

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

Absent: 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 municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES

The figure in the motion at the bottom of page one was corrected to read "\$7,750".

Motion by O'Reilly, seconded by Harmon, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, February 19, 2004 be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Schmitt of 18103 Riverside Drive commented that there is an immediate need to have a landscape plan prepared for Beverly Park. He understands that landscaping was to be the final priority improvement project for completion of the Park Master Plan. However, there has been a great deal of publicity relative to trees being removed from the park due to the emerald ash borer. A tree planting program is being formulated, and there is an urgent need for a plan to identify the cultivar, size, and location of trees to be planted in the park.

Harmon stated that he will address this topic as part of the Park/Village tree planting program agenda item.

PARK/VILLAGE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

At its February 19, 2004 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board accepted an assignment from Council to develop a Village-wide program to encourage residents to plant trees in the community. Harmon reported that he met with Stan Pasieka and Judd Hart from J.H. Hart Urban Forestry last week to discuss ideas to encourage tree planting by residents. Three concepts were put forward for consideration.

Proposal A – Beverly Hills would pool its buying power with the City of Birmingham to secure a reduced rate for trees. Residents could choose from a list of cultivars and then order and pay for a tree. Trees would be delivered to the Village, and residents would pick them up and plant them on their property. A packet of information on how to plant and care for the trees would be provided to residents.

Proposal B – The Village would buy an assortment of trees, store them at a location in the Village, and have residents pick out and buy a tree. The resident would take the tree home and plant it.

Proposal C – The Village would arrange with one or more nurseries to receive a discount for customers identifying themselves as Beverly Hills residents. Residents could choose a tree from a list of trees approved by the Village and receive a substantial savings.

The pros and cons of each of the proposals were discussed. Proposal A involves some risk to the Village in terms of bringing the trees ordered by residents to a central point and having them picked up. There would be less storing and caring for trees than with Proposal B. With Proposal B, the Village would purchase, store, and care for an assortment of trees until residents pick them up. Proposal C eliminates the Village's responsibility and places the burden of tree warranty on the nursery. The Village needs only to establish the program and publicize it.

Murphy remarked that the idea of a tree planting program was not only to plant trees in the park and public rights-of-way but to encourage tree planting on private property.

Harmon concurred that a plan should be put in place to encourage people and make it easier for them to plant trees now that there is so much public concern about trees lost to the emerald ash borer. A comprehensive tree program is needed that includes a list of preferred trees to be planted because they will do well in the area. There may be a specific list of trees that are appropriate for planting in the rights-of-way and another list of cultivars for Beverly Park.

There were questions about grants and state funding. Murphy stated that Oakland County has declared a state of emergency and is seeking federal and state funds for trees lost to the emerald ash borer that would cover 97.5% of the total cost of replacement trees. With the Governor's support, this appeal will go to Washington D.C. for consideration.

Pasioka related that application has been made for a DTE Grant that would result in a total of \$10,000 for tree planting. The Village also applied for a State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant. It was noted that the scoring system favors communities that have been designated as a "tree city".

It was determined that Beverly Hills may be able to qualify as a "tree city" since current requirements state that the municipality must spend \$2 per capita annually on trees. In addition, the community must adopt a tree care ordinance that establishes a tree board as a body that creates a tree planting plan and the community must observe Arbor Day.

The Board discussed the cost of trees and the merits of a nursery planting the trees and offering a guaranty in lieu of the homeowner planting the trees. It was suggested that residents could preorder and have a choice of different types of trees available at a discounted rate. They would pay the cost in advance and know the delivery date.

Nelson suggested offering a similar service as provided to Birmingham residents where J.H. Hart Forestry comes through the neighborhoods with a large truck and plants trees. The tree planting service would result in additional cost.

Pasioka commented that this was the subcommittee's initial attempt at arriving at a tree planting plan. He asked if Board members prefer a particular plan or a combination of methods that could

be further refined by the subcommittee and brought back to the Board for consideration at its next meeting.

Board members discussed how to proceed. There was agreement to remove Proposal B from consideration. There was interest in creating a fourth proposal that combines Proposals A and C but with the trees dropped off in front of the resident's home.

It is the intent of the Board to forward a recommendation on a tree planting proposal to Council before its May 18 meeting. The plan may include a recommendation that Beverly Hills become a tree city and encourage residents to purchase trees by residents through a recommended proposal.

Harmon envisions a Tree Board preparing a list of trees that would do well in the Village and in Beverly Park. A program should be established whereby residents could select a tree they wish to donate to the park from a list of recommended trees. Harmon was of the opinion that proceeding with a landscape plan for Beverly Park would be cost prohibitive. The suggestion was made that there may be landscape professionals in the community that would be willing to assist the Village with that undertaking.

DISCUSS PAVILION PLANS – PATRICK WESTERLUND

Patrick Westerlund with Westerlund Architects introduced himself to the Board. He has been awarded the contract to provide design and construction documents for renovations to the Beverly Park pavilion. Westerlund asked for input from the Board on its goals and objectives for the pavilion prior to developing plans.

Direction from the Board included: Replacement of the roof for functionality and aesthetics; Update lighting; Increase electricity; Larger, barrier-free bathrooms; and Sink and countertops in the storage room. It is a goal to restrict cut-through traffic through the pavilion. There was interest in an enclosure for inclement weather. Aesthetics are important, and Board members want the pavilion to look good from the street. There was agreement that the pavilion should reflect the character of the Village.

There was discussion on several of the elements. Westerlund commented that one of his tasks will be to provide costs so that the project can stay within budget while considering alternatives. He will advise the Board of details and pertinent factors as the project progresses.

Murphy stated that Westerlund will be working with the Parks and Recreation Board at its next two meetings. It is anticipated that the Village will go out for bids in June and start construction in late August or early September. Pavilion reservations will not be accepted past August 15. This will allow two months for construction so that the pavilion can hopefully be completed by the Halloween Hoot at the end of October.

RESCHEDULE APRIL MEETING TO THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2004

The April meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was rescheduled to April 22 due to spring break.

PAVILION RENTALS – YMCA DAY CAMP

The Village is in receipt of a letter dated March 1, 2004 from Linda Brooks, Senior Program Director of the Birmingham YMCA requesting the use of Beverly Park for its school age day camp based in Beverly Park from Monday, June 14 through Friday, August 20. Pasieka mentioned that the YMCA camp plans a number of day trips and activities away from the Park each week. In answer to an inquiry, Pasieka stated that the Birmingham YMCA was charged a \$640 fee for use of Beverly Park facilities for its summer day camp, which included a \$100 damage deposit. The charge covers park opener and closer fees.

It was the consensus of the Parks and Recreation Board to allow the Birmingham YMCA to continue to use Beverly Park this summer for its day camp activities. The YMCA was asked to provide written documentation on the ratio of supervisors to children and to indicate whether that ratio is maintained. The camp group will be asked to keep the bathroom facilities in good order. The YMCA camp performance will be evaluated at the end of the season according to past practice.

THREE LARGE GROUP SURVEYS FOR 2004

There were no objections to the three large group event planning forms submitted for review.

BRICK SALES

Davis reported on the recent personalized brick order for the park entranceway. There were 10 - 4” x 8” bricks and 14 of the larger bricks sold.

LIAISON COMMENTS

New liaison assignments were made this week following the Village Election. Dan McCleary will be the Council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

O’Reilly suggested an agenda item for next month’s meeting, which would be to discuss recognition of individuals who have contributed to the park. There is a plaque hanging in the municipal building lobby where the names of these people could be displayed. He proposed that Board members nominate individuals to be recognized for their contribution to parks and recreation in the Village.

O’Reilly invited Board members to attend Andy O’Reilly’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on Wednesday, April 28 at Groves High School.

Davis announced that artist Darryl Trott has offered a floral piece to be raffled off with ticket proceeds going to support the Beverly Hills Garden Club’s mission to replace ash trees throughout the community that have been lost to the emerald ash borer. The tickets are \$10 each. The floral watercolor worth \$575 will be raffled off on March 19 at a reception at the Avenue Gallery in Birmingham.

Greening thanked Comeau Equipment Company for taking down the Christmas decorations in the park. She hopes that the tree stumps in the park will be removed by J.H. Hart.

In answer to an inquiry from Greening, Murphy stated that the fencing on the sled hill was installed in accordance with the approved plans.

Motion by Davis, seconded by O'Reilly, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Motion passed.

Patricia Greening, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary