

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

Absent: Harmon

Also Present: Village Manager, Hanlin
Council Liaison, Stearn
Council Member, Pfeifer

Chairperson Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Greening, supported by Davis, that the minutes of regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on August 17, 2000 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

STATUS OF GRANT APPLICATION

Schmitt stated that the revised grant application is a high priority of administration and will be submitted to the Michigan DNR by Friday of next week.

Quotes will be solicited by administration for construction of the fence, gate, and brick work within the next few weeks. Engineering estimates have been prepared for the parking lot improvements.

Schmitt commented that administration has recommended that a project management committee be established to be involved in detail work when the Village accepts bids and begins construction of the park improvements. It would be cumbersome to have all Council, Parks and Recreation Board members, and administration involved in this process. Hanlin will act as the administration representative of the project management committee. Council will select a member to be involved. Schmitt recommended that Greening represent the Parks and Recreation Board.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Board supports administration's proposal for a project management committee and appoints Greening as its representative to that committee.

Motion passes unanimously.

There was discussion on whether a construction sign should be erected at the front of the park with wording such as, "Park Improvements Coming Soon". Schmitt referred to a motion that was passed by Council at the June 15, 2000 joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board. The motion authorized the erection of a construction sign at the entrance to Beverly Park subject to compliance with the Village Sign Ordinance.

It was mentioned that the motion was based on the offer by David Jensen to build a construction sign alerting people to the fact that something is happening in the park. Board members asked administration to proceed with the erection of a construction sign in the park. The board agreed to spend up to \$300 from the Parks and Recreation budget for the sign if Jensen is no longer interested in providing the sign at no cost to the Village.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Davis, to request administration to approach David Jensen about his offer to provide a construction sign for Beverly Park. If the offer is withdrawn, administration is requested to pursue a construction sign at the entrance of Beverly Park with Parks and Recreation funds in an amount not to exceed \$300.

Motion passes unanimously.

O'Reilly entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

DISCUSS PARK MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Greening stated that members of the Parks and Recreation Board are interested in placing a question on the March ballot asking the voters to authorize the Village to levy 0.25 mill for six years to be used exclusively to finance capital improvements for Beverly Park. It is understood that the Village Council is not in favor of supporting any requests for millage on the ballot for the upcoming election. Members of the Parks and Recreation Board will have to collect about 1,500 signatures from registered Beverly Hills voters in order to place a question on the ballot.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Mooney, that the Beverly Hills Parks and Recreation Board requests Council to place the following proposal for dedicated millage for Beverly Park on the March 2001 Village General Election ballot and, failing to receive the support of Council, the Parks and Recreation Board agrees to proceed with an initiative referendum:

Shall Section 9.1 of the Charter of the Village of Beverly Hills be amended by adding Section 9.1(b) to read as follows:

POWER TO TAX:

Section 9.1(b) The Village of Beverly Hills shall levy an additional 0.25 mill (25 cents for each \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of 6 years, the years being 2001 through 2006, inclusive. Such new millage, which is estimated to raise \$109,000 the first year, shall be used exclusively to finance capital improvements to Beverly Park.

Greening commented that this millage request should cover the basic improvements outlined in the park master plan. The millage will be used strictly for park improvements. Petitions will be prepared and circulated if the board agrees to proceed with this ballot proposal.

Schmitt stated that the timing of this ballot question has been a topic of discussion. The Parks and Recreation Board began talking about a master plan for the park and funding for the plan about five

years ago. There is never an optimum time for a ballot proposal due to other issues that arise. There was discussion of placing this millage request on the March ballot only if the state grant is not received. It has also been suggested that the park millage request be put off to a future year.

Schmitt thinks that it is time to try to obtain financing to improve the park. The Parks and Recreation Board will attempt to place this question on the ballot through an initiative proposal which will require approximately 1,200 signatures from registered voters. This number is based on 20% of the people who voted in the most recent presidential election. Schmitt interprets this as being the presidential election to be held this November.

Greening stated that the board will act as a citizen's group initiating proposal language and circulate a local proposal petition in an attempt to collect about 1,500 signatures to assure that there are at least 1,200 certified signatures by registered voters.

Schmitt proposed an initiative timetable. The deadline for delivering petitions to the Village Clerk for verification is December 18, 2000. January 1, 2001 is the deadline for the Village Clerk to certify petitions and forward ballot language to Lansing for approval. The deadline to submit the approved initiative to the printer for the March ballot is February 1.

Schmitt hopes that Council will reconsider its position and place this proposal on the ballot for the March election. In the meantime, he thinks that board members should proceed with the initiative referendum.

Mooney supports the ballot proposal. She thinks that this board has done everything it can to raise money for park improvements. It is time to pick up the pace. As a group, the Parks and Recreation Board can make this happen.

O'Reilly had reservations about the timing but supports the attempt to place a park millage question on the March ballot. If Council chooses not to place the proposal on the ballot, it is incumbent upon the members of this board and other members of the community to institute a measure by referendum to determine the support of the community. He thinks that there is a feeling throughout the community that the citizens want to improve the park.

Greening thinks that the people have shown their interest with the amount of money that has been raised by the board through donations. She thinks that the residents will support the park.

Cobleigh is 100% in favor of a ballot question and would like to see the park improved.

Davis commented on the need for improvements in the park. The projects cannot be done with fund raisers.

Phyllis Lauer of 31965 Alden Court does not think the ballot question is a good idea. While the Friends of Beverly Park have been very generous, Lauer believes that there are many people in the

Village who do not support the park and will not support a park millage. She questions whether the board will be able to collect the necessary signatures for an initiative referendum.

