

Present: **Parks & Recreation Board:** Chairperson Schmitt; Members: Cobleigh, Davis, Greening, Harmon, Mooney and O'Reilly

**Council:** President Craig; Members: Downey, Munguia, Pfeifer, Stearn and Walsh

Absent: Kennedy - Council

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka

Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Beverly Park pavilion.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF A REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2000**

MOTION by Davis, supported by Harmon, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on May 18, 2000 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

**STATUS OF GRANT APPLICATION**

Schmitt stated that on June 13 he spoke with Deborah Apostol, Program Manager with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who is in charge of Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) grants for Oakland County. He was told that the initial number of grant applications was 256 and that there are currently 180 applications under consideration, one of which is the Village's application. Apostol indicated that the state usually funds 50-60 of those applications. If the Village does not receive a grant, Beverly Hills will be automatically included in the next round of grant applications in September, and the DNR will work with the Village to revise its grant application, increasing the chance of acceptance.

Schmitt stated that no one from the state has yet visited Beverly Park, and DNR representatives have declined his invitation to schedule a visit to the park. Apostol informed Schmitt that staff recommendations will be prepared in early to mid August. The CMI grants are awarded by the State Legislature in October. Schmitt understands that the Legislature has followed staff recommendations in past years. He commented that there are no politicians representing Beverly Hills on any DNR committees at the state level. Schmitt will contact Deborah Apostol again in mid July.

Council questions on the grant application were addressed by Schmitt. It was noted that State Senator Gary Peters and Representative Pan Godchaux have written letters to the program manager for the CMI grant application in support of the Village's application. Mooney stated that she will contact an individual from Representative Joe Knollenberg's office regarding the availability of federal grants for park improvements.

### **REPORT ON ROUGE RIVER CLEAN UP**

The Village's Annual Rouge River Clean Up activities promoted by the Friends of the Rouge organization was held on Saturday, June 3 at Douglas Evans nature park. Pasioka related that about 15 volunteers picked up debris in the nature preserve and along the banks of the river. Volunteers were provided with shirts, gloves, and plastic bags. There were a number of high school students in attendance as part of an ecology curriculum. Bags of trash were removed by the Village on the following Monday. Pasioka stated that it was another successful Rouge River clean up.

### **REPORT ON SALE OF BRICKS**

Phyllis Lauer and Sharon Pugh reported that \$23,000 worth of bricks have been sold to raise funds for the park entranceway project. Lauer reported that the paving bricks will be stored free of charge until next spring by the Gift Bricks company.

The Village Woman's Club sale of bricks will end on July 31, 2000. Lauer will consider a special one-time Christmas sale of bricks coinciding with a Villager newsletter mailed to residents just prior to the holidays.

### **REPORT ON PARK CONCERTS**

Mooney stated that the second concert in the park will be held on Sunday, June 25. The Motor City Brass band will perform in Beverly Park at 4:00 p.m. She displayed a flyer that will be distributed throughout the community advertising the concert.

Mooney commented that there was a good turnout for the first concert. She is open for suggestions on advertising the concerts. Another mailing is being considered for the July concert.

Pfeifer will contact the producer of Municipal/Library Channel 15 about advertising the June 25 concert on cable television. She suggests adding concert information to the Village's web site, which is expected to be on line in July.

### **JOINT MEETING DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Schmitt stated that David Jensen could not be here tonight to present his plans for the Village entranceway and parking lot to Council. Schmitt referred to a large drawing of the proposed park gate and entranceway design and described the features of the plan.

Schmitt circulated a drawing of the proposed parking lot design. The plans include a means of surface drainage. The parking lot will remain in its current location. There is an island with trees proposed in the middle of the parking lot. Schmitt stated that Harmon led the board in a review of the various tree cultivars that would be appropriate to the area and for the intended use. The board recommends the Pin Oak as the selection for the parking lot trees.

Schmitt stated that David Jensen has assured the board that constructing the entranceway and laying the bricks will cost under \$50,000. The Parks and Recreation board has raised over \$60,000 in private funds for this project. The Parks and Recreation board would like a commitment from Council to approve the gate design in anticipation of going out for bids on the project for an amount

not to exceed \$60,000. The board is asking for Council approval of the parking lot design and the tree selection for the parking lot islands. The board requests authorization to solicit bids on the entranceway and parking lot projects. It is not known whether a grant will be forthcoming. Schmitt proposes going forward with the entrance and walkway project because the money for those improvements is available even if the grant is denied.

