

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka
Council Liaison, Domzal
Council members, Downey and Stearn
Public Services Director, Spallasso

Chairperson Schmitt presided and 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 APRIL 19, 2001

A correction was made to the minutes to add a motion as follows under the heading of "Large Group Requests" on page 3:

"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."

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Mooney, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on April 19, 2001 be approved as amended.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lillian Dean from the Healthy Lawn and Garden program of the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority (SOCRRA) was present to invite Parks and Recreation Board members to participate in the co-sponsored Beverly Hills-SOCRRA River Day event at the Douglas-Evans Nature Preserve on Saturday, June 2, 2001. Dick Wolinski will supervise an activity in the nature preserve, which is to create a wetland with plantings. It should be beautiful and educational. About 20 gardening volunteers will participate in the planting.

Dean reported that, as part of the educational work at the preserve, Seaholm High School students are going to help pull out invasive weeds at Douglas Evans next Wednesday. Board members are invited to participate.

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire, President of Beverly Hills Little League, asked for board consideration of refurbishing the south baseball diamond, which is used by the Beverly Hills Little League. A committee of the Little League requests the board's permission to obtain cost estimates for refurbishing that field. The fields directors are Dan Olmstead and John Thomas, residents of Beverly Hills.

The improvements would include grading the ball diamond and adding crusher dust, replacing benches and dugouts that need work, and possibly replacing the coverings over the dugouts. A rough estimate for this work would be \$10,000-\$12,000. Mooney believes that the best time to make these improvements would be in the fall when the first installment on the park millage is received.

Mooney informed the board that he received a letter as president of the Beverly Hills Little League from Village administration asking the League to contribute \$100 to the maintenance of the fields as a user fee. He expressed the view that it is incumbent on the Village and this board to provide recreation for the children of this community. Mooney is distressed by this fee and questions whether there is a Council policy to charge a fee for use of the field. He asked the Parks and Recreation Board to recommend that administration waive that \$100 fee for the Beverly Hills Little League.

O'Reilly remarked that he has been involved with the Little League for a long time and has been the person scheduling the use of the fields for various groups for the last few years. He indicated that fees have been charged for the use of the ball fields for at least ten years. Softball leagues are also charged a maintenance fee. The organizations that reserve the fields are issued permits and charged a fee for exclusive use of the ball diamonds for their games and practices.

Janet Mooney questioned whether the Parks and Recreation Board should discuss a policy regarding a fee schedule for the use of the ball diamonds. Pasioka commented that the Parks and Recreation Board has indicated that it will review all park fees this fall. This board can consider recommending a policy on charging a user fee for the ball diamonds at that time.

Schmitt suggests that research be done into whether there is a policy initiated by Council or administration relative to a user fee for the ball diamonds.

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Court asked the Parks and Recreation Board to consider a bike path along 13 Mile Road. Schmitt referred her to the Planning Board to make that request. Domzal noted that the Planning Board recently completed a Pathways Plan for the Village, which will be submitted to Council for consideration.

Berwick asked if the Parks and Recreation Board has plans to reconstruct the path through Beverly Park as part of the park capital improvements. She was informed that it is the intent of the board to leave the path in a natural woodchip state. It will not be made into an exercise path.

PARK CONSTRUCTION SIGN

Schmitt reviewed that the Village Council has authorized the erection of a construction sign at the entrance of Beverly Park. David Jensen had offered to build a sign to alert people to the fact that there will be activity in the park. Council took action at a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board on January 18, 2001 to authorize administration to procure a construction sign at a cost not to exceed \$200 from the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement budget if Jensen is unable to provide the sign.

Schmitt stated that a proposal has been received from David Jensen for a sign announcing the coming Beverly Park improvements. The board reviewed proposed wording for the sign and suggested a few changes. A marked up copy was given to administration so that the sign can be ordered as soon as possible. The sign will be constructed to a size that will comply with the Village Ordinance. The board agreed to erect the sign on the fence near the entrance to the park where it can be seen from Beverly Road.

MOTION by Cobleigh, supported by O'Reilly, to recommend that administration proceed with the Beverly Park construction sign as proposed by Jensen with wording changes suggested by the board.

Motion passes unanimously.

ENGINEERING UPDATE – SPALLASSO

Spallasso reported that engineering consultants, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, are finalizing a topographical survey of Beverly Park and working on preliminary plans for placement of the proposed capital improvements. These plans will come before the board for review at the July meeting. A representative from HRC can be present to discuss the plan and answer questions. The drawings will include the parking lot improvements, the entrance way with fence and iron work, and brick pavers for the walkway.

Spallasso stated that cost estimates will not be developed until the board knows exactly how it plans to proceed with the improvements. He noted that different alternatives are being considered for the parking lot paving. These methods will be investigated and compared and a final decision made before construction plans are prepared.

Domzal asked when grant money will be available. Spallasso understands that the Legislature will appropriate the grant money in August. The Village has received approval to proceed with spending its own money on engineering costs, which will be refunded as part of the grant.

SLED HILL UPDATE

Spallasso anticipates receiving information from the consulting engineers on a proposal for improvements to the sled hill. He understands that it is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Board to improve the existing steps and railings on the northeast slope and add another set of steps and railings on the southwest slope. Safety maintenance and cosmetic improvements will be made with respect to covering bare spots and concrete that has projected through the surface. Spallasso will have a sketch for the board's review at the next meeting.

The board was in agreement to obtain cost estimates and bids to have the sled hill improvements done professionally. Spallasso thinks that this is something that can be accomplished before the winter months.

At Greening's request, Harmon will look into the possibility of planting an environmental garden on the side of the sled hill. She thinks that it would look attractive and hold the soil on the hill.

Pasieka remarked that the Village has requested an opinion from its insurance carrier on how they view that feature in terms of risk factors. The insurance carrier has assigned one of their staff to look at the hill and render an opinion.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Playground

Greening reviewed information that the board compiled in 1998 on playground equipment. She has contacted three vendors and anticipates receiving proposals and cost estimates on playground equipment for the next meeting.

Gate/Fence

Harmon has talked to a few different fence contractors and assembled brochures regarding the fencing along Beverly Road. Fencing materials include substances from extruded aluminum to cast iron to custom designed iron work. He has asked for a list of locations where the board can view different fencing that has been installed at various time frames in order to see how different materials age. He should have this information for the next meeting.

Spallasso indicated that Hubbell, Roth & Clark is also looking into fencing and will present the board with a proposal and their recommendation on fencing. He has provided the consultants with the renderings and sketches of the design prepared by David Jensen.

Parking Lot

Resident Howard Knorr has been talking to the Parks and Recreation Board about alternative methods to asphalt paving of the parking lot in order to reduce the amount of impervious surface. At the request of the board, he has invited a representative of Geoproducts Inc. of Birmingham to attend tonight's meeting and discuss the possible use of a permeable paved surface on the parking lot.

Mary Oxendine talked about a product called Gravelpave manufactured in Denver, Colorado. Geoproducts has been carrying this product for about a year. It has been used successfully in other parts of the country, but is only beginning to be used in Michigan. It is designed so that water flows through the base quickly. An advantage of the product is that it will withstand truck traffic and snow removal and will not rut. It will provide a strong, structural base. Oxendine displayed samples of Gravelpave, which is used for porous gravel paving. It provides the natural look of a gravel parking lot without the mud, ruts, and maintenance.

Another key factor is that the water going into the storm system will be cleaned by the gravel before it gets into the storm drain. It is a much more environmentally friendly product compared to asphalt. This product will not have to be replaced. Once it is buried, it will last forever with occasional filling in of gravel. If a section does get torn up, it is easy to repair.

Spallasso commented that the Village will consider this product while taking into account any negative aspects and unknown factors. He mentioned that there is not much history on this product.

Oxendine related that there is documentation of this product in many areas of the United States other than Michigan. She noted that there was no distributor of the product in Michigan until a year ago.

Resident Kathleen Berwick commented that residents on Allerton experience drainage problems and basement flooding. Spallasso responded that runoff would be kept at an agricultural level if the Village were to asphalt pave the Beverly Park parking lot. The Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the drainage situation in the area.

Schmitt stated that he checked into other options that would provide a permeable surface. One option is the use of spaced out paving bricks, which provides ample drainage. The cost is \$4-\$5/SF. Another product is called a Turf Stone, which is like a cement block turned on its side. It costs \$6-\$7.50/SF. These are both compressed concrete products.

Tennis courts; Skating Rink; New Pavilion; Landscaping; Multi-Purpose Building

Schmitt commented that the board will be deciding how to prioritize park improvements for development of the five year park plan. He distributed copies of a July 16, 1998 list of Beverly Park priority improvement projects discussed in the 1998 Master Plan along with cost estimates. Schmitt does not expect that the costs and priorities will remain the same, but the list will give the board a starting place for discussion of additions and deletions.

Board members volunteered to research priority projects as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| New pavilion | - Mooney |
| Skating rink | - Greening |
| Tennis courts | - Davis |
| Landscape plan | - Harmon |
| Multi-Purpose building | - O'Reilly |

CONCERTS

Mooney has lined up entertainment for three concerts in Beverly Park to be held on the last Sundays in June, July, and August at 4:00 in the afternoon. Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjacks will perform in June, the X Band is scheduled for the July concert date, and the Birmingham Concert Band will be featured at the August concert. Mooney is working on flyers that will be distributed to schools.

Board members thought it was a good idea to serve refreshments at the concerts such as lemonade and pop corn for the cost of a donation. Greening will organize this. The board was amenable to Mooney's suggestion to invite an ice cream truck to the park to sell ice cream. The board would receive a percentage of the sales. This will require Council approval.

The board discussed ways of advertising the concerts to increase attendance.

