

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

Absent: Cobleigh

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

Chairperson Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. 13 Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2001

Davis explained that she was absent on October 11 due to the fact that the date of the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Board meeting of October was changed from October 18 to October 11. The minutes were modified to reflect that the absences of Davis and Harmon are excused because the regular October meeting date was changed.

MOTION by O'Reilly, seconded by Mooney, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on October 11, 2001 be approved as amended.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Benjamin Bargman of Boy Scout Troop 1024 from Beverly School was present in the audience earning his citizenship in the nation merit badge.

ALAN COBLEIGH'S RESIGNATION

Schmitt read a letter of resignation from the Parks and Recreation Board received from Alan Cobleigh. He says in the letter that illness has slowed him down during the past year and retirement is in order. Cobleigh commented that it has been a pleasure working for the Village during the past years, and he will miss it.

Schmitt thanked Alan Cobleigh on behalf of the board for his years of service on this board and to the community.

YMCA CAMP BEVERLY SEASON REPORT

Linda Brooks, Senior Program Director for the Birmingham YMCA, thanked the Village for the use of Beverly Park where their day camp has been held for a number of years. The camp offers opportunities to youth in the area to have an outdoor activity in the summer and provides parents with a safe place for their children for recreation or child care use.

Camp Beverly was held for 11 weeks this past summer. There were 735 children in attendance, made up of 185 different individuals, 50 of those from Beverly Hills. The YMCA granted approximately \$13,000 in camp scholarship money over the course of the summer in order to service children who are not able to afford camp fees. For the first time this summer, the YMCA was able to mainstream special needs children into Camp Beverly, which added some diversity to the camping experience.

Brooks thinks that the overall day camp experience went well this season with the help of the co-directors. The YMCA hopes to be able to use Beverly Park again next summer.

Phyllis Lauer of 31965 Alden Court questioned whether the YMCA is interested in purchasing a personalized brick for the Beverly Park walkway as part of the fund raising effort for park improvements. Brooks thought that the gift brick purchase had been made by the YMCA. She will obtain an order form from Davis, who is handling the fund raiser.

Greening asked who is responsible for cleaning up after the YMCA camp uses the pavilion. There have been several complaints from groups using the pavilion following Camp Beverly that it was not as clean as it should be. Greening also asked that counselors lock the bathrooms when they leave for field trips to prevent vandalism.

Brooks responded that the directors try to get the campers to clean up, but there is staff that remains at the park to clean after the campers leave. She needs to know if this is not happening. Brooks hopes that people continue to call her with concerns, because she would like to address any problems as soon as possible.

Schmitt commented that Beverly Hills does not have a summer program for children in the park. He thinks that the YMCA day camp is a great use of the park. Pasieka thanked Linda Brooks for attending tonight's Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

CFI GRANT UPDATE

Pasieka stated that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has issued and executed the Project Agreement, which is required before the Village can begin a grant funded improvement. The Village received the grant related park improvement bid documents and specifications from Hubbell, Roth & Clark. After review of the documents by Spallasso, the plans and specifications will be forwarded to the MDNR for review and approval. The Village can go out for bids following approval of the plans by the MDNR.

Questions from the board regarding requirements of the grant process and timeline were addressed by Pasieka.

Mooney has prepared and submitted an article for the next Villager Newsletter to inform residents about the status of the grant related park improvements.

HALLOWEEN HOOT REPORT

Greening reported that the Halloween Hoot was an enormous success with a record number of participants. She thanked everyone who helped with the event. Schmitt commended Greening on doing a great job on the Hoot, which was followed by a round of applause from board members.

REPORT - WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY AND SUMMER CONCERTS

Schmitt stated that Mooney has expressed an interest in turning over the organization of the summer concerts to someone else next summer. Greening volunteered to take over the concerts in Beverly Park in 2002. She thinks that it is important for the Parks and Recreation Board to remain involved in this event.

Greening suggested changing the time of the Sunday concerts from 4:00 in the afternoon to 7:00 p.m. on the basis that 4 p.m. may be an inconvenient time for those who are planning dinners.

People who are out of town may be able to return home in time to enjoy a 7 p.m. concert. Board members concurred with this suggestion.

Pasieka stated that the 2002 calendar will designate the three summer concert dates on the fourth Sundays of June, July, and August without mentioning a time of day. He does not anticipate problems with reserving the portable stage from the County for those dates. The cost of renting the showmobile is \$225 per use. The cost of the event will include the showmobile rental plus the cost of entertainment. Amplification support may have to be supplied by the Village depending on the band. The budget for this event next year is \$4,500.

Mooney thinks that the concerts will be better attended this year due to the improvements taking place in the park. There is a good chance that the event will be a success if the board can obtain an increased advertising budget and change the time of the concerts.

Domzal suggested varying the times of the concerts. He proposed that the board consider a children oriented concert recognizing that this is a family community.

Schmitt stated that O'Reilly would like to convey the chairmanship of the Winter Family Fun Day to another volunteer in 2003.

There was discussion on the optimum date for the Winter Family Fun Day. This coming year the date will be the third Sunday in January on the 20th. O'Reilly related that the format this year will be the same as in prior years with seven different activities including games on the ice rinks, winter golf, snow shoeing, igloo making, sledding, and ice sculpting.

BRICK SALES UPDATE

Davis reported that 14 paving bricks have been sold to raise money for Beverly Park improvements - 10 bricks @\$50 and four @\$100. An order form will be included in the next Villager newsletter sent to each resident. Davis will be sending order forms to all churches and businesses in Beverly Hills that have not purchased a personalized brick.

REPORT ON PARK SCALE MODEL

Don Greening commented that there may be a problem with displaying a scale model of Beverly Park of the size that would afford an appropriate amount of detail. He also questioned whether there will be a need for a scale model since the park will be under construction with grant related park improvements by next summer. Greening is not sure this project will be worth the effort.

MOTION by Mooney, seconded by Davis, to recommend that construction of a scale model of Beverly Park be held in abeyance based on the recommendation of Don Greening.

Motion passes unanimously.

DISCUSS CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 20, 2001 MEETING

MOTION by Harmon, seconded by O'Reilly, to cancel the December 20, 2001 Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Domzal expressed concern with the decision not to proceed with the scale model of the park, which was to be used for fund raising purposes. Schmitt responded that the project was discontinued for the reason that the volunteer artist had second thoughts.

Domzal suggested looking for opportunities to publicize upcoming park improvements, such as having a sketch placed in the Eccentric newspaper. He would like to see drawings of the grant related park improvements posted on the Village web site, noting that the Park Master Plan is already on the web site.

Domzal expressed concern with the aesthetic impact of having an asphalt parking lot. He questioned the cost difference between asphalt paving and alternative parking lot designs. The board indicated that the costs of alternatives methods were double the cost of asphalt paving.

Domzal commented that there might be an opportunity for a community garden in Beverly Park, possibly in the area of the flag pole.

Domzal related that he attended a Birmingham School Board meeting recently at which time he took the opportunity to encourage better communication between the Village and School Board. He mentioned the ongoing litigation between Birmingham Schools and both Bloomfield Township and Beverly Hills involving cell towers at Covington and Berkshire Schools. It disturbs him as a parent and a taxpayer to fund this litigation through the Village and the School District. Domzal would like to see a better era of cooperation between the entities. He asked board members to let him know if they have any ideas as to how the Village can better work with Birmingham Schools.

Domzal stated that Manager Murphy is introducing the concept of strategic budgeting to the Village, which involves every department developing a mission statement that sets forth its goals in an attempt to assist in budget decisions. The Parks and Recreation Board will be asked to draft a mission statement at the appropriate time.

Domzal congratulated Greening for a great job on the Halloween Hoot.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Board members have received copies of the 26 surveys from those people who reserved the pavilion during the year and responded to a written survey provided with the application. Pasieka remarked that most of the data reflects a positive attitude from the people who responded to the questionnaire.

Greening remarked that it appears that people who use the pavilion on the weekend are those who complain about the garbage. She noticed that people who reserved the pavilion in August on complained about bees. Greening questioned whether anything can be done to deter bees.

Pasieka responded that he does not have a solution to the bee problem. Trash containers are cleaned out on a more frequent basis as the weather gets warmer. He has been to other locations that have similar problems with bees. Pasieka mentioned that the YMCA is also concerned about this.

Schmitt asked that administration add a line to the survey form for the name of the group reserving the pavilion.

Pasieka advised the board of what is going on with Eagle Scout projects. Jeffrey Apczynski has completed a park project for his Eagle Scout requirements involving refurbishing the eight benches in the south part of the park and working on the horseshoe pits. Chris Apczynski will be at Douglas-Evans nature preserve this coming Saturday, November 17, with about 15 scouts to remove Poplar trees, which are considered noxious weeds.

Pasieka reported that he attended a meeting along with Harmon at Lathrup Village to obtain additional information on the construction of a bioswale in Beverly Park. Pasieka mentioned that mowing will be done in the Douglas Evans nature preserve in the fall in an effort to properly maintain that area.

Pasieka stated that the Village Woman's Club of Beverly Hills is selling posters and cards to raise money for improvements to Beverly Park. The posters and cards feature a photograph of Beverly Park taken by local artist Chuck Krause. Eight cards may be purchased for \$10.00. The posters cost \$20.00 unframed and \$75.00 framed.

Pasieka announced that members of the Beautification Committee will present awards at the Monday, November 19 Council meeting to ten recipients who have been selected to receive recognition from the Village of Beverly Hills for an outstanding job of beautifying their property. The Village municipal offices has won an award due to the efforts of the Beverly Hills Garden Club. Pasieka thanked Irene Davis, who is a member of that organization.

Greening questioned whether there is space in the Villager newsletter for more information. Pasieka asked anyone who has an article to be considered for insertion in the Newsletter to get it to him by tomorrow.

BOARD COMMENTS

Harmon commented that he and Pasieka attended a bioretention rain garden program at the Lathrup Village municipal offices sponsored by an individual from St. George's County in Maryland. The speaker presented a history of rain gardens along with why they are useful and how to create one.

Harmon has observed that the light on the Public Safety Department building is on the ground and pointing up. He asked if it is possible to make it a practice in Beverly Hills to position lighting higher in order to shine down on a sign, which would help eliminate the ambient light that goes up into the sky and obscures our view of the stars.

O'Reilly commended Greening for the great Halloween Hoot. It is a fabulous event that gets better every year. He also recognized Ben Bargman of Troop 1024 and asked him to invite other scouts to attend the Parks and Recreation Board meetings on the third Thursday of the month.

Schmitt suggested that the Village needs to think about an improved park pavilion. The restrooms and electrical service are inadequate. Either major repairs will have to be done to the roof, or consideration should be given to reconstruct the entire pavilion. Schmitt thinks it may be cost effective to rebuild the pavilion and do it properly rather than rehabilitate the existing structure.

Schmitt thanked Alan Cobleigh for his years of dedicated service to the Village and his many contributions to the Parks and Recreation Board. As a member of the Lion's Club he has involved that organization in providing refreshments for the annual Park Clean Up. He has helped with parking at the Halloween Hoot. Cobleigh has served as a liaison to the neighbors surrounding the park and has been involved in writing the newsletter for Huntley Subdivision.

Schmitt provided suggestions on how the DPW staff could better construct the ice rinks in Beverly Park this year.

Schmitt wished everyone a Happy Holiday. The Parks and Recreation Board will get together again next January.

Mooney thanked Alan Cobleigh for his years of service and many contributions to the Parks and Recreation Board. He will be missed.

Greening thanked the scouts from Troop 1024 for helping as much as they did at the Halloween Hoot. They kept the fires lit and assisted with gutting pumpkins. There was a lot of help from the schools as well as the boy scouts. Greening thanked board members for their assistance.

Davis commented that she will miss Alan Cobleigh at Parks and Recreation Board meetings. She looks forward to seeing him at the dedication of park improvements in Beverly Park. Davis thanked Greening for the work she has done on the Halloween Hoot and noted that portions of the event are being televised on cable television.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**