

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

Absent: Wilms

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy
Council Liaison, Schmitt
Council member, McCleary

Chairperson Greening called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the pavilion at Beverly Park.

APPROVE MINUTES

A correction was made on page 2, to change the last paragraph to read as follows: "Schmitt related that he believes that the Parks and Recreation Board will need to hold a public hearing on the updated Park Master Plan when it is ready for consideration and adoption."

Motion by Davis, seconded by O'Reilly, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on June 19, 2003 be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STATUS SLED HILL PROJECT

Murphy reported that construction of the handrail system on the sled hill will begin next week. He will follow up on an inquiry as to how the contractor will identify the exact location of the handrails.

Greening questioned whether funds will be available for plantings on the sides of the sled hill. Murphy mentioned that the Village will receive word in August on whether it will receive a grant from Lowes for material to build the sled hill steps. O'Reilly estimates the cost of material to be \$8,000-\$9,000. Labor will be provided by volunteers.

Greening suggested that photographs be taken to document the progress of the sled hill improvements from start to finish. O'Reilly related that a photographic account of the project is required as part of an Eagle Scout project.

PARK OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM BROCHURE

Harmon did research on tree and shrub species and chose eight different varieties that he recommends for planting in Beverly Park to replace diseased Ash trees that will be removed. It was suggested at the last meeting that guidelines be prepared on preferred species and cost of purchase and planting for distribution to people who want to donate money to plant a tree in the park.

The trees and shrubs selected by Harmon are as follows: Balsam Fir, Concolor Fir, Sugar Maple, American Hornbeam (Ironwood), American Beech, White Cedar, Cranberry Viburnum, and Doublefile Viburnum. The costs of the trees and shrubs will vary with the species and size.

Donations will also be accepted for a picnic table, charcoal grill, park bench, or trash receptacle. Assistant to the Manager Pasioka has prepared descriptions and cost information on these items and drafted wording for a brochure describing a “Park Opportunities Program” as a tool for accepting donations for park improvements. He will be working on preparing the brochure.

PARK MASTER PLAN REVIEW

Review and updating of the Park Master Plan will resume at an upcoming meeting after Board members receive a revised copy of the document incorporating changes suggested at the June meeting.

PARK CONCERT SERIES

The Wednesday, July 16 Concert in the Park featuring the Sun Messengers was well attended and a great success. There was agreement that Wednesday evenings are a good time for the concerts. Board members thanked Nagle for her efforts in organizing the event.

Nagle commented that it helped to publish the summer concerts dates in the Village calendar with the names of the bands. The concert was advertised on cable television, in the Birmingham Eccentric, and in the Birmingham Eagle publication. The next concert will be held in the park on Wednesday, July 23 featuring the John D. Lamb Band.

BRICK SALES

Davis reported 19 new orders for personalized paving bricks and expects more. She will bring order forms to the next concert in the park.

PARK RANGER – JONATHAN KELLY

Murphy remarked that Jonathan Kelly could not be present tonight. Kelly was employed this summer to help maintain the new park improvements in terms of picking up debris, weeding and taking care of landscaped areas, raking the playground safety material into place, working on the ball fields and picking up trash.

Murphy provided background information on Kelly stating that is he is from Pittsburgh and is a student at Duquesne University studying Theology and Divinity and playing baseball for Duquesne. Kelly is living in the Village this summer and has experience doing landscape work.

REQUEST TO RESERVE PARKING FOR PAVILION RENTALS

Murphy commented that improvements made to the park last year and resulting activity has increased the use of Beverly Park. Two individuals who rented the park pavilion this summer have complained to administration that parking was not adequate for their guests. They thought that the fee for pavilion rental should include the use of reserved parking spaces. Murphy brought these comments to the attention of the Board for consideration.

The Board discussed the matter and came to the conclusion that it would be difficult to limit or regulate the use of a public parking lot. Reserved parking would not receive support from residents who use the park. It was also noted that state grant funds were used for parking lot improvements, which may preclude restrictions on its use.

WINDMILL CONSIDERATION

Greening referred to an article in the Eccentric newspaper about the use of a Koenders Windmill as an effective aeration system for the park pond. She and Don Greening propose that the Parks and Recreation Board consider the windmill idea as a viable means to aerate the water and keep fish and plants growing in the pond. Greening related that this suggestion was met with interest by Murphy and Spallasso. Input from Board members was requested. If the Parks and Recreation Board agrees to research this aeration method, Spallasso will contact representatives of the company and have them out to explore whether their windmill system would work in the Beverly Park pond.

It was explained that the windmill captures air and forces it down through poly tubing creating bubbles at the bottom of the pond, which help to aerate and circulate the water.

Nagle questioned the physical look of the windmill structure in the serene pond area. Greening suggested that the windmill would look more in keeping with the pond setting than a fountain that would require pumps and electricity.

Harmon voiced concerns with the windmill concept. He noted that the pond is surrounded by trees, and prevailing westerly winds render the pond flat most of the time. A 5 MPH wind is required to operate the windmill. His greater concern is that moving water through aeration would stir up the excessive sediment in the pond and worsen the muddy conditions.

Harmon proposes asking an independent party, such as a pond expert, whether aeration would benefit the pond before inviting the windmill company representatives to look at the pond. The Michigan State University extension service has individuals available for consultation who are knowledgeable about pond environments. O'Reilly mentioned that a pond expert from MSU is named in the park master plan.

Administration will research this idea further with a pond expert from MSU and bring information back to the Board for further discussion.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Schmitt reported that he confirmed with Spallasso that plant material, paving, and other construction in the park has a one-year warranty from the date the Village accepts the project. Spallasso indicated that the job has not yet been accepted, and the Village is working on getting the contractor back to address "punch list" items, which will be evaluated before final acceptance.

The Board was asked to approve proposed wording for a plaque on the new gazebo constructed near the pond.

Motion by O'Reilly, seconded by Davis, to approve the following wording for the gazebo plaque and direct administration to proceed with the project:

*Beverly Park Gazebo – 2003
From the generous gift of Stuart W. Westcott and in memory of William J. Pfeifer, Jr.*

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Murphy reported that the Bob Nichols memorial bench has been temporarily placed at the north side of the playground.

Murphy informed the Board that the Village went out for bids for the removal of 60 Ash trees in Beverly Park that were known to be diseased at the time of the survey. Another 27 diseased Ash trees were identified between the survey and bid dates. A park tree survey shows that there are 150-200 Ash trees in the park.

J.H. Hart was the low bidder for removal of 60 trees at a cost of \$18,000. Alternatives were discussed with the contractor following the bid opening. Murphy related that he will be working out details to close off the park this winter and have the contractor remove diseased trees on a time and materials basis. The contractor is willing to extend the Village's current contract with him at \$95/hour to cut down and remove trees. The bid submitted assumed a rate of \$150/hour for tree removal. Murphy will keep the Board advised on this arrangement.

The Parks and Recreation Board approved the following wording for bronze Dodge Brothers Park plaque to be displayed in the park.

Dodge Brothers State Park No. 6
Established
Dec. 13, 1922
Howard B. Bloomer
President
Dodge Brothers Corp.

BOARD COMMENTS

O'Reilly commended Cynthia Nagle for a fabulous job on the first concert in the park. He looks forward to the next three concerts. O'Reilly has heard a number of positive comments on the new lost & found pole constructed by Don Greening.

O'Reilly commented that he hopes that there is more discussion on the Village becoming a city. Greening concurred.

Harmon observed that there are several big chunks of concrete in the grass between the playground and pavilion chimney area. He noted the poor condition of the grass.

Harmon asked if the level of the dam at Riverside Park is controlled by the Village and whether it has been lowered. Murphy responded that the level of the dam is not controlled, but that dry conditions may contribute to the low level. Harmon has observed that silt in the pond is building up at an accelerated rate. Consideration should be given to what will happen with that area.

Harmon commended Nagle on the great attendance at the band concert in the park last night.

Nelson referred to the Parks and Recreation revenue and expense work sheet and noted the over-expenditure on contracted repair and maintenance in the park. Murphy explained that this is a general fund expense that reflects more work done in the park from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 than was budgeted.

Nelson questioned whether the yellow posts at the gate to the park road could be replaced with a wood posts for a friendlier look. The comment was made that wood posts could be easily knocked over. The suggestion was made to paint the posts green to make them less conspicuous.

In answer to an inquiry, Nelson was informed that Mike Vargas is the officer assigned as bicycle officer this summer for the public safety department.

Davis commented that there were people attending the concert last night who brought dogs into the pavilion area, which is not allowed. She suggested posting a “no dogs allowed” sign. Members agreed that people should at least pick up after their dogs.

Nagle thanked everyone for promoting the summer concert and asked for continued support and publicity for the events. Greening concurred that the concert last night was wonderful.

Motion by O’Reilly, seconded by Harmon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Motion carried.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary**