

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

Absent: Wilms

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka
Council member, Schmitt

Chairperson Greening called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Harmon, seconded by O'Reilly, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, January 16, 2003 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Schmitt of 18103 Riverside Drive mentioned that he walked through the parking lot at Beverly Park today, something he was not able to do before it was paved without being knee-deep in mud. He observed that there were kids on the playground equipment.

FINAL REPORT ON WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Nelson reported on a cold but successful Winter Family Fun Day in Beverly Park on Sunday, January 19. O'Reilly assisted in the planning and was joined by other Parks and Recreation Board members who helped with various events that day. Nelson thanked all the volunteers including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Pasieka estimated that the expenditures for Winter Family Fun Day came in about \$50 under the budgeted amount. Board members discussed ideas for next year's event.

BRICK SALES

Davis stated that brick sales continue. She will follow up on a report received that an individual recently noticed an error on his engraved brick installed in the park walkway. There was conversation about locating a smaller, local company for future brick orders.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS FOR PARK MASTER PLAN

Subcommittees were established at the last meeting for the purpose of researching specific park improvement projects and bringing information back to the Board as a whole. Greening asked if there were any subcommittee reports this evening.

Harmon commented that he is obtaining names of structural engineers who will be asked to look at the pavilion in terms of renovation versus building a new structure. He will come back with conceptual ideas and estimated costs for pavilion improvements at the next meeting.

Nelson reported that he and Nagle have looked at the basketball and tennis courts. The basketball court appears to need resurfacing. The tennis courts are in poor shape. Nagle remarked that she

spoke with a relative at Nagle Paving, who thought that \$50,000 was a high quote for resurfacing the tennis courts. Greening mentioned that the estimate includes replacing the fencing.

Greening asked if Board members have given any thought to her suggestion to convert the tennis courts into an area for roller blading and inline skating. Skateboarding would not be allowed for liability reasons. Board members were amenable to this idea considering that there are a number of tennis courts available in the area. It was noted that many residents play tennis at the Beverly Hills Club.

It was suggested that the Board monitor the use of the park tennis courts over the next season before making a decision. Another idea put forth was to ask residents for their input on this topic in the next Villager newsletter. Nagle offered to draft a questionnaire for the edition that will be mailed out in May.

Board members discussed the next step in the park improvement program. Bids received for the sled hill work have been rejected. Three bids based on a plan agreed upon by this Board and Council were in the range of \$80,000-\$90,000. The amount allocated for the sled hill project was \$40,000-\$50,000. According to the priorities previously established by the Board, the pavilion renovation or reconstruction is the project that follows the sled hill. There was concern as to whether the remaining dollars would cover all the park projects. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the sled hill improvements. Planning for pavilion work could begin at the same time.

There was a lengthy discussion on how to scale back the sled hill design and still achieve the original goals of safety and convenience. Construction of double stairways with wooden rails on both sides of the hill is the major expense. After considering a number of ideas, it was agreed that O'Reilly will contact the Village resident who engineered and supervised the scouts who constructed the existing sled hill stairs as part of an Eagle Scout project. This individual will be asked if he is interested in supervising Village volunteers in a project to build four sets of steps on the sled hill. The Village would pay for the material. O'Reilly will pursue this and report to the Board next month.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Schmitt questioned whether compost will be available locally to Village residents this year. Pasiaka responded that the SOCRRA compost pile will be located on the Village municipal site. Final details have not been established.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Included in the Board's information packet is a copy of a Press Release on the award of a Baseball Tomorrow Fund grant to a league in California for construction of a handicapped-accessible baseball field. The article outlines the qualifications sought by the Baseball Tomorrow Fund for grant approval.

The Village is in receipt of a request from the FAR Conservatory to use a Beverly Park baseball diamond for its Summer Softball Program. The program serves children and young adults in the community who have disabilities. The Board concurred that this group can be accommodated for

use of a ball diamond in the park for 11 Saturdays. O'Reilly will coordinate the use of the ball diamonds with the Queen of Martyrs league and work out a schedule with the FAR Conservatory.

The Beverly Hills Garden Club requests to reserve the Beverly Park pavilion on Saturday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for its plant sale. Pasieka noted that May 17 is the rain date for the Annual Park Clean Up. The Board agreed to share the pavilion with the Garden Club if the Park Clean Up is postponed to that Saturday.

A thank you letter was received from Assistant Scoutmaster John Runyan for allowing the use of Beverly Park for the North Trails District First Aid Rally on Saturday, February 1.

Pasieka reported on arrangements made with Kim Terry, Cub Scout Day Camp Director, for use of Beverly Park for one of its Cub Scout day camp facilities for the 2003 season from Tuesday, June 24 through Friday, June 27. The hours of use will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Day Camp and from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for a Twilight Camp. The Village is requiring proof of insurance from this group and will charge only for park opener fees.

Pasieka was pleased to inform the Board that resident Jan Huszczo will be returning this season to her position as park opener. The Village office will accept pavilion reservations from residents beginning Wednesday, March 5.

Pasieka distributed a letter from Lillian Dean, Coordinator for the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority Healthy Laws and Gardens division, outlining a program of planting native shrubs in Riverside Park on Friday, May 2, 2003. A number of fifth graders from Beverly School will assist in this endeavor with supervision.

At the request of Council President Downey, Pasieka followed up on a 2003 Community Tree Planting Grant from the National Tree Trust and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Downey questioned whether the Parks and Recreation Board is interested in receiving a minimum order of 300 seedlings from a variety of trees to be planted in the park and transplanted to other public property at the appropriate time.

Requirements of the grant program involve volunteers to plant the seedlings, file annual reports for two years on the condition of the plants, and maintain the area with minimum standards including watering and weeding.

Motion by Harmon, seconded by Greening, that the Parks and Recreation Board declines the opportunity to accept free seedlings from a 2003 Community Tree Planting Grant program on the basis that the Board does not have the manpower for the planting, record keeping, watering, and weeding required under the terms of the grant.

Motion passed unanimously.

Pasieka updated the Board on the Village's plans to address three threats to the environment and to people posed by the Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, and the West Nile Virus. These are pests that can be controlled to some extent but not eradicated.

There has been a natural predator in terms of a fungus that has been helping to control the Gypsy Moth insect for the last three to four years. The fungus exists in the soil beneath most of the trees that are susceptible to disease related to the Gypsy Moth. For the last four years, the Village has contracted with a professional biologist Steve Metzger, who monitors a number of stations throughout the Village and keeps us advised as to what needs to be done if infestation exceeds threshold levels in terms of concentration of larvae on trees. This contract will be up for renegotiation shortly.

Pasieka has been tracking information from various sources including Michigan State University regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. A quarantine of infected Ash trees and wood cut from these infected trees is advised. The new pest is pervasive in this area and the Village is likely to lose a number of trees. Communities to our north and south are discussing how to handle the costs involved with removing dead Ash trees. The Village is working to partner with the forestry divisions of either the City of Birmingham or the City of Southfield for inspection and removal services.

Pasieka attended a recent meeting to learn what the State of Michigan and the Oakland County Health Department are doing to address the West Nile Virus. There is no way to eradicate all mosquitoes. The following procedures will be promoted in lieu of spraying with insecticides: 1) Reduce the areas where mosquitoes breed; 2) Repel mosquitoes by wearing long sleeve clothing and wearing a repellent with Deet as an ingredient; 3) Report situations where mosquitoes are breeding to the proper authorities. There will be public service messages to communicate these three R's, emphasizing personal responsibility.

Pasieka reminded the Board that the Park Master Plan adopted in February of 1998 is in its fifth year. The Park Master Plan must be updated every five years and approved by the governing body to be a valid plan for submission with a state or federal grant application. The Parks and Recreation Board is interested having the Park Master Plan updated and adopted.

The Board discussed the use of park contributions received in memory of William Pfeifer. Greening will contact Dorothy Pfeifer about how the \$1,355 in donations can be used in the park. Greening proposed that a 10' or 12' gazebo be purchased with this money and placed near the pond. A plaque in memory of Bill Pfeifer could be attached to the structure.

BOARD COMMENTS

Nagle plans to advertise the summer concerts in Beverly Park in the local newspapers including school and homeowner association newsletters. She will draft a flyer for this purpose.

Nagle commented that Dan Nelson did a wonderful job of organizing the Winter Family Fun Day. O'Reilly concurred and thanked the volunteers who helped on that Sunday.

Harmon offered to attend a four-day Practical Lake and Pond Management course offered on Mondays from March 24 through April 14 for a \$75 registration fee. The Board encouraged Harmon to attend the classes and asked Pasieka to arrange for his reimbursement of the \$75 registration fee.

Greening reminded everyone to vote in the March 10 Village Election.

Motion by O'Reilly, seconded by Nagle, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Patricia Greening, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary