

Present: Chairperson Greening; Vice-Chairperson Wilms; Members: Davis, Nelson and O'Reilly

Absent: Harmon and Nagle

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy
Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka

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.

Greening proposed adding an agenda item 2A, "Little League Presentation by John Mooney". Board members concurred with the amendment to the agenda.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by O'Reilly, seconded by Nelson, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, February 20, 2003 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Nichols was present to discuss the use of \$755 donated to Beverly Park in memory of her husband Bob Nichols upon his passing last April. The Board asked Mrs. Nichols if she had a preference as to how that money should be spent. Mrs. Nichols indicated that she and her family would like a bench placed in the park as a memorial to Bob and that she would be willing to contribute any additional money needed for this purchase.

Resident John Mooney offered to contribute half of any shortfall that may occur with the purchase of the park bench. Mooney commented that Bob Nichols served on the Parks and Recreation Board for many years. He worked enthusiastically and diligently on Village and park issues including the park millage.

Greening remarked that it is wonderful that there are people in the Village like Mrs. Nichols and her husband, who love and support the park. The Board will proceed with a purchase of a park bench in memory of Bob Nichols.

LITTLE LEAGUE PRESENTATION – JOHN MOONEY

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire, director of fields for the Beverly Hills Little League, was present to talk to the Parks and Recreation Board about proposed improvements to the south ball field, which is the field used by the Little League. He outlined the short-term needs of the south field.

The Little League proposes to replace the existing 5' x 3' x 3' high storage bin with a facility of similar size to store equipment that will be used at the field. The current storage bin is located on the east side of the baseball field and is screened with shrubs. The new unit will be a steel storage

bin with recessed locks and will be secured to one of the fence poles by a chain. The bin will be marked “Beverly Hills Little League” and will be provided at no cost to the Village.

The Beverly Hills Little League suggests that the field needs crusher dust or another appropriate mix applied to the infield. The League will rely on whatever mix the Birmingham Board of Education or Chuck Comeau indicates will be best. The Little League will pay for the material at no cost to the Village but requests that the Village make the purchase in order to take advantage of lower costs than would be available to their organization.

The Little League will replace the bases with break-away bases and will also install new foundations at the plate. They propose to use pea gravel or similar material in the dugouts this year in order to minimize muddy conditions. The Little League proposes to pay for the pea gravel if the Village makes the purchase. Mooney stated that the Little League is asking that the Village groom the south field once a week during ball season.

Mooney summarized that the Little League will replace the storage bin, replace the bases and the pitching mound, pay for the cost of the pea gravel for the dugouts, and pay for the crusher dust. They are asking that the Village drag the infield once a week during the baseball season, which would be about nine times.

Wilms voiced support for the proposed improvements to the ball fields noting the important function that the Little League provides to the community. The Board was in agreement that the Village should support the request of the Little League to drag the fields.

Mooney spoke to the Board about an endeavor that he plans to undertake personally with respect to the south ball field. He proposes to transform the field into a top-notch little league field with the assistance of boy scouts working on Eagle Scout projects. It is his intention to remove everything in the infield and make it a world-class little league field at no cost to the Village.

Mooney outlined an incremental plan for renovation of the south field. The backstops will be scraped and painted in lieu of asking the Village to purchase new backstops at this time. He will have someone place concrete in the location of the current dugouts and replace the coverings on the structure. Mooney plans to change the foundation at the batter’s boxes and at the pitcher’s mound, rebuilding the pitcher’s mound on a brick foundation to regulation height. It is his intention to plant a high-quality grass infield. He will personally make sure that the infield is watered if a tap into the nearby water line is made available for this purpose.

Mooney seeks approval to take on this project at no expense to the Village. He will come back to the Parks and Recreation Board in the next month or two with a complete plan for the project.

Motion by O’Reilly, seconded by Nelson, that the Parks and Recreation Board supports the Beverly Hills Little League proposal for improvements to the south baseball diamond in Beverly Park both for this coming year and plans for future renovations.

Motion passed unanimously.

SLED HILL REVIEW

O'Reilly spoke with resident Ed Schouten of 18450 Riverside following last month's Board meeting. Schouten is the individual who engineered and supervised his son and other boy scouts in the construction of the existing sled hill stairs as part of an Eagle Scout project in 1996. Schouten was shown the proposal and engineering drawings prepared by Hubbell, Roth & Clark (HRC) for construction of double stairways with wooden rails on both sides of the sled hill. There was discussion of a project whereby boy scouts would build the sled hill steps after the Village has the railing constructed. O'Reilly reported that Schouten is behind the project.

Administration has provided the Board with an estimate from HRC on the cost of stairs and related material using volunteer labor. The estimated cost of materials based on projections from this report is about \$8,000. O'Reilly proposes to organize four different boy scout projects, one for each set of stairs. He does not foresee a problem with assembling a sufficient amount of volunteers to build two stairways at one time.