If a CMI grant is not received this fall, it is automatically carried over to the next round. In that case the plan is to resubmit the grant application in an attempt to receive perhaps a one to one matching grant to pave the parking lot. Schmitt stated that the application will indicate that the Village proposes to pave the gravel parking lot. Trees will be planted on the parking lot islands.

Schmitt outlined other issues that Council will be asked to consider this evening. The Parks and Recreation Board feels that it is important that the Village continue supplying the residents with compost. There is a question of where the compost will be stored when the parking lot is paved. Heavy delivery trucks that drop off the material will damage the pavement. The board suggests moving the compost pile to the DPW area. The use of compost material by residents can be more easily monitored at that location. SOCRRA is now requiring close scrutiny of compost. The Village is currently receiving complaints from SOCRRA that its compost pile is open to anyone, and therefore not used solely by SOCRRA members.

Schmitt stated that there has been a problem with the parking of heavy equipment in the park during construction projects in the Village. The Parks and Recreation Board does not think this should be allowed. If there is a Village ordinance prohibiting overnight parking in Village parks, it should be enforced.

#### **Approve Park Gate Design/ Parking Lot Design and Tree Selection**

Schmitt asked for a commitment on the park gate design. The entrance project will be funded either through the park grant or entirely by private funds raised by the Friends of Beverly Park and the Village Woman's Club. Schmitt clarified that the board is asking for approval of the design only and not for authorization to spend money. The Village has not gone out for bids on this project.

Council and board members discussed whether the park entrance project should go before the Village Planning Board for review and recommendation. It was noted that the Planning Board is responsible for review of drainage plans, safety issues, and parking circulation. There was not a consensus on whether a site plan review is appropriate for the park gate design and parking lot design.

RESOLVED by Downey, supported by Stearn, that the Village Council supports the conceptual design of the gate for Beverly Park and supports its implementation.

Roll Call Vote:

Resolution passes unanimously.

Schmitt asked for similar action by Council supporting the parking lot design and the selection of the Pin Oak as the parking lot tree. There was discussion of the tree selection and spacing of plants. It was noted that part of Jensen's plan is to create a canopy effect with the trees in the parking lot.

RESOLVED by Stearn, supported by Pfeifer, that the Village Council supports the conceptual design for the parking lot paving and the selection of the Pin Oak for the parking lot tree.

Roll Call Vote:

Resolution passes unanimously.

Schmitt stated that the Parks and Recreation Board requests that Council authorize administration to go out for bids on the gate and parking lot paving projects at the appropriate time. This may be after review by the Planning Board if that is the decision of Council.

MOTION by Munguia, supported by Downey, to refer the Beverly Park gate and parking lot projects to the Planning Board for review and recommendation.

Harmon questioned whether the Planning Board will need more detailed engineering drawings before it can review the entranceway and parking lot plans. He asked if the motion should also approve allocation of funds to prepare engineering drawings. It was suggested that a resolution be passed to spend up to a certain dollar amount to prepare preliminary engineering plans for the entranceway work and the parking lot paving. The cost would be paid by private funds raised for this project.

MOTION by Stearn to table the motion to refer the gate and parking lot proposals to the Planning Board until the Monday, July 3, 2000 Council meeting pending receipt of further information regarding a referral to the Planning Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Munguia	- yes
Pfeifer	- yes
Stearn	- yes
Walsh	- yes
Craig	- no
Downey	- no

Motion passes (4 - 2).

Craig asked administration to present Council with an opinion on whether or not the gate and parking lot proposals should go to the Planning Board.

**Authorization to Proceed with Entrance Construction Sign**

Schmitt stated that David Jensen has generously offered to build a construction sign to be displayed at the park entrance. The sign saying, "Park Improvements Coming Soon", will alert people to the fact that something is happening in the park. The Parks and Recreation Board request authorization to erect this sign in the front of the park facing Beverly Road as soon as it is prepared.

MOTION by Walsh, supported by Pfeifer, to authorize erection of a construction sign at the entrance to Beverly Park subject to compliance with the Village Sign Ordinance.

Motion passes unanimously.

**Approve Policy of Continuing to Supply Residents with Compost and Wood Chips/Approve Moving Compost and Wood Chips to DPW Area after Parking Lot is Paved**

The Parks and Recreation Board would like continued Council support of maintaining a supply of SOCRRA compost to Village residents. Council was in agreement with continuing this practice.

