motion passes unanimously.

Sharon Pugh asked that the Parks and Recreation Board or administration include an article in the next Villager newsletter explaining why progress on the park entrance and parking lot will not be evident this summer. The residents should be informed that the Village has applied for matching grant funds and cannot spend the money committed for those projects until notice is received that the grant is approved or denied.

O'Reilly volunteered to write the article for the next edition of the Villager.

### **DISCUSS SELECTION OF TREE VARIETY FOR PARKING LOT**

Schmitt stated that there will be a traffic island in the parking lot when it is paved. He suggests that the Parks and Recreation Board decide on some cultivars for parking lot trees. Suggestions include Bradford Pear, Locust, Red Oak, Pin Oak, and River Birch.

Harmon, who is knowledgeable on the topic of trees, commented on which varieties he thinks would be harmonious and suitable for the conditions in the park. He favors the River Birch.

Jensen offered his observations on the choice of trees for the parking lot. He thinks an Oak would be a sturdy, majestic and traditional tree that would be appropriate for a 1920's natural park. It would create a canopy effect in future years.

Board and audience members discussed the pros and cons of the trees suggested. Harmon will come back at the next meeting with a recommendation.

### **DISCUSS PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET**

Schmitt reported that Council has agreed to budget \$23,000 for park capital improvements for fiscal year 2000/01. The proposed budget is scheduled to be adopted at the May 1, 2000 Council meeting.

### **DISCUSS ADDITIONAL FUND RAISING**

This agenda item will be held over until next month.

### **ARTESIAN WELL PROJECT**

Schmitt stated that Don Greening initiated this project in the park. With the help of Boy Scouts from Troop 1024 from Beverly School and staff from Comeau Equipment Company, water is being diverted from the artesian well in the center of the park to the pond. This will improve the water quality in the pond, help maintain the water level, and benefit the fish, turtle, bird and plant life. The artesian well was capped to eliminate the standing water around the well and hopefully prevent a mosquito breeding ground. The water from the well can be controlled by a valve. The cost to the Village for this project was \$129.94.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Cobleigh, to thank Don Greening, Boy Scouts from Troop 1024, administration, and Comeau Equipment Co. for their excellent job on the artesian well project.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Mooney commented that attendance at last year's concert in the park series was relatively low. The board decided to advertise the concert series more than has been done in past years. Mooney proposes placing articles in various newsletters that are distributed by the Village, homeowner associations, schools, churches, and the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC).

Mooney is preparing flyers that will be distributed to publicize the concert series along with flyers for each individual concert. She suggested sending a concert flyer to all Friends of Beverly Park and

to people who purchased paving bricks along with a cover letter updating them on what is going on in the park. Mooney will draft the letter.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Harmon, that Friends of Beverly Park funds be used to mail summer concert flyers to people who have supported the park.

Motion passes unanimously.

Mooney suggested that the board consider reducing the number of concerts to two next year if added publicity does not draw more people to the events.

Cobleigh understands that the Village is funding the concert series this year, which eliminates the need for a Lion's Club donation towards a Sunday concert.

Pasieka responded that the Village Council has budgeted money to cover the cost of special events in the park each year. The Parks and Recreation board has sought funding to defray those costs. The Village would accept and appreciate donations to help defray the cost of the concerts in the park.

#### **APPROVAL FOR PARK BANNER**

Pasieka suggested that the Parks and Recreation Board authorize the preparation of a banner to display in or on the showmobile at the four summer concerts. The 3' x 12' banner would say, "Welcome to Beverly Park". The concerts are sometimes televised or photographed, and there is nothing in the showmobile that says "Beverly Hills" or "Beverly Park". The sign could be used at any of the park functions.

The cost of the banner would be approximately \$300 and would be paid for with money allocated in the budget for the concerts. It was suggested that the Lion's Club be asked to donate money for the banner. Cobleigh will bring this up at a Lion's Club meeting next week. It was suggested that a small Lion's Club logo could be added to the banner to acknowledge their gift.

MOTION O'Reilly, supported by Mooney, to ask administration to order a banner for Beverly Park in an amount not to exceed \$300. Money for this expense will not come from the Friends of Beverly Park fund.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### **PARK CLEAN UP**

The Annual Beverly Park Clean Up will be held on Saturday, May 13 at 10:00 a.m. Board members volunteered for work areas that they will be responsible for on that day with respect to directing volunteers and facilitating work. The Village and Comeau Equipment Company will provide the necessary equipment. A 50 foot portion of the fence in the area of the new entranceway will be removed on that Saturday.

Members shared the task of contacting community and school groups to request their participation in the event. Cobleigh will see to it that refreshments are provided for everyone compliments of the

Beverly Hills Lion's Club. Board members thanked Cobleigh and the Lion's Club for its contributions.

Davis entered the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Council member Pfeifer entered the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

### **LARGE GROUP SURVEYS**

Pasieka stated that large groups requesting to rent the park pavilion are causing some concern. The Village receives requests from businesses that want to use the park for a group of over 100 people. It becomes taxing to be able to accommodate a group of that size without weekend support from paid staff to remove trash and make the pavilion area presentable for the next group. There are some groups that ask to bring in equipment such as rides, which cause concern with respect the Village's ability to monitor the activities and from an insurance standpoint.

