

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

Absent: Davis

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy
Council Liaison, McCleary

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 13, 2004 AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 3, 2004

Motion by O'Reilly, second by Harmon, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on May 13, 2004 and a Special Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on June 3, 2004 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE

Patrick Westerlund of Westerlund Architects reviewed changes incorporated in the pavilion plan following the discussion at a June 3 Parks and Recreation Board meeting. The color schemes for the pavilion and restrooms were discussed and agreed upon. The next step will be to seek Council approval and go out for bids. Construction can begin following the final pavilion reservation, which is August 15. Board members thanked Westerlund for his work on the pavilion design.

PARK CONCERT SERIES

Nagle reported that bands are scheduled and have received a deposit for summer concerts in Beverly Park. There was discussion at the last meeting on the most cost effective way to distribute flyers to publicize the concerts. Nagle related that the Birmingham Eagle will insert flyers in its newspapers if the Board provides them with 6,400 copies of the sheet to be sent to the entire 48025 zip code area, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

Arrangements will be made for Board members to use the copy machine at the Village office to reproduce the flyers on paper purchased from money budgeted for summer concerts. The flyers will be delivered to the Birmingham Eagle office by Friday, July 2.

It was suggested that handouts for donating trees through the Park Opportunities Program as well as order forms for purchasing a brick be available at the concerts. Nagle will make announcements about these programs at the concerts. She will attend a Council meeting to publicize the events and contact BCTV about advertising the concerts on municipal cable channel 15. The summer concert banner will be displayed on the Beverly Park fence.

TREE DISCUSSION

Harmon reported that he and Pasieka have been marking locations and types of trees to be planted in conjunction with two grants received for tree planting in the park. Comments and suggestions were forthcoming from Board members. It was proposed to plant trees in the sled hill area. Questions on the Village's matching funds for these grants were addressed by Murphy. Harmon will prepare a flyer on the tree donation program for distribution at the summer concerts.

BALL FIELDS

The Board tabled discussion of ball field improvements at its last meeting and asked the subcommittee to research additional options for preparation of plans and specifications for the improvements.

O'Reilly stated that he spoke with John Mooney, who is active with the Beverly Hills Little League, about his ideas for the ball fields and particularly the south diamond used by the Little League. He asked Mooney to explain what he hopes to accomplish in terms of his vision for the ball fields.

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire understands that the proposal before the Board is for a landscape architect to prepare a schematic plan and drawings for ball field improvements at a cost of about \$7,000. It is his opinion that the money would be better spent in other ways. The question is what steps to take in order to build a field. Mooney suggested that there are plans and information available on the Internet at no charge that can be researched for ideas on how to construct ball fields. He anticipates that a couple of the improvements needed at the south diamond can be accomplished with Eagle Scout projects over the next two or three years. Mooney maintains that the money being considered for engineering and preparing plans would be better spent on new materials for the improvements. He outlined what he thought needed to be done in terms of improvements to both ball fields. Mooney suggested that the Board postpone spending any money until it has some other proposals from the Little League. He thought that spending \$2,500 on the fields now would be an interim fix that would last two years.

Murphy related that the original master plan for improvements to the two ball fields was estimated to cost \$158,000. The work included improving the infields by breaking up the crusher dust, adding additional material, installing clay brick mounds and batter boxes, doing a slight rotation on the north field as well as new backstops and infield fencing, canopies for the dugouts, re-grading the north and south outfields, and irrigation systems. The plans were revisited with each item reviewed. The outfield work and sprinkling system were removed from the plan. There is currently \$72,000 allocated for the baseball diamonds.

Murphy spoke with a number of contractors that do this type of work, and they all had different perspectives and solutions as to what can and should be done. He talked to a representative from Grissim Metz Andriese Associates, a pre-eminent baseball field landscape architect in southeast Michigan. The individual surveyed the situation and offered suggestions that seemed in line with the project description. Murphy thought that

the cost of plans and specifications would be worth receiving quotes on the same work from each contractor who bid on the project. Grissim Metz had three contractors in mind that they thought would be able to do this project well and with fair and reasonable prices. The architect would work with the subcommittee and Board on its ideas for the fields.

There was a lengthy discussion on the ball field improvements and whether engineering plans are required for the project. There were members who were uncertain about recommending acceptance of the \$7,200 proposal from Grissim Metz. Harmon maintained that the Board is not just considering purchase of engineering drawings. It would be hiring an architect to prepare schematic drawings and specifications, assist with the bid process, and oversee construction to insure it meets specifications including rotation of the north field.

Murphy informed the Board that he has requested proposals from two other companies that are reputable in terms of baseball field landscape architect work. Quotes have not yet been received. Murphy indicated that he had more than one contractor come out and take a look at the fields, which resulted in generating cost estimates for each portion of the work plan. The timetable for preparing plans, going out for bids, and getting the work done was discussed.

Murphy suggested the design-build process as an alternate approach for this project. Design-build is a system of contracting under which one entity performs both architecture/engineering and construction under one single contract. It was the consensus of the Board that Murphy proceed in the direction of locating a design/build firm for the ball field work. This may be the preferred way to proceed considering that there is a need for proper specifications and documentation but not a large amount of engineering involved with this project. Murphy will proceed with a “Request for Qualifications” process.

Motion by O’Reilly, second by Harmon, that the Parks and Recreation Board request that Village administration undertake bids under a design-build process as opposed to contracting with architectural landscape engineers for Beverly Park ball field improvements.

Motion passed.

LARGE GROUP SURVEY FOR AUGUST 7, 2004

There were no objections to the large group event planning form reviewed by the Board for use of the pavilion on August 7.

Greening related that a contractor was out to look at the tennis courts and provided literature and cost estimates on resurfacing the tennis and basketball courts. Copies of the material were distributed to Board members. Murphy related that a contractor was out last fall and quoted on two options for improving the tennis and basketball courts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Schmitt stated that new surfacing is needed on the main path in the park.

LIAISON COMMENTS

McCleary suggested preparation of a maintenance schedule for the park that corresponds with the budget set aside for park maintenance.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Murphy stated that the Village does regular inspections of the playground equipment and safety surfacing. An order has recently been placed for additional safety surfacing. There is an administrative maintenance plan in place due to liability issues.

Murphy commented that there are a few things that could be done better in the park in terms of maintenance, but it comes down to finances. The services of an intern were used last summer to keep the park picked up. This summer the Village is working with Comeau Equipment Company to do some of that work.

BOARD COMMENTS

O'Reilly related that former Board member Ann Woodman was told by Lillian Dean that invasive plants are taking over at Douglas Evans. O'Reilly suggested that this be an agenda item for an upcoming Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Ann Woodman also suggested that plans for proposed park improvements be displayed at the pavilion in conjunction with the Beverly Hills Garden Walk scheduled to take place this weekend.

Nelson made the comment that Parks and Recreation Board members are doing what they think is best for the park and the community. They are exploring all options in terms of park improvement projects.

Greening questioned the hours that the restrooms in the pavilion are open in the summer. She understands that the bathrooms are being closed at 2:30 p.m. rather than in the evening. Murphy thought that the restrooms were to remain open until the evening hours.

Motion by Harmon, second by Nagle, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Motion passed.

Patricia Greening, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary