

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

Absent: Cobleigh

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka
Council Liaison, Domzal

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

APPROVE MNUTES OF A REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 15, 2001

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Davis, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on March 15, 2001 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

PARK CONSTRUCTION SIGN

This agenda item was deferred because David Jensen was not present.

SLED HILL UPDATE

On March 22, Renzo Spallasso and Stan Pasieka met on the sled hill with members and representatives of the Parks and Recreation Board including Phil Schmitt, Janet Mooney, Irene Davis and Don Greening. Possible solutions were discussed for improving the safety of the sled hill. Spallasso is working with consulting engineering firm Hubbell, Roth & Clark (HRC) to expand the suggestions into engineering options with cost estimates.

Board member Greening provided Pasieka with an artist's conception of the sled hill drawn by Don Greening to incorporate the ideas generated during that meeting. The drawing will be forwarded to HRC.

If a decision is made to raise the height of the sled hill, soil removed from Village infrastructure projects could be hauled to the hill at little or no cost through agreements with contractors. Board members stressed that there should be no cement or rebar in that dirt.

SUMMER CONCERTS

Mooney has lined up entertainment for three concerts in Beverly Park to be held on the last Sundays in June, July, and August. Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjacks will perform in June. Arrangements will be finalized with the X Band for the July concert date. The Birmingham Concert Band will be featured at the August concert.

It was suggested that money budgeted for the concert series after expenses be used to promote the concerts in an effort to increase attendance this year. Mooney will be meeting with June McGregor who has volunteered her services to help the board with an advertising campaign to publicize the concerts in the park. McGregor has been involved with Birmingham's Concert in the Park series. Mooney would appreciate any input from board members.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Greening, to recommend that Council authorize administration to hire three bands and provide publicity for the summer concerts in the park series at a cost not to exceed the budgeted amount.

Motion passes unanimously.

PARK CLEAN UP

Harmon will coordinate the annual Beverly Park Clean Up to be held on Saturday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, May 19. Board members volunteered to be responsible for coordinating volunteer efforts in specific areas in the park. Members will share the task of contacting community and school groups to request their participation in the event. The Lion's Club will be asked to supply refreshments as it does each year.

PARK SCALE MODEL

Greening reviewed that the Parks and Recreation Board canceled plans last year for a fund raiser to be held at the Beverly Hills Racquet Club. She had received donations to offset the cost of the event. Because a party donating \$1,000 did not want the money returned, it has been reserved in a Village account for future use for the promotion of the park.

Greening suggested that the money be used to build a three dimensional scale model of Beverly Park to include existing facilities and park improvements as renovations occur. Don Greening has professional experience with this type of model building, and has volunteered for the project. The scale model would be placed on display at the Village office and at Council meetings to keep citizens informed about the progress of improvements to Beverly Park. The \$1,000 donation would be used to cover only the cost of materials needed to build this model.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Davis, to request that Council allocate the \$1,000 donated to the Village for a park fund raiser towards materials to be used to build a scale model of the park to include future improvements.

Motion passes unanimously.

LARGE GROUP REQUESTS

The Parks and Recreation Board reviewed planning forms for large group events requested to be held in Beverly Park this summer. Several of the large groups are reserving the pavilion on Fridays. Pasioka stated that special pick ups will be arranged to assure that the pavilion is clear of trash for the groups that follow on Saturday and Sunday.

Particular attention was given to a request from The French School of Detroit Parents Association located at Meadow Lake Center (a Birmingham Public School facility) to use the park pavilion on Thursday, June 7 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. for an ice cream social. This organization has a French curriculum program for the children of French families working in the Detroit Area. All of the children are students of the Birmingham Public School District.

Administration has been assured that this group will not have more than 150 people at the park at any one time. Pasieka will encourage this group to arrange for parking at Beverly School due to the Little League games that are held on that day and an additional port-a-john.

There were no objections from board members to any of the large groups requests for pavilion rental. It was noted that there will be a discussion of the fee schedule at the end of the season to assure that the rates charged for pavilion rental and park use cover expenses incurred.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Davis, to recommend that Council waive the fee for the Garden Club plant sale in Beverly Park on Saturday, May 19.

Motion passes unanimously.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

At its April 2, 2001 meeting, Council passed a motion to direct the Parks and Recreation Board to prepare a five year plan for Beverly Park improvements. This will be undertaken by the board.

IDEA SESSION

Harmon proposed that the Parks and Recreation Board engage in an idea session to discuss ideas presented in the park master plan and whether they are still relevant. Projects should be prioritized and phased to minimize disruption by future construction.

Pasieka remarked that he has talked to people who are interested in what is going on at the park. Now that there is tax money directly involved with park capital projects, there is a sentiment that the capital plan for the park should incorporate every segment of the Village's population. Pasieka talked about ways of developing a well thought out plan.

Parks and Recreation Board members agreed that it will identify the needs of the population and develop a plan for spending millage money on park improvements that will fulfill the expectations of all sectors of the community.

Schmitt stated that the board will review data collected three years ago and make decisions on specific projects. The Parks and Recreation Board members will explore options, obtain cost estimates, and consider timing factors in order to make the best decisions on how to spend the money as it becomes available.

The grant money including the Village's matching funds totals \$330,000 and must be spent on the four projects specified in the grant application. Those projects include the new entranceway including the brick walkway, fencing along Beverly Road, parking lot paving, and phase one of the playground improvements.