The construction plan requires that the railing be installed prior to the construction of the stairs. O'Reilly requested that administration ask HRC for a breakdown of how much of their cost estimate submitted for the sled hill project is designated for construction of the railing and how much for construction of the steps.

Pasieka answered that he requested this cost breakdown from Larry Ancypa of HRC. Ancypa indicated verbally that about \$50,000 of the \$77,000-\$90,000 estimated cost for the sled hill project was allocated for the steps on the basis that it is a labor intensive project. Ancypa added that he is willing to meet with O'Reilly and Schouten on this project.

The next step is to determine the cost of installing the railings and when the work could be done. Construction of the stairs would follow. The availability of funds will determine whether all four sets of stairs could be accomplished this year as well as some landscaping of the sled hill. There is approximately \$32,000 available from the dedicated park millage fund to be spent on park improvement projects during the 2003-04 fiscal year.

O'Reilly remarked that the scouts need a certain amount of lead time to design the project and organize and schedule volunteers. He and Pasieka will seek quotes from fence contractors for the railing project. Pasieka will pursue an opportunity for the Village to receive a grant in terms of building materials for this project from a Lowes Charitable Trust.

PAVILION UPDATE

Wilms related that Harmon spoke with commercial contractors who indicated that the park pavilion renovation would be too small of a project for them to consider. Wilms commented that the contractor who did excellent remodeling work on her house was not interested in the pavilion work if the Village required a contractor to be bonded.

A final plan for renovation of the pavilion is needed. Wilms and Harmon will continue to pursue and interview contractors for this project.

GAZEBO STATUS

At its last meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board discussed the purchase of a gazebo for Beverly Park with money donated to the park in memory of Bill Pfeifer in the amount of \$1,355 and using donations from resident Stu Westcott in the amount of \$2,293. Greening related that Dorothy Pfeifer is pleased with the idea of purchasing a gazebo to be located in the park pond area with this money.

Greening distributed cost information on two gazebo models, one purchased for use in her backyard and the other purchased by Harmon. The costs are \$2,590 for a 12' diameter cedar structure and \$4,200 for a structure constructed of yellow pine. It was noted that bench seats should be purchased to be placed in the structure. The gazebo will be located near the pond as indicated in the park master plan. The structure will require some assembly by volunteers.

The Board requested an accounting of park donations and a determination as to whether the donated funds are available for this expenditure.

Motion by Davis, seconded by Wilms, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommends that the Village of Beverly Hills spend approximately \$2,858 for the purchase and delivery of a 12 foot diameter, 10-sided gazebo with funds donated by Stu Westcott and with donations made in memory of Bill Pfeifer.

Motion passed unanimously.

BRICKS

Personalized bricks continue to be sold to raise money for park improvements. Davis stressed the importance of locating a local company for purchase of bricks to avoid the high cost of delivery for small orders.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka commented that the Village reimbursed Jack Harmon for the registration fee to attend a Practical Lake and Pond Management course.

Pasieka stated that he has obtained an electronic copy of the 1998 Park Master Plan from the planning consultant firm of McKenna Associates. He will provide Board members with a draft copy of an updated Park Master Plan that reflects modifications suggested by Murphy and Greening. He hopes to have this document ready for the Board's review next month.

A number of pavilion rentals and large group rental forms will come before the Board for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

The Village Council reviewed and accepted the Riverside Park Landscape Improvement Project at its Monday, March 17 Council meeting. A presentation of the plan was given by Lillian Dean, coordinator of the Healthy Lawn and Garden Program for the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority along with Ann Bernardini, president of the West Beverly Homeowners Association. Pasieka stated that about \$2,800 will be spent on removal of poisonous and invasive plants in the area and on the planting of attractive native trees and shrubs.

There will be a Buckthorn removal demonstration at the Douglas-Evans nature preserve on Monday morning, April 28. Lillian Dean is involved with this program.

BOARD COMMENTS

Nelson asked if compost will be available to Village residents at the municipal DPW site this spring. Pasieka reported that Public Services Director Spallasso will have an area designated on the municipal site for distributing compost.

In answer to an inquiry, Greening stated that a questionnaire will be included in the next Villager newsletter seeking community input on a suggestion to convert the tennis courts in Beverly Park into an area for roller blading and inline skating. Nelson had a concern that residents were told that the tennis courts would be renovated as part of the park improvement program to be financed by the dedicated millage.

Wilms stated that she has observed that the drainage system at Beverly Park is working well.

Greening distributed copies of a page from a “Solutions” catalog that advertises an item called “mosquito dunks”. When floated on water, they release a species-specific, bio-control agent that kills mosquito larvae for up to 30 days. Pasieka will look into this product for use in the park.

Greening looks forward to the attendance of the new Council liaison that will be appointed following the recent election.

Motion by O’Reilly, seconded by Davis, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Patricia Greening, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Board**

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary**