

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

Absent: None

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

Motion by Mooney, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on January 24, 2001 as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Architect Larry Ancypa from Hubbell, Roth & Clark reviewed that Council awarded a contract to Summit Transport for grant related improvements in Beverly Park. Summit is ready to proceed with application for the soil erosion permit needed in order to begin work.

Ancypa displayed a board with examples of play equipment in various color schemes. The Parks and Recreation Board is being asked to make a color selection for the play structures on the plan.

MOTION by Greening, seconded by Mooney, to approve the color scheme of forest green and sand with burgundy accents to be used on both the toddler and bigger children's play structures.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ancypa related that a suggestion was made by the contractor at the pre-construction meeting to upgrade the fence along Beverly Road from the commercial grade specified in the contract to an industrial grade. The rails and pickets are thicker and will be more resistant to damage. The contractor offered this upgrade to the Village for an additional \$3/l.f. to the \$25/l.f. price in the contract.

MOTION by Davis, seconded by Harmon, to upgrade the Beverly Road fence from a commercial grade to an industrial grade for an additional cost of \$3,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

In answer to an inquiry, Ancypa stated that the plans for the pedestrian entrance have been modified to coordinate with the alignment of the walkway at Beverly and Norchester. Pasieka indicated that the new crosswalk should be constructed before the park entrance is completed.

RESTRICTED PARK USE DURING CONSTRUCTION

Pasieka addressed the topic of park use during construction. Administration has informed citizens through the Villager newsletter and Beverly Hills web site that park pavilion reservations are being accepted for dates after the construction period.

Upcoming events including the annual Park Clean Up, Jaycee sponsored Easter Egg Hunt, and Little League Opening Ceremonies will proceed. Modifications will be made to work around the construction and keep people away from the north end of the park. Pasieka suggested that the tennis courts or ball diamonds be used as the staging area for the Park Clean Up. Participants can park at Beverly School if the Beverly Park parking lot is not available for use.

Ancypa commented that the contractor will submit a schedule indicating the anticipated start of significant events and the duration of the event. The schedule will be dependent on weather conditions.

Greening asked if the dirt removed to construct the playground area will stay in the park. Ancypa answered that he does not know if direction has been given as to where the dirt will go. He suggested that Greening contact Spallasso with her suggestions.

Nelson asked where compost will be available for residents. Pasieka responded that it is anticipated that an area will be established in the DPW parking lot for compost.

Laverne Cleary, scout leader, stated that a lot of people from various organizations will be participating in the Annual Park Clean Up on May 11. Troop 1024 scouts from Beverly School will participate as well as other units in the district. It is an opportunity for the scouts to do a good turn for their community and show appreciation for use of Beverly Park. It was suggested that the scouts erect tents to use as refreshment areas.

MEMORIAL DAY CARNIVAL STATUS

Greening stated that the Village Women's Club is organizing the Memorial Day Parade again this year, but no one has come forward as yet to be in charge of the Carnival in Beverly Park. The Parks and Recreation Board may want to consider participation in the Carnival next year.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Greening stated that she has arranged for the Red Garter Band to perform at the first concert in the park on Sunday, June 23. She proposes that this event be advertised as the grand opening of Beverly Park following completion of the park improvements. The Village and particularly the Friends of Beverly Park will be treated as guests of honor and provided with a picnic dinner of hot dogs, popcorn and soda prior to the concert. Greening proposes to organize old-fashioned games for the children as part of this picnic.

Greening suggests that the Parks and Recreation Board request that Council authorize the use of a \$1,000 donation received from a resident to be used for fund raising to defray the cost of refreshments.

Board members enthusiastically supported the idea of an opening celebration for the park improvements and volunteered to help Greening where needed. It was suggested that the picnic begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by the 7:00 p.m. concert. The event will be publicized by a flyer in the Villager newsletter.

MOTION by Greening, seconded by Harmon, to recommend that Council appropriate the \$1,000 amount allocated for Park Capital Improvement fund raising to be used for the June 23 grand opening celebration in connection with the first concert in Beverly Park.

Motion passed unanimously.

Greening informed the Board that she is in the process of lining up entertainment for the July 28 concert. Board members were interested in pursuing a calypso or steel band for the concert. A Rock and Roll Band is proposed for the August concert. Greening will involve young people in the community by arranging for high school basement bands to play before and after the main feature on a portable stage borrowed from the school.

Greening will proceed with the plans presented. Pasioka indicated that Council authorization has not been required to spend the money allocated in the budget for concerts in the park.

LIONS REQUEST TO SELL REFRESHMENTS AT CONCERTS

Ray Lacroix, president of the Beverly Hills Lions Club, stated that the Lions are interested in being part of the grand opening celebration in Beverly Park on June 23. They would welcome the opportunity to participate in the summer concert series and would consider selling refreshments. Lacroix explained that the group's focus is to raise exposure to the Lions Club in the Village and increase its membership. They would like to be a part of an event that is tied to the celebration of park improvements. A second consideration is an opportunity to make money for the causes that the Lions support.

Lacroix discussed plans for Lions Club involvement in the concerts with the Board. He was informed that the June concert and grand opening celebration will be sponsored by the Village. Lions Club members were encouraged to attend the event and help serve food. The Lions could sell popcorn and soda at the next two concerts pending approval by the Village Council.

Lacroix will propose to the Lions Club that it make a donation towards this event as a way of thanking the Parks and Recreation Board for allowing them to participate.

MOTION by O'Reilly, seconded by Nelson, to recommend approval of the Lions Club sale of refreshments in Beverly Park during the July and August concerts.

Motion passed unanimously.

MEMORIAL BRICK FOR ALAN COBLEIGH

Board members contributed towards purchasing an engraved brick for the new park entrance in memory of board member Alan Cobleigh.

BRICK SALES UPDATE

Davis reported that the sale of paving bricks is going well. She noted that Comcast purchased a logo brick.

Phyllis Lauer was assured by the Board that the contractor is aware that there are special requirements regarding placing the paving bricks in the walkway. Lauer will be contacted to assist with brick placement.

CONSIDER PARK GRANT APPLICATION

Pasieka is pursuing Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant monies for park improvements. He noted that much of this money along with another fund known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund are areas where the State of Michigan gives priority to improvements related to the preservation of natural resources.

The pond may be an area considered eligible for these grant funds. A cost estimate for pond improvements has been received from Hubbell, Roth & Clark in the amount of \$125,000. Matching the grant money in the amount of 51% would improve the Village's eligibility for both of these grants.

Pasieka requested Parks and Recreation Board support for this grant application. There will be a public hearing at an upcoming Council meeting prior to the April 1 deadline for submitting the grant application.

MOTION by Mooney, seconded by Harmon, to support administration's recommendation to approach Council for approval to submit a grant application for park improvements.

Motion passed unanimously.

AORN REQUEST FOR FUN RUN IN BEVERLY HILLS

There was no one present from the Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) to present its request to the Village to allow the organization to hold a 5K Fun Run/Walk on June 8, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning in the Village. They request the use of Beverly Park pavilion and permission to use the same course as used by the Lions Club for the Memorial Day Race.

MOTION by Davis, seconded by O'Reilly, to recommend that Village administration follow up on this and use its discretion in approving this request.

Motion passed unanimously.

Schmitt stated that he was contacted by Council President Stearn regarding the Board's recommendations for the Parks and Recreation budget. Parks and Recreation Board members

requested an allocation of \$1,500 for the Winter Family Fun Day, \$6,000 for the concert series, and \$3,500 for the Halloween Hoot. The Board requested \$20,000 for capital improvements as a depreciation fund to go towards future replacement of park facilities.

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire, President of Beverly Hills Little League, asked the Parks and Recreation Board for a contribution of \$900 to sponsor one team at \$150 per team in each division.

Mooney pointed out that the Beverly Hills Little League is the only athletic group that is sponsored almost exclusively for people in Beverly Hills. He maintains that very little is contributed by the Village towards recreation for young people in the community. He believes that it is incumbent on the Parks and Recreation Board to recommend to Council that it sponsor some of the teams in Little League. The Little League is seeking sponsorships from service organizations and private groups including the Lions Club. The divisions include youth softball, youth baseball, minor league baseball, major league baseball, and softball for girls.

MOTION by O'Reilly, seconded by Harmon, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council allocate \$1,000 to sponsor the Beverly Hills Little League.

Motion passed unanimously.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Domzal commented that Council receives a number of requests for money. He expressed the view that funding requests should be handled by a community foundation.

Domzal proposed that the Parks and Recreation Board take more ownership in the Douglas Evans nature preserve. The property is neglected; the fencing and gate is uninviting. Domzal believes that there are things that could be done to improve access without violating the deed restrictions. He proposes a study by this Board on what needs to be done to preserve this park.

Board members responded that past Councils have dissuaded the Board from becoming involved with Douglas Evans. The Board concurred that it would take on more responsibility for Douglas Evans park if given the opportunity.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka stated that Lillian Dean has approached the Village with a request to make a presentation for a water garden park at Riverside Park. She will discuss this with the Board at the March meeting.

Harmon stated that he has talked to Lillian Dean about Riverside Park. A continuing maintenance problem has been erosion coming down Riverside causing gravel to wash onto the parking area. Her proposal for a water garden park may reduce some of that maintenance

Pasieka commented that Public Services Director Spallasso is very aware of what goes on at the Douglas Evans property. The Oakland County people have had a lot to say about the gate erected on the site. This Board has been limited in its involvement with this property.

Pasieka stated that the Election issue of the Villager Newsletter will be coming out soon. The League of Women Voters will sponsor a Meet the Candidates Night on March 5 in the Village Council chambers. It will be telecast live on Channel 15 and rebroadcast through Sunday.

Lacroix informed the Board that Comcast cable company employees have a volunteer group that is always looking for involvement in the community. They may be able to supply some bodies for the grand opening of the park improvements. Mike DiMaria would be a contact person at Comcast.

BOARD COMMENTS

Harmon stated that he is involved in a group sponsored by a grant administered by the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority. This group is developing a map that will show the big picture relative to connections between open spaces or green spaces and may be a starting point for connection planning. A clear connection exists through the Douglas-Evans nature preserve and the Hidden Rivers nature area. There is an Oakland County conservancy group that may consider land purchases where it make sense.

Board members wished Mooney well in the upcoming Council Election. Schmitt asked board members to sign a letter to the Eccentric in support of Mooney's election to Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary**