

Present: **Parks & Recreation Board:** Chairperson Schmitt; Vice-Chairperson Greening; Members: ~~Davis~~, Harmon, Mooney and O'Reilly
Council: President Stearn; President Pro-Tem Pfeifer; Members: Craig and Downey

Absent: Parks/Rec – Cobleigh, **Davis**
Council – Domzal, Munguia and Walsh

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy

Chairperson Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. at the Beverly Park pavilion. He asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the attack on America and for those likely to be in harm's way as a result of last week's events.

APPROVE MINUTES OF A REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 16, 2001

MOTION by O'Reilly, supported by Greening, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on August 16, 2001 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 30, 2001

MOTION by Harmon, supported by Mooney, that the minutes of a special Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on August 30, 2001 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

HALLOWEEN HOOT UPDATE

Greening reviewed plans for the Halloween Hoot that will take place on Sunday, October 28 in Beverly Park. She encouraged Village residents to join in the festivities.

HRC PRESENTATION AND COUNCIL ACTION

Council President Stearn stated that Council is meeting tonight with the Parks and Recreation Board to receive a presentation and view plans for the CMI grant related improvements to the park prepared by the consulting engineering firm of Hubbell, Roth & Clark.

Stearn presented a brief timeline to explain how the Village reached the point where it is today beginning from the first dinner fundraiser in September of 1999 that kicked off a campaign to raise money for implementation of the park master plan. The dinner and resulting fund raising efforts elicited over \$50,000 in private contributions towards the park.

In September of 2000, Beverly Hills applied for a Clean Michigan Initiative matching grant from the State Department of Natural Resources. The Village committed over \$100,000 as matching funds for this grant. Some of the money was raised privately and a portion was budgeted. The Village's application for the 2:1 matching grant was approved and resulted in a

\$200,000 grant. The grant money including the Village's matching funds totals \$330,000 and must be ~~spend~~ **spent** on the projects specified in the grant application.

A private group petitioned the Village for a question to be placed on the ballot for the March, 2001 Election asking the voters to approve 0.25 mills for five years to be dedicated for park capital improvements as outlined in the approved park master plan. The millage vote was successful.

The CMI Grant allocation was approved by the House and Senate in late August and the appropriations bill was signed by the Governor. The first Village tax bills that include the dedicated millage for park improvements were due on ~~March 31~~, **August 31**, 2001. Money is starting to come into the Village for the park program.

Today Council will review the plans prepared by Hubbell, Roth & Clark in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board for the CMI grant related projects and either approve or request modifications to those plans. Stearn understands that the Village cannot go out for bids on these projects until after representatives from the Village attend a state sponsored grant workshop in October.

Stearn introduced Larry Ancypa, head of the architectural department of Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., who will review the project plans that have been developed with the assistance of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Ancypa displayed a plan of the parking lot and main entrance, which is based on the concept drawings developed for the park entrance. The board and HRC looked at various materials for the parking lot surface and decided to recommend bituminous paving. Rolled asphalt curbs will be used to maintain uniformity and provide a rural character to the parking lot. Angle parking will promote a circular pattern for quasi-traffic control. The lot is currently laid out for 99 spaces with four handicapped parking spaces.

Parking lot drainage was studied carefully due to concern expressed with capping over the existing gravel parking lot with an impervious surface. There will be two catch basins with restrictor plates that will cause the parking lot to hold some water after a major rain event for the purpose of slowing the flow into the storm drain. Water will flow towards a bioswale area southeast of the parking lot that will be used to contain runoff. It will be planted with vegetation that has a propensity to absorb water and help filter water through the soil. An under drain will take excess water to an existing storm sewer on Allerton. The goal is to create less runoff than is currently going from the park to the Allerton sewer.

The fence along Beverly Road will be replaced. There will be new entrance ways for automobiles and pedestrians. The entrance gates will be constructed of wrought iron and will duplicate the design of the original concept drawings. The existing pillars will be refaced with a face brick. The entrance and pedestrian sidewalk from the flagpole will be realigned slightly to the west to properly line up with the new Beverly Road/Norchester crosswalk. The engraved brick pavers will be placed in the walkway starting at the entrance to the park.

There are new concrete walks included and a drop-off area. A walkway from the parking lot leads to the west portion of the park where the playground equipment will be located.

Ancypa displayed plans of the proposed playground area. The playground surface will consist of a resilient type of surfacing material for fall protection that will be firm enough for wheelchair access yet soft enough if a child falls from the equipment. Ancypa described the various equipment in the play area and the age group targeted for the equipment. He pointed out the walkway, benches, and landscaping on the plan.

Drainage of the playground area was questioned. Ancypa anticipates that under drains will be installed that will leach the water into the soil. If there is a high intensity rain event, runoff will flow onto the grass area and make its way into the woods.

Questions from Council and the public on the plans were addressed by Ancypa and Parks and Recreation Board members.

Joellen Gilchrist asked questions about proposed drainage plans for the parking lot, which were answered by Ancypa. Murphy clarified that Ancypa is the principal on this project. His supervisor Wally Alix is a civil engineer and has worked with Public Services Director Spallasso on the drainage situation in the park.

Fran Knorr of 18775 Bedford asked questions about the surface of the parking lot. Ancypa related that HRC was asked by the Parks and Recreation Board to investigate alternative surfacing materials for the parking lot that would also allow for organized parking. It was determined that the parking lot should be striped to make the most out of the area during high use periods. HRC researched alternative methods to asphalt paving, some of which were twice as expensive as bituminous paving. The engineering information and cost estimates were submitted to the board, and they recommended asphalt paving.

Downey questioned the removal of mature trees at the west entrance. It was explained that trees are being removed because they block the line of vision at the new entranceway.

Trees will be added in the parking lot area as part of this project. Male Ginkgo trees will be planted in the center island and Autumn Purple Ash will be planted along the perimeter of the parking lot.

David Jensen of 31130 Stafford was involved in designing the original concept plan for the new park entranceway. He commented on the importance of the details in restoring the rustic, 1920-1940 look of the park. Jensen expressed disappointment that brick was chosen for re-facing the piers at the entrance instead of stone.

In answer to a question from Craig about the sidewalk and flagpole, Ancypa stated that HRC will be doing a topographic survey of the area in question to determine the proper location of the sidewalk. Craig suggested that a less contrasting color of paint than white or yellow be used to stripe the parking lot.

Gilchrist commented that the Village has an opportunity to create something environmentally sound in the park. She is advocating selection of an alternative parking lot surface to asphalt paving.

Questions and comments from the following residents were addressed by Ancypa: Joan Jensen of 31130 Stafford, Don Greening of 19289 Riverside, Tammy and Todd Wilms of 18250 Kirkshire, and Dan Nelson of 32311 Sheridan.

Stearn stated that Council is being asked to ratify the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Board on the CMI grant related projects, which are reflected in plans prepared by Hubbell, Roth & Clark. These items include the parking lot, gate, fence, and playground area. Following approval of preliminary plans by Council, HRC will prepare final engineering drawings in preparation for going out for bids on the projects.

MOTION by Downey, supported by Pfeifer, that the Village Council of Beverly Hills has found that the park plan presented this evening is complete in thought and represents appropriate direction. Council supports the plan and authorizes detailed drawings necessary to complete the CMI grant related park improvement projects to be prepared.

Jensen expressed the view that the plans presented substantially support the master plan and should be approved.

Gilchrist stated that there are environmental concerns associated with the parking lot proposal that effect the Rouge River. She indicated that the Village is named in a lawsuit that directs the communities to stop polluting the Rouge River. Gilchrist contends that a gravel parking will absorb pollutants in the ground water and is preferable to an impervious surface that will increase the runoff into the Rouge.

Schmitt noted that the CMI grant is offered through and reviewed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Stearn stated that the parking lot drainage is a subject that the Council and Parks and Recreation Board takes seriously. He asked Murphy to address some of the concerns expressed about the parking lot drainage.

Murphy stated that he and Spallasso have met with Wally Alix, head of the civil engineering group at Hubbell, Roth & Clark to explore the issues of runoff coefficients and the impact of storm water from the parking lot on the environment. This has been a major issue in developing the park improvement plan. Village and HRC representatives have looked at a gravel parking lot, use of a permeable paved surface that allows water to flow through the base, and an impervious system supplemented by preventive systems and a bioswale. What is being proposed accomplishes the goals we hoped to achieve of minimizing the impact of storm water into the Rouge River. Murphy noted that there is a high water table and clay-like soil on this property, and there will be a degree of runoff in any instance.

Fran Knorr had further questions on the selection of a parking lot surface.

Harmon related that he took the SOCWA/SOCRRA environmental gardening program this spring and summer in order to develop a plan for a bioswale to manage runoff from the parking lot in Beverly Park. The concept is to retain water in a bioswale where it will be filtered and absorbed, with excess runoff during heavy storms flowing into the storm sewer. The goal of the bioswale is to absorb all of the runoff other than in a heavy rain event.

Tami Wilms commented that the Parks and Recreation Board should be commended for the amount of time and work they have put into the park improvement plans. She thinks the motion should be passed by Council. Wilms would like to move on and get something done in the park.

Don Greening remarked that he is in the park every day. During times of heavy rain, water flows along the tennis courts and eventually goes towards Allerton. He thinks that there is probably more water going in the Rouge now than there will be with the proposed plan for parking lot drainage.

Downey expressed support for the work of the Parks and Recreation Board and looks forward to seeing the end result.

Gilchrist made additional comments to convince those present that pavement adds to the retention of water and pollution of the Rouge River. Stearn invited Gilchrist to meet with him and Spallasso to discuss issues related to parking lot drainage.

Motion passes unanimously.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Council liaison Domzal could not be present tonight due to illness.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Murphy stated that Pasieka would like to inform the board that eight donations totaling \$310 have been received by the Village towards park improvements in memory of former Parks and Recreation Board and Council Member Dick Haggerty.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Craig stated that he supports the plan as presented. He reiterated his suggestion that the color of the paint used to stripe the parking lot should not be obtrusive.

Stearn commended the Parks and Recreation Board on its work on the plans for park improvements. He is satisfied that the Parks and Recreation Board, administration, and Hubbell, Roth & Clark have sufficiently looked into environmental issues.

BOARD COMMENTS

Harmon is disappointed that there are members of the Village that do not think the Parks and Recreation Board have done due diligence in reviewing the plans for park improvements. The

parking lot surface has been discussed for a year with samples of alternate surface materials provided for the board's consideration by Howard Knorr. The board decided to recommend asphalt paving as the best choice for this park. Runoff and drainage are being addressed by consulting engineers from Hubbell, Roth & Clark and the Village engineer.

Schmitt thanked Council and administration for their support.

Greening asked if administration has been in contact with the residents abutting the west corner of the park who are encroaching onto park property. Murphy responded that Dave Byrwa is making contact with those people.

Greening commented that the minutes of the special Council Meeting of August 27 state that Council is discussing its advisory boards with respect to membership, function, and direction.

Craig related that there was a general discussion at a recent Council study session about how non-staff people in the Village process local government. There was conversation about ways to improve communication between Council and its advisory boards and committees. Further discussion of advisory boards and their liaisons was referred to the personnel committee of Council for review and recommendation to the Council as a whole. The personnel committee will meet an hour prior to the October 15, 2001 Council meeting.

Schmitt informed all in attendance that there will be another special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board on Thursday, October 11, 2001 at the Village offices. The purpose of the meeting will be to review and approve bid drawings so they can be presented to Council on Monday, October 15, 2001.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**

**Todd Stearn
Council President**