A group by the name of Maxim Group has asked to bring in a dunk tank and a moon walk. Pasieka would like to discourage this kind of entertainment and asked the Parks and Recreation Board to consider establishing a policy on those things. He does not think the Village is geared to handle a large crowd or those types of activities.

Pasieka explained a proposal he plans to initiate to handle the large amount of refuse that is left behind from large groups in the park. There is a need to remove the trash in order to accommodate the next group of people who have reserved the pavilion for an event. He will ask Mr. Comeau to park his dump truck at the west entrance of the park on a Friday and pick it up on a Monday. Pasieka will find some help with loading full plastic trash bags into the back end of that truck after these large group events. Any cost will be absorbed in the maintenance of the park.

In the future, the Parks and Recreation Board will consider limiting large groups renting the pavilion as to the number of people and the equipment they bring into the park.

Pasieka answered questions from board members on the fees charged for large groups. The Parks and Recreation board will consider raising the cost for a large group reservation next year.

Pasieka was authorized to tell the Maxim Group that they are welcome in the park but are not allowed to bring in a dunk tank or moon walk.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Harmon, to support administration's restrictions on the Maxim Group relative to use of the park.

Motion passes unanimously.

Board members had no objections to the large group requests for pavilion rental on June 3 and June 7, 2000.

Schmitt proposed that the board revisit the park pavilion rental guidelines and rate schedule later this year. Pasieka suggested doing surveys to determine what other communities are doing. Administration will have a timely recommendation to modify the guidelines for next year.

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Pasieka has prepared a memo addressing a number of items that he would like the Parks and Recreation Board to review. He asked the board members to make recommendations to Council on these topics.

#### **Township Trustee Holloway's Request**

Pasieka reviewed that Richard Holloway, Southfield Township Trustee, presented a proposal to this board last month on the transfer of trapped animals to the Douglas-Evans nature preserve. Pasieka asked that the Parks and Recreation Board discuss this request tonight and forward a recommendation to the Village Council for consideration. Holloway is present to answer questions. Dick Holloway of 32711 Bingham Lane in Bingham Farms is a trustee of Southfield Township and chairman of the animal control committee. He spoke to the board about how a new State law affects the release of non-targeted animals. Non-targeted animals are those that are caught by accident. For example, a trap is set for a woodchuck and an opossum is caught. New state law says that a non-targeted animal must be released in the immediate area where it was caught.

Holloway related that the Township's animal control service is receiving a lot of complaints from residents about releasing non-targeted animals in their yards. Another alternative would be to release these few non-targeted animals at the 18-acre Douglas-Evans nature preserve. The animals would be released in the preserve area and not in anyone's front yard.

Holloway explained that he is talking about releasing one animal a week at this time or year. During peak summer months, the animal service would release about four or five animals a week at Douglas-Evans. He asked the Parks and Recreation Board to consider recommending this practice to the Village Council.

Most of the non-targeted animals are opossum. A targeted animal is whatever animal the trap is set to capture, which are usually woodchucks or skunks. Holloway stated that targeted animals are taken to Romulus. Under the new law, the household that calls for animal control must demonstrate a threat to public safety, property damage, or potential damage before an animal is considered targeted and can be trapped. Holloway stated that the Township's animal control carrier is monitored and must report all trapped animals.

Board members discussed the proposal. The Douglas-Evans area is surrounded by homes. It was suggested that the proposed practice would move non-targeted animals from one person's house to another person's house that borders the nature preserve.

Holloway stated that released animals could originate from any place in the Township, not just Beverly Hills. The Township could stop releasing animals at Douglas-Evans at any time if there are problems reported.

O'Reilly stated that the Township is obligated by law to release these non-targeted animals in the area. He suggested that the board recommend approval of this program for a limited period of time to determine what impact it has. It is not know whether it will cause problems for people who live in the area of the nature preserve.

Schmitt proposed that the Village allow only a specified number of animals to be released at Douglas-Evans each week. He emphasized that targeted animals are taken away and would not be released in the nature preserve.

Pfeifer suggested that the animal control service could be authorized to move the non-targeted animal to Douglas Evans only if the homeowner objects to having it released on their property.

There were members of the board who thought that non-targeted animals should be released where they were trapped. Board members anticipated opposition from homeowners bordering Douglas-Evans.

Kennedy asked if there was any other recourse. Holloway mentioned that the Township will not provide haul-away services, but a resident could call someone who would take care of an animal for a fee.

There was some discussion on whether a private service would kill an animal once it leaves the resident's driveway. Holloway indicated that the Township's animal control service does not follow that practice.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that administration and Council authorize Southfield Township to release non-targeted animals at the Douglas-Evans nature preserve if there are no other alternatives in the immediate area, and that this practice be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board at its August meeting.

Mooney did not think there was a way to monitor this program. She was not amenable to taking animals from Bingham Farms and Franklin into our community. Schmitt relayed Greening's concerns.