The Parks and Recreation Board recommends moving the compost site to the Village's DPW yard after the parking lot is paved.

Craig stated that he supports further exploration of the concept. The heavy trucks that drop off the compost material would tear up the asphalt in the parking lot. He suggests that administration look into moving the compost pile out of the park before the parking lot is paved. There should be conversation with Chuck Comeau and with Southfield Township about the use of the DPW yard for compost.

The comment was made that locating the compost in the DPW yard near the public safety department would discourage non-residents from taking compost allocated to Beverly Hills. A sign could be posted saying "Compost for Village residents only - identification may be required".

MOTION by Munguia, supported by Downey, that Council authorize moving the SOCRRA compost pile from Beverly Park to the Village DPW yard upon investigation by administration and consultation with Southfield Township, with action to be taken before the parking lot in Beverly Park is paved.

Motion passes unanimously.

**Confirm Policy of Prohibiting Overnight Parking in any Village Park**

The Parks and Recreation Board objects to construction vehicles being parked in Beverly Park. Schmitt believes that the municipal code prohibits overnight parking in any of the Village's parks. The board requests Council support with respect to preventing the parking of heavy equipment in the parks.

Downey commented that Public Services Director Spallasso has allowed this in the past because it has been a convenience for the contractor and keeps the heavy equipment out of people's front yards.

Schmitt stated that Beverly Park land was donated as a park, not as a DPW yard or parking facility for heavy equipment.

Craig referred to the number of cars parked in the Beverly Park parking lot tonight. A couple of large trucks parked there would create problems. He added that the trucks invite vandalism and drip hydraulic fluid.

Pasieka related that Spallasso has been trying to accommodate residents who do not want construction vehicles parking on their streets. He welcomes a policy decision that he could cite prohibiting parking of construction vehicles in the parks. In most other communities, construction vehicles are parked in the area where the work is being done.

MOTION by Downey, supported by Walsh, to direct administration to either enforce an existing ordinance prohibiting the parking of vehicles after hours and parking construction vehicles at any time in Village parks, or bring such an ordinance to Council for consideration.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### **BOARD AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Davis thanked Council for being present tonight and for supporting the Parks and Recreation Board.

Schmitt thanked Council for the appreciation dinner. He thanked Hanlin, Pasieka, and administration for the support they have given the Parks and Recreation Board, Village parks, Rouge River Clean Up, concerts in the park, Memorial Day Carnival and other special events. Things would not get done without the assistance of the Village administration.

Schmitt suggested that Council enact a landlord ordinance in the Village that would require an individual who rents property to bring that property up to minimum standards before it can be rented. An ordinance would discourage people from renting houses and/or provide that tenants who rent houses have a safer place in which to live. There would be no cost to the Village, as licensing fees would cover all inspection and administration charges. Sample ordinances are available from surrounding communities.

Sidewalks on the east side of the Village were repaired ten years ago. Schmitt proposes that it is time to initiate another sidewalk repair program before deteriorating sidewalks becomes a serious problem.

Schmitt thinks it is time to review the issue of the Village of Beverly Hills becoming a city. The last review was conducted in 1976 with a cursory review done in 1986. Schmitt maintains that enough money could be saved to pay for capital items if the village were a city.

Harmon expressed his support to the Planning Board for the pathways study being developed for Beverly Hills. He thinks it would be a great idea to connect all the subdivisions, parks, and schools.

Craig thanked the Parks and Recreation Board for its work in bringing these issues in front of Council. He confirmed his support for their causes.

Greening requested that all spouses be included on the Parks and Recreation Board roster. She made a suggestion that stickers could be provided to residents to place on their cars in order to identify them as residents taking compost.

Greening referred to the activity currently going on in the park and made the point that this is a very busy park. She thanked Council for coming to the joint meeting.

Mooney thanked Council for the appreciation dinner last week. She thanked Council Liaison Todd Stearn for everything he does for the Parks and Recreation Board.

Mooney asked people to drive by the corner of Devonshire and Inglewood and look at the cemented rocks in the public right-of-way. She views this as a potential safety hazard that is occurring in various locations in the Village. She does not believe that there is an ordinance prohibiting residents from doing this.

Downey informed board members that the Planning Board supports the Parks and Recreation Board. He added that the Planning Board has professional services available to review circulation of pedestrians and vehicles in Beverly Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall  
Village Clerk**

**Andrew Craig  
Council President**