Schmitt commented that the cost to the average property owner of this millage proposal would be \$30 a year to finance improvements to the park for six years.

Council member Pfeifer prefaced her comments by saying that she supports Beverly Park. She stated that the Parks and Recreation Board will not receive the support of Council for a ballot proposal for the March election. Council discussed this topic at a study session on Monday, and it was the sense of Council that it is not willing to ask for any money from the residents at this time.

Pfeifer mentioned that there is a large amount of money in reserve allocated for improvements to the park. Money is committed as part of Village matching funds to receive a state grant. People will question why the Village has not spent the money accumulated for the park. She suggests that the Village ask for funding when this money is spent. Pfeifer maintains that the timing would be better if the board waits a year to place a millage proposal on the ballot. She added that the park does not have the broad appeal in the entire Village as it does on this board.

Pfeifer stated that she would much rather see the Parks and Recreation Board go before the people in March with an advisory ballot asking if the residents would support a park millage. An advisory ballot will provide community feedback and identify those areas where the Parks and Recreation Board is falling short.

Stearn stated that he supports the park but does not support a ballot proposal at this time. The Parks and Recreation Board has over \$100,000 reserved and committed towards a matching grant. Some of the money was raised privately and a portion was budgeted. The board has this money to spend on initial park improvements even without a grant. Stearn is concerned that the board will have problems maintaining its current support of Council if it loses this millage or an advisory vote. He suggested that the board wait another year to propose a ballot question.

Schmitt commented that he anticipates that Council will have to place a request on next year's ballot for an increase in the millage cap and will not be in a position to support a park millage. He expressed the view that, if an advisory vote fails, it is the same as having a real millage vote fail. The money accumulated by the board is allocated for a grant. The funds will be spent on the construction of the gate and fence in January whether the grant is received or not. It is not known whether next year's Council will budget more for Parks and Recreation than this year's Council.

Hanlin asked if it is the desire of the Parks and Recreation Board to place the park ballot question on a Council meeting agenda for Council to consider.

Schmitt stated that the board would like Council to place this proposal on the ballot. At its September 18 study session, Council made it clear that it would not support any millage increase ballot question for the March election. Board members concurred that they would proceed with an initiative proposal.

Roll Call Vote on Motion:

Cobleigh - yes
Davis - yes
O'Reilly - yes
Mooney - yes
Greening - yes
Schmitt - yes

Motion passes unanimously.

SUMMER CONCERTS

Mooney thanked Janice Houseman for preparing the flyers for the Sunday concerts this year. Mooney proposed holding three rather than four summer concerts in 2001 and eliminating the May concert. Concerts will be held on the fourth Sunday of June, July, and August at 4:00 p.m. The dates are June 24, July 22, and August 26 of 2001.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Greening, to support three concerts in Beverly Park next summer on Sunday, June 24, July 22 and August 26, 2001 at 4:00 in the afternoon.

Motion passes unanimously.

Pfeifer related that the Cablecasting Board has included the taping and broadcasting of the Sunday concerts in Beverly Park in its Request for Proposal for cable access management. Next year's concerts in Beverly Park will be filmed and shown on the Municipal and Library Access Channel 15.

DISCUSS PAVILION RENTAL FEES

The Parks and Recreation Board has discussed raising the rates for at least large groups that rent the Beverly Park pavilion. The board has received a sheet listing the Beverly Hills rates for park pavilion rental. Schmitt asked that administration compile information for the next meeting relative to what other communities are charging for pavilion rental for both residents and non-residents and for small and large groups.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Davis, to ask administration to provide the Parks and Recreation Board with a proposal at the next meeting for raising the pavilion rental rates and a comparison of rates charged by other communities having a similar facility.

Motion passes unanimously.

Greening asked administration to consider including a question on the rental form asking people to name the facilities they would like to use in addition to the pavilion.

It was requested that the survey form be modified to place the name of the group on the top of the sheet and to expand the comment section.

DISCUSS SIGN OVER SOUTHFIELD ROAD

Schmitt suggested the idea of hanging a banner sign over Southfield Road at Beverly Road to provide more advertising for the summer concert series in Beverly Park. Discussion of the idea did not result in overwhelming support from board members. Hanlin remarked that it has been her experience that concerts in the park naturally grow on their own.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Stearn welcomed Paige Stearn to her first official Beverly Hills meeting.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Hanlin stated that the Village office received a phone call from an individual affiliated with Our Lady Queen of Martyrs asking for permission to park about 25 cars in the Beverly Park parking lot on September 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A tour bus will be transporting a group of people to an event on that day, and the Queen of Martyrs church parking lot is under construction.

Schmitt stated that there is nothing scheduled in Beverly Park on that day.

MOTION by Davis, supported by Mooney, that the Parks and Recreation Board supports the request of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs for use of the Beverly Park parking lot for about 25 cars on September 27, 2000.

Motion passes unanimously.

PAVING BRICK SALES

Phyllis Lauer reported that \$3,400 has been raised from the sale of paving bricks since July. A total of \$26,679 worth of bricks have been sold to raise funds for the park entranceway project. The sale of bricks will be extended through Christmas.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members spoke in support of the initiative ballot proposal for park improvements. A meeting will be scheduled soon to organize an effort to circulate petitions and gain the support of the electorate.

Schmitt stated that the Beverly Hills web site is very useful and helpful. Bob Belaustegui deserves much thanks for doing a great job of developing a Village web site. Schmitt suggests adding the agendas of Council and board meetings.

MOTION by Davis, supported by O'Reilly, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**