Holloway responded that the animal control people can count the animals. A log is kept, and every trip is recorded at the Township office. Holloway agreed to release non-targeted animals on site when possible unless the resident complains about it.

Schmitt suggested amending the motion to allow only one or two animals a week to be released at Douglas-Evans.

Pfeifer thinks that the criteria for ending the practice should be the number of complaints from people in the area of Douglas-Evans.

Harmon was concerned about the concentration of animals and the affect on the ecology of Douglas-Evans. The animals are scavengers and may go after garbage or other animal life in the nature preserve.

Ayes - O'Reilly and Schmitt  
Nays - Cobleigh, Davis, Harmon and Mooney  
Motion fails (4-2).

### **Park Policy Recommendations**

#### Refuse

Pasieka stated that the policy concerning removing refuse from pavilion rental groups over the weekend was discussed earlier in the meeting. Unless there is opposition from the board, the plan is to ask Mr. Comeau to park his dump truck at the west park entrance over the weekend to collect garbage bags. There were no objections to this policy.

#### Parking contractor equipment and materials in Beverly Park during Village construction projects

Pasieka stated that a policy on parking contractor equipment and materials in Beverly Park will have an effect on the future handling of construction vehicles used for infrastructure projects. Parks and Recreation Board members have expressed displeasure with construction vehicles being parked in the park when there were park activities going on.

When the parking lot is paved, it will be detrimental to continue the practice of storing heavy equipment and materials in the park. Pasieka suggests that the Village find another place for overnight storage of heavy equipment. It is administration's recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Board support adoption of a policy to prohibit the overnight parking of contractor equipment and materials in Beverly Park.

The park closes at 10 p.m. by park policy. Board members suggested prohibiting all overnight parking of vehicles and storage of equipment and materials in the park.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommends that the Village of Beverly Hills prohibit the overnight parking of vehicles and overnight storage of equipment or materials in any of the Village parks.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### Compost letter from SOCRRA

Pasieka stated that administration proposes to continue its practice of providing free wood chips and compost for the use of Beverly Hills residents. The northeast corner of the park where wood chips and compost are stored and distributed gets wet and muddy, and it is difficult to gain access to this area. Considering that the parking lot will be paved in coming months, another arrangement should be considered to avoid damage to the parking lot by the large tandem truck that delivers the compost.

Board members are in receipt of a letter from SOCRRA regarding compost distribution. SOCRRA officials are concerned that there is no control over the compost pile and that non-residents and contractors are taking this product. They feel that Beverly Park is an undesirable site for distribution and that a more secure site should be located where direct control can be administered.

Pasieka suggested laying a concrete pad for the wood chips and compost in the same vicinity of the park, but providing access to the area from Allerton Drive. Another option is to locate the wood chip and compost piles near the DPW building at the Village municipal site.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Mooney, that the Village continue providing wood chips and compost to Village residents.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Harmon, to move the compost pile to the DPW yard when the Beverly Park parking lot is paved and posting a notice that materials are free for residents only and not contractors.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **Kiwanis Club Fund Raiser**

Gerald Doelle was present stating that the Birmingham Central Kiwanis Club is seeking permission to conduct a fund-raising barbecue and summer picnic in conjunction with the August 27, 2000 concert in Beverly Park performed by the Birmingham Community Concert Band. The Kiwanis Club exists to make charitable gifts to local organizations in the community. It was thought that the barbecue event tied in with the concert would bring more people to the concert and add more interest to the barbecue.

Doelle stated that picnic food will be provided to everyone who attends the barbecue or concert for a price of approximately \$5.50 for children and \$7.50 for adults. The Kiwanis Club will work with the Village and the Concert Band to schedule the serving of food to obtain the best results. The board asked that the food not be served during the concert.

It was questioned if there would be a donation from the Kiwanis Club to the Friends of Beverly Park. Doelle stated that their group would be pleased to make a donation.

Pasieka explained that the pavilion is used for shelter during the concerts if there is rain or extreme heat. Approval of the Kiwanis event would be conditioned on their using a tent or other area for food preparation and serving. The area could be in close proximity to the pavilion. People could eat in the pavilion or outside.

Schmitt stated that he spoke with Pat Greening, and she is opposed to this request. Kennedy related that Greening's major concern was the use of the pavilion and that the preparation and serving of food not disturb the concert.

MOTION by Davis, supported by Cobleigh, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommends to Council approval of the request from the Birmingham Kiwanis Community Club to conduct a fund-raising barbecue in Beverly Park in conjunction with the August 27, 2000 concert in the park featuring the Birmingham Community Concert Band with whatever restrictions Council and administration may require. There will be no serving of food during the performance. No admission will be charged; food ticket will be sold.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **Oakland County Parks Seedling Program**

Pasieka stated that the Village received 150 seedlings, which will be planted in the nursery area of Beverly Park at the May 13 Park Clean Up.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Davis stated that she was disappointed that the park reservation application does not mention that dogs are not allowed in the play area.

Schmitt stated that the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board will be held in Beverly Park. He invited Council to hold a regular Council meeting at the park sometime.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall  
Village Clerk**