Schmitt estimates that the state grant projects can be completed in the first and second year. The playground could be completed in the second and third year. The cost of completing these four projects is approximately \$500,000. The five year plan will indicate how these specific items will be addressed to the extent of the funding available.

It was suggested that the board form subgroups to further explore these areas with the assistance of citizen volunteers who have indicated an interest in specific projects. The subgroups will come back to the board with options and rough cost estimates so it can come to a consensus.

Gregory Bator of 31139 Belmont Court thinks that consideration should be given to how the park plan for capital expenditures will address the needs of all age groups in the Village. He expressed the view that the board and Council have an obligation to use the dedicated millage on items that benefit all residents, even those who have not been constituents of the park. He suggested that a plan be designed that will fully represent the citizenry.

Bator asked that thought be given on how to energize the park to attract teenagers and encourage them to gather constructively in the park. He suggested that the ideas from the park plan adopted in 1998 be reviewed to determine if they look ahead to 2006-08.

Pasieka stated that the Village has received approval from the State to proceed with plans and specifications for the items outlined in the grant application. Authorization has not been received to go out for bids at this time. Copies of all park grant application material has been provided to Wally Alix of Hubbell, Roth & Clark along with information on sled hill improvements. In addition to providing the Village with an opinion on the sled hill project, HRC will develop plans and specifications on the grant items.

The Parks and Recreation Board has agreed on a footprint for the parking lot configuration. Resident Howard Knorr has raised the issue of using alternative methods to asphalt paving of the parking lot to reduce the amount of impervious surface. The board is interested in the feasibility and cost of a permeable paved surface. This will be a topic of discussion at the next meeting. A representative of a company in the area that provides this impervious surface will be invited to attend the next meeting. Renzo Spallasso will also be asked to be present.

Pasieka commented that Spallasso has indicated that the parking lot can be designed to drain into the park and be absorbed into the land without flowing into the storm sewers.

The Parks and Recreation Board members volunteered to research specific projects. Greening will gather information on playground equipment; Harmon will look into the park gate and fencing along Beverly Road; Schmitt will do research on the parking lot paving. A suggestion was made to consider replacing the fencing along Allerton Road.

It was mentioned that there have been inquiries from residents who want to purchase paving bricks for the pathway into the park. The Village Woman's Club is no longer selling the bricks. It was suggested that the Parks and Recreation Board continue the brick sale. Davis volunteered to investigate this project.

Harmon commented that he is taking an "Ecological Gardening" class that requires volunteer hours. If the Parks and Recreation Board is interested, Harmon will propose that the class plant a native landscape garden in Beverly Park. It would be easy to maintain.

There was support for the idea of this ecological garden group planting a native landscape garden in Beverly Park. The Parks and Recreation Board will review a proposal from the group and consider recommending it to Council.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Domzal commented that he is looking forward to working with the Parks and Recreation board as Council liaison.

The Council and Finance Committee met to review the proposed budget for fiscal year 2001/02. Domzal related that there was no money allocated for park capital purchases from the general operating millage this year. He noted that there is \$24,000 in the current year's budget for capital park improvements. This money will be carried over in the park capital fund.

It was brought up at the budget session that the Village's building department may be under charging with respect to building and inspection fees. Domzal asked the Parks and Recreation Board to consider setting rates for pavilion rental that cover the Village's expenses.

Domzal informed that board that Brian Murphy will be the new Village manager as of June 1. He is currently manager of Belding, Michigan.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka commented that there were no funds allocated in the proposed budget for park site improvements. Council indicated at its April 9 budget session that three water fountains proposed in the capital improvement budget be installed with capital money set aside for this purpose in the previous year's budget. The water fountains will be installed at the pavilion, ball field area, and volleyball courts.

Pasieka acknowledged that the Village has received a letter and comments on playground safety from Laverne Cleary. The pamphlets and publications indicated in that correspondence will be made available to the Parks and Recreation Board.

The Rouge River Clean Up will take place on Saturday, June 2. Interested Parks and Recreation Board members are invited to become involved in this event.

Greening stated that her husband, Don Greening, has done research on the algae that has been growing on the park pond. He purchased a pond colorant that could be used in the pond to help control the algae growth in the pond. The product is approved by the DNR.

There was some discussion about the possible effect of the colorant on the fish and other plant life. It was noted that the substance stops the sun from penetrating the pond. There were board members who were hesitant to add this material to the pond without further investigation. It was agreed that the effects of the product will be researched before the board considers recommending its use in the pond.

MOTION by Davis, supported by O'Reilly, that Don Greening be reimbursed for the colorant purchased for the park pond at a cost of \$54.50 from the park maintenance budget.

Motion passes unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS

Parks and Recreation Board members welcomed new Council liaison Dave Domzal.

Harmon expressed disappointment that Council did not budget capital improvement money for Village parks. The Village is responsible for the maintenance and needs at Riverside Park and the two nature preserves. He added that there is not much in terms of park opportunities for residents who live on the far west side of the Village. Harmon proposes using the \$24,000 capital money in the current year's budget for capital items or maintenance of the other Village parks.

Greening expressed the view that Council should not eliminate an allocation for park capital improvements from the 2001/02 budget. It is the Village's responsibility to maintain Riverside Park and the two nature preserves.

Schmitt reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held in Beverly Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**