PARK CLEAN UP

Harmon thanked Mooney for organizing the volunteers at the Park Clean Up in his absence. Mooney reported that the event went extremely well. There was not a lot of work to delegate to

volunteers because the park was in such good condition. Volunteers included members of the Beverly Hills Little League, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Groves High School students and resident volunteers.

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Mooney, to thank the Lion's Club for their generosity and for once again providing refreshments for the Park Clean Up Day.

Motion passes unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN

Harmon met in Beverly Park with several individuals to discuss a plan to plant an environmental garden in the grassy area near the parking lot. It is planned to create a bio-swale in the area that will accept runoff from the parking lot. Native plants that accept a wet environment will slow down the runoff and filter and absorb water from the parking lot.

WAIVE OPENER FEE FOR MAY 5, 2001 BASEBALL OPENING CEREMONIES

Schmitt stated that this item should have been on the agenda of the April meeting.

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Cobleigh, to recommend that Council waive the park opener fees for the Opening Day Ceremony for the Beverly Hills Little League on May 5, 2001.

Motion passes unanimously

BRICK SALES

Davis reported that she spoke with Phyllis Lauer about continuing the sale of paving bricks to raise funds for park improvements. She thinks that there are still people in the Village who would like to purchase a personalized paving brick to be used in the walkway from the park entrance to the pavilion.

Davis will contact the company providing the bricks to make sure that the new orders can be added to the existing order. Information on ordering paving bricks will be included in the next Villager newsletter.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Mooney, to authorize Davis to continue the sale of paving bricks if new orders can be added to the existing brick order.

Motion passes unanimously.

POND DYE INVESTIGATION

Board members received a copy of a Material Safety Data Sheet on the pond colorant purchased by Don Greening for the purpose of controlling algae growth in the Beverly Park pond. The board discussed the information. The product does not appear to be harmful to fish, and it has some affect on reducing algae. It was noted that this product has been used for years by the people who maintain the Acacia Park Cemetery. It was determined that this colorant will not cause harm to anything in the pond.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Davis, to recommend that Council and administration have the pond colorant purchased by Don Greening added to the Beverly Park pond immediately after the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival.

Motion passes unanimously.

COUNCIL REFERRALS

Fountains

Schmitt related that there were two matters referred back to the Parks and Recreation Board from Council. The Parks and Recreation Board was asked for a recommendation on whether three water fountains should be installed in the park at a cost of up to \$2,500 each with funding from the Park Capital Fund, or whether installation of the fountains should be deferred pending further planning of park improvements.

Domzal commented that there are those on Council who maintain that money was allocated for the drinking fountains as part of the current capital budget, and the Village should proceed with installing those fountains. The question appears to be one of timing.

Board members did not want to risk having the drinking fountains dug up and moved at a later date because of a future park improvement. It was noted that there is currently a drinking fountain in operation at the pavilion.

MOTION by Greening, supported by Harmon, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that installation of water fountains in Beverly Park be included as part of the five year capital plan for the park.

Motion passes unanimously.

Scale Model of Park

Domzal commented that there was some question from Council members as to the understanding of the original donor regarding the use of the \$1,000 for a scale model of the park.

Greening stated that the person who donated \$1,000 for a park fund raiser that was cancelled did not want the money returned and concurred that it should be used for the promotion of park improvements. The board proposes using this money to help defray the cost of the materials for a scale model of Beverly Park including proposed improvements. The labor will be donated by Don Greening. The three dimensional scale model will be used as a fund raising tool.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Domzal asked about the use of recycling bins in the park. He was informed that there have been recycling bins placed in the park in the past, and they generally collect items other than recyclables. The board recently authorized administration to use its discretion in placing two SOCRRA recycling bins in the park pavilion. It was determined that the bins were too flimsy to withstand use in the park. The board suggested using recycling cardboard boxes for special events in the park.

Domzal asked if there are any long term capital needs for other parks in the Village. Greening responded that the members know that there are other parks and nature preserves under the jurisdiction of this board, but there have been no requests to replace picnic tables or other items at these parks.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka reiterated that Saturday, June 2 is River Clean Up Day at the Douglas Evans Nature Preserve from 10-12 am.

LARGE GROUP REQUESTS

The board reviewed three large group event planning forms. The large parties were approved with direction given to administration to provide for extra trash pick up.

BOARD COMMENTS

Harmon thanked Mooney for organizing the volunteers at the Park Clean Up on Saturday.

O'Reilly stated that Park Clean Up was successful. He mentioned that the Little League Opening Ceremonies was a fabulous event.

Greening thanked Schmitt for bringing refreshments this evening.

Mooney thanked Andy Craig and Todd Stearn for attending the Park Clean Up last Saturday. Mooney is pleased with how the board is proceeding with the five year park improvement plan.

Schmitt thanked administration for adding the administration person to the board roster and the Village's fax number. He remarked that it is good to see Alan Cobleigh back at tonight's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**