

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - MAY 18, 2000 - PAGE 1

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

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 OF A REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 20, 2000

On page 11, first sentence under "Board Comments" should be corrected to read: "Davis stated that she was disappointed that the park reservation application does not mention that dogs are not allowed in the play area."

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Cobleigh, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on April 20, 2000 be approved as amended.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Lauer reported that the sale of paving bricks is going well. A total of \$21,250 worth of bricks have been sold, which makes the Village eligible for free delivery. Lauer expressed concern that someone be present to oversee the contractor laying the bricks on the walkway to make certain that multiple bricks purchased by a family are located together. She questioned how far the walk will extend. Greening mentioned that there will be a walk through the playground area when that project is undertaken. Schmitt stated that Lauer will be contacted when the bricks are ready to be laid.

STATUS ON GRANT APPLICATION

Pasieka commented that he has received no news on the CMI grant application. It was mentioned that Senator Gary Peters and Representative Pan Godchaux have written to the Program Manager for the CMI Grant application in support of the Village's application.

DISCUSS SELECTION OF TREE VARIETY FOR PARKING LOT

Harmon stated that he has reviewed a number of Oak tree varieties after discussion of the appropriate tree for the parking lot island at last month's meeting. There was a consensus that the parking lot design prepared by David Jensen calls for a large canopy type of tree.

Harmon thinks that the Pin Oak is probably the best choice for the parking lot islands. It grows well in the type of soil found in the park, and it will tolerate street pollution. Pin Oaks are fast growing trees, growing 12-15 feet in five years. They grow an average of 2.5 feet per year.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Greening, that the Parks and Recreation Board

recommend selection of the Pin Oak as the official parking lot tree for Beverly Park.

Motion passes unanimously.

STATUS OF ENTRANCE BID QUOTES

It was suggested that quotes for the park entrance project be a topic of discussion at the joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board and Council scheduled for June 15 in Beverly Park. The board will request direction from Council at that time.

DISCUSS FRIENDS OF BEVERLY PARK ADDITIONAL FUND RAISING

Discussion of future fund raising projects was deferred until after July when the Village expects to learn whether it made the cut to receive a grant from the State Legislature.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Mooney stated that she has been dropping off flyers around town at markets, churches, schools, and nursing homes. The first concert in the park scheduled to be held on Sunday, May 21 at 4:00 p.m. was publicized in the Eccentric newspaper.

A Beverly Park banner has been provided by the Beverly Hills Lion's Club. The board thanked Alan Cobleigh for his part in this gift. It was mentioned that the Lion's Club also provided refreshments at the Annual Park Clean Up last Saturday.

A flyer advertising the summer concert series along with a letter updating people on the status of park improvements will be mailed to individuals who have purchased paving bricks and to all Friends of Beverly Park.

PARK CLEAN UP

Harmon stated that last Saturday's event may have been the largest turnout for a park clean up. There were 120 names on the sign up list, but he estimates that there were about 150-200 people working on the park. The participants included boy scouts, cub scouts, girl scouts and brownies. Laverne Cleary was recognized for supervising the scouts working in the nursery. There were residents, Groves High School students, people representing the Lions Club, baseball leagues, Village administration, and the Parks and Recreation Board. Board members were disappointed that there was no one from Council present.

The Board thanked everyone who participated in the event and thanked Harmon for organizing the Park Clean Up this year. The park is in very good shape. It was mentioned that contractor Chuck Comeau takes good care of the park.

HANDICAP RESTROOMS

Schmitt stated that the park area is used every year by the participants in the Multiple Sclerosis Walk, but they are not able to use the restrooms because they are not handicap accessible. He proposes that, whether or not the Village receives grant money, there is a need to equip the restrooms in the pavilion to make them handicap accessible. He would support investigating the cost

of this project.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Davis, to recommend that administration look into what is necessary to equip the pavilion rest rooms so that they are handicap accessible.

Motion passes unanimously.

LARGE GROUP SURVEYS

There are four large group event planning forms before the board for consideration. Pasieka expressed a concern with large group activities that present potential liability to the Village and that require additional expense and manpower on weekends when it is difficult to maintain the pavilion for one large group following another. The board has agreed to review the pavilion rental fees to insure that the costs are covered by people who use the facilities. Pasieka will be making suggestions to the board and providing information on how surrounding communities accommodate large groups.

A resident on Riverside is requesting to use the park pavilion on Wednesday, June 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a Detroit Country Day School Kindergarten party. Pasieka spoke with the person organizing the event and learned that she has access to the County Skatemobile, Sportsmobile and Puppetmobile. Pasieka referred to the diagram of the park on the planning form, which indicates where these vehicles are proposed to be located. The Skatemobile and Sportsmobile will be parked in the parking lot. The Puppetmobile will be positioned at the fork in the road where the road going into the park intersects with the path going into the woods.

Pasieka explained that the Skatemobile has a large contained surface area where children roller skate. He thinks that this event can be accommodated on a week day at this particular time.

Greening does not think that this group should be allowed to bring in three mobile entertainment units for 80 people on the basis that it will take over a substantial amount of the parking lot and park at a time when a lot of people use the park on a daily basis. Cobleigh is also opposed to this large group event.

Schmitt commented that he does not have a problem with this event being held on a school day on a Wednesday morning. Mooney concurred but thinks that the fee structure should be modified to the extent of the usage of the park.

Harmon remarked that people can walk around the Puppetmobile. He noted that writing on the diagram under the Skatemobile says "skates and scooters in the tennis courts, basketball courts and in the pavilion". Pasieka stated that this will not occur. The activity will be contained in the Skatemobile.

Schmitt agrees that there should not be skates and scooters in those three areas. With that exception, he approves of this group of youngsters using the park.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Davis, to approve the Detroit Country Day School

Kindergarten party in the park on Wednesday, June 7, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as outlined in the large group event planning form with the exception that no skating or scooters are allowed in the basketball court, tennis courts, or pavilion area.

Yes - Davis, Harmon, Mooney, Schmitt

No - Cobleigh and Greening

Motion passes (4 - 2).

Davis suggested that a Parks and Recreation Board member visit these big parties. She added that people should be told that dogs are not allowed in the playground area.

The board reviewed an event form submitted by Mary Bone for a wedding reception for 150 people in the park on Sunday, July 2, 2000.

Schmitt commented that this Sunday event is likely to generate a large amount of trash for the receptacles. Because July 4 is on the Tuesday following this event, there will be a lot of trash in the pavilion containers that will not be picked up until Wednesday. He suggests that these people be required to pay for a trash pick up after their event on Sunday. He added that they may want to have the containers emptied before their event.

There were no objections to the July 2 wedding reception in the pavilion.

The next event is a children's birthday party. Stephanie Wineman of Bloomfield Village is renting the pavilion and will have a professional party service bring in petting animals, pony rides, and moon walk.

Schmitt suggested that the group be charged for additional trash pickup. He reiterated that the Village may want to increase the pavilion rental fee next year to provide for picking up trash after large group events.

Greening commented that a petting zoo has been part of the Memorial Day Carnival in Beverly Park. Past experience has shown that the animals are contained and that the staff cleans up after the animals.

There was some discussion on liability insurance. It was indicated that every petting zoo has insurance. Acme Partyworks has also submitted a certificate of liability insurance with the application form. It was mentioned that the applicant signs an indemnification agreement when the pavilion is rented.

Mooney objected to this event on the basis of the number of activities planned. Harmon had no problem with the event if Village administration did not object to the petting zoo and pony rides. Pasioka stated that it is administration's view that this event can be handled during the week. The majority of the board members approved this children's birthday party.

The last event reviewed by the board was a graduation party for 140 people on Thursday, June 22. The board approved the event with the provision that the music be turned off at 9:30 p.m.

There was discussion as to whether the Parks and Recreation Board will set up a tent at the Memorial Day carnival to display the concept drawings for the park master plan and the artist's drawing of the new entranceway and playground. It was decided not to do this. Phyllis Lauer indicated that she will have a table set up for selling paving bricks. Parks and Recreation members will sign up to assist with this.

JOINT MEETING TOPICS

Schmitt outlined a list of proposed topics for discussion at the joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board with Council on June 15. The board requests direction and a commitment on the gate design for the park entranceway and on the parking lot design. Council approval is needed for using the Pin Oak as the tree selection for the parking lot islands. The Parks and Recreation Board will ask that administration be authorized to solicit bids for the gate, brick laying and parking lot. Council's endorsement of a construction sign at the park entrance will be sought. Dave Jensen has volunteered to prepare a sign indicating that the park improvements are moving along. Schmitt will ask Jensen to attend this meeting and make a presentation on the design for the gate and entranceway.

Another topic of discussion will be whether to continue providing compost and wood chips to residents. The Parks and Recreation Board has recommended that the compost and wood chip operation be continued but moved to the DPW yard after the parking lot is paved. Another issue is the Parks and Recreation Board recommendation to prohibit the overnight parking of equipment in any of the Village parks.

Schmitt asked board members if there were other items for the joint meeting agenda. Mooney thinks that there should be a discussion of where the paving bricks will be stored when they are delivered. A storage fee will be charged if they are not delivered by November. It was suggested that an inquiry be made as to the amount of the storage fee.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Stearn apologized for missing the Park Clean Up last Saturday. He explained that he attended his brother's graduation from law school. Stearn thanked the Lion's Club for providing the Beverly Park banner.

O'Reilly entered the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka informed the board that there were 150 trees planted in the park by the scouts on the Park Clean Up day. He thanked Laverne Cleary for organizing the scouts to accomplish this work.

The first concert in the park will be held this Sunday with a performance by the Spirit of America band. The Village will be using the Southfield Showmobile. The new Beverly Park banner will be

displayed.

The Rouge River Cleanup is planned for Saturday, June 3. The Village's involvement will be kept low key as it was last year. Plastic bags will be furnished to people who report at the Douglas-Evans CSO facility on Evergreen Road on that day.

Pasieka stated that the Village has received a \$100 check as part of a matching funds gift from the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority to be used for wild plants at the Douglas Evans nature preserve and Riverside Park.

Davis referred to a letter from Sarah Ethridge of 32371 Arlington, who writes that she thinks that dogs should be allowed in parks. She added that people who do not pick up messes left by their dog should be fined. Ethridge has no problem with a rule that dogs must be kept on leashes.

Pasieka will respond to this letter informing Ms. Ethridge of the park rules. The letter was distributed for the information of the Parks and Recreation Board.

BOARD COMMENTS

Davis commented that she thinks that Saturday's event was the best Park Clean Up that the Village has ever had. She expressed the view that there should have been representation by the Village Council.

Mooney thanked Harmon for his work in organizing the Park Clean Up. She thinks that a member of the Parks and Recreation Board should have attended the last Council meeting to thank the participants for their efforts in cleaning the park.

Schmitt thanked Hanlin and Pasieka for attending the Clean Up. He also congratulated Village administration on the recent Villager newsletter, which he thinks was one of the best.

O'Reilly commended Harmon for organizing the park clean up. He also mentioned the great job that Don Greening did on connecting the artesian well to the pond and organizing scouts to assist with that project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**