

Present: Chairperson Schmitt; Members: Davis, Harmon, Nelson and O'Reilly

Absent: Greening

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy
Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka
Council Liaison, Domzal
Council member, Mooney

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 Harmon, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on February 21, 2002 as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public

THANKS AND FAREWELL TO COUNCIL MEMBER JANET MOONEY

Board members congratulated Janet Mooney on her election to the Village Council. Mooney was thanked for her many contributions to the board, her dedication and enthusiasm, and her work on promoting the park millage. She will be missed on the Parks and Recreation Board.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Architect Larry Ancypa from Hubbell, Roth & Clark reported that work has begun in Beverly Park in the last couple of days to prepare the area for construction. The old fence has been removed and the location of the new fence staked out. The contractor has submitted a schedule, which indicates that the parking lot surface will be completed by Memorial Day depending on the weather. The project should be completed by the first week in June.

Schmitt requested that administration include the two main drainage ditches located in Beverly Park as part of an ongoing engineering study for a Village-wide ditching program. These ditches have filled in and are not functioning properly.

It was mentioned that the board preferred that the parking lot striping not be painted in a high contrast color. A green color was proposed for the striping in lieu of yellow. Ancypa stated that the standard color choices are blue, white or yellow. He will discuss alternative options with the contractor.

There will be no parking available in Beverly Park while construction is ongoing. Schmitt asked administration and Council to consider allowing temporary parking during construction on Allerton, Devonshire, and the south side of Beverly Road if permitted by the Public Safety Department. Murphy will have public safety look into this.

MOTION by O'Reilly, seconded by Harmon, to request that administration review the potential for allowing parking on Allerton Drive, Devonshire, and the south side of Beverly Road during Beverly Park construction if acceptable to the Public Safety Department.

Motion passed unanimously.

PARK IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY DISCUSSION

Board members have received a copy of the Beverly Park Master Plan priority list including cost estimates prepared by Hubbell, Roth & Clark (HRC). Projects include east pavilion upgrades, pond area improvements, sled hill improvements, ball diamond upgrades, and basketball and tennis court upgrades. Questions on the scope of the projects and cost breakdowns were addressed by Ancypa.

HRC based costs for pavilion improvements on two different park buildings constructed for Sterling Heights. Pictures of the park buildings at Nelson Park and at Delia Park were displayed. Ancypa stated that there has been conversation about removing the existing pavilion and constructing a new building. The cost would be approximately \$250,000 for a new building and about \$150,000 to renovate the current structure and provide a small addition. Renovations would include replacement of rotting boards, new roof, upgrade restrooms, and painting.

Schmitt stated that the Village is in the process of applying for two grants. A grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Land and Water Conservation Fund will be submitted. The Beverly Park pond may be an area considered eligible for these grant funds. Application is also being made for a grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund for improvements needed to the Beverly Park baseball diamonds. The board should discuss its priorities for park improvements based on receiving no grant funds with consideration of how those priorities will shift if grant money becomes available from one or both of the sources.

It was noted that there is a 25 percent engineering and contingency fee indicated for each of the improvements. Ancypa explained that contingencies are estimated in the 10-12 percent range. Contingencies include upgrades or modifications that were not anticipated in the plans. Engineering fees in the 12-13 percent range include the design and follow through with construction engineering.

Murphy stated that about \$40,000 of the \$110,000 anticipated 2002-03 park millage money will be used to complete the ongoing CMI grant related improvements in Beverly Park. He proposed proceeding with sled hill improvements this fall with a portion of that millage money. The board will have a better understanding of where the Village is with respect to grant applications next year. There is a reasonable chance that the Village will receive Baseball Tomorrow grant funds to pay for ball diamond repairs. This is a 50-50 matching grant.

If the pavilion is the recommended priority after the sled hill, the \$110,000 millage money received in 2003-04 plus the \$25,000 balance from the previous year will be close to covering the \$150,000 estimated cost of the pavilion renovation. The remaining projects could be prioritized depending on availability of grant money.

There was discussion on renovating the existing pavilion versus constructing a new pavilion. Ancypa will conduct an inspection of the structure to determine the extent of any repairs needed to the roof support posts, etc. He answered questions from the board relative to renovation of tennis and basketball courts.

The Parks and Recreation Board was unanimous in its recommendation of the following priorities for park improvements: 1) sled hill improvements; 2) pavilion upgrades; 3) ball diamond upgrade; 4) pond area improvements; 5) basketball and tennis court upgrades.

It was agreed that the second priority would not change if a decision is made to replace rather than renovate the pavilion. Priorities will be re-evaluated if the Village receives grant money for pond improvements or baseball diamond renovation.

The next three agenda items were postponed until the next meeting when Greening will be present: 6) Budget update; 7) Memorial Day Carnival Update; and 8) Concerts update.

BRICK SALE UPDATE

Davis read a letter received from Rosemarie Cobleigh thanking the Parks and Recreation Board members for their gift of an engraved brick in Alan Cobleigh's memory. The letter said that he would have been honored and pleased as he truly loved the park and was an avid booster of Beverly Park.

Davis reported that, since she has taken over the brick sales, 37 bricks have been sold – 12 \$100 bricks and 25 \$50 bricks.

GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE

Pasioka stated that two grant applications are in process. A grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Land and Water Conservation Fund will be submitted for Beverly Park pond improvements to meet the April 1 deadline. Application will be made for a grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund for improvements to the Beverly Park baseball diamonds likely by the June deadline.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Domzal commented on the board's 2002/03 budget request for the park. Schmitt expressed the view that the Village should start allocating money for the park. He reviewed that Council and administration were in agreement at the outset of the grant related park improvement project that some of the engineering work and the bidding would be done in house. The Village is now having professional engineers do this work, which could add \$200,000 to the project. This additional cost has not been accounted for in the planning.

FEES CHARGED TO BEVERLY HILLS LITTLE LEAGUE AND YMCA CAMP

Pasioka stated that the Birmingham YMCA is charged a fee for use of Beverly Park facilities for its summer day camp. The \$640 charge covers the cost of park opener fees and a \$100 damage deposit.

Board members questioned the overall cost to the Village for the YMCA to use Beverly Park for its summer camp. Pasieka responded that the fee has been minimal for the reason that the YMCA is providing a service to the Village by organizing a day camp that can be used by children in the community.

Board members concurred that the Y camp is providing a recreational opportunity for children in Beverly Hills. There was agreement that the YMCA should be billed for the expense if there is a need to do extra cleanup in the park as a result of summer camp activities. Pasieka will convey the message to the YMCA camp director that the Village will be taking a stronger stance on charging for additional cleanup.

Motion by Harmon, seconded by O'Reilly, to support continuation of the existing fee charged to the Birmingham YMCA for use of Beverly Park for its summer day camp.

Motion passed unanimously.

There have been past discussions by the board about the Village's informal policy of charging a \$100 annual fee to each league that uses the ball diamonds in Beverly Park to help defray the cost of maintaining the park.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Davis, to support maintaining the existing level of fees for the sporting groups that use the baseball fields in Beverly Park.

Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

At its last meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board recommended that administration follow up on the request from the Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) to use the Beverly Park pavilion as a staging area for a 5K Fun Run/Walk on June 8, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning. Pasieka stated that he and Director Woodard met with representatives of AORN to discuss plans for their event. The organization has been advised that Beverly Park construction may interfere with their plans. AORN will provide the Village with insurance.

The next Villager will be mailed in mid-May. Board members were asked to contact Pasieka soon about any items they would like included in this issue.

A large group event planning form was received for a year-end party in the park for the boy scouts on June 7. Pasieka has informed Bill Kondak that their group will not be able to use the park pavilion if the construction is not completed by that date. Board members had no objection to this large group use of the park, noting that the organization has been made fully aware of the potential problems.

Janet Mooney thanked the members of the Parks and Recreation Board and said that it has been a pleasure to serve on the board for more than two years. She will miss them. Mooney thanked the members for working to get her elected to Council.

BOARD COMMENTS

Schmitt commended former Council member Bob Walsh for being intellectually honest and always well prepared as a council member.

Schmitt recommended that the board develop a recognition program that would outline how people can donate a bench or a tree to Beverly Park as memorials or other honors. He distributed a booklet prepared by the City of Birmingham as an example. This will be a topic for a future agenda.

Davis congratulated Domzal for being elected to the position of President Pro-Tem of Council. She remarked that the Village has a wonderful administration and Council, and it should be a great year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**

Susan Bernard, Recording Secretary