

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

Absent: Wilms

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka
Council Liaison, McCleary

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Davis, second by O'Reilly, that the minutes of a regular Parks & Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, September 16, 2004 and the minutes of a joint meeting of Council and the Board held on September 16, 2004 be approved as submitted.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Mooney of 19111 Devonshire commented that she is looking forward to the Halloween Hoot, another wonderful event in Beverly Park.

Phil Schmitt of 18103 Riverside Drive referred to a comment made by a resident at the last Council meeting suggesting that the Halloween Hoot should be restricted to Village residents. Schmitt related that State Law requires the park to be open to everyone. In addition, the deed granting the land to the State of Michigan, the Township, and then Beverly Hills requires the park to be open to all people.

Schmitt stated that there was an article in a recent issue of the Birmingham Eagle newspaper about the entranceway to the Orchard Lake Road corridor. A rendering of the entranceway shows that it is the same design as the Beverly Park entrance archway.

UPDATE ON PAVILION RENOVATION

Architect Pat Westerlund displayed a revised design for the Beverly Park pavilion renovation. The new plan retains aspects of the original design that Board members were most interested in preserving while scaling down other areas to reduce the cost of construction to come closer to the amount budgeted for the job.

After much deliberation on the plan and budget restrictions, the proposed scheme downsizes the terrace to half its original size. The masonry wall surrounding the terrace has been replaced with aluminum wrought iron fencing between brick piers. The current flagpole and paver brick area will not be relocated. Westerlund outlined some of the other cost cutting measures in the new plan.

The existing building will be renovated and a new connecting structure built, which will retain the look of the corridor between the buildings with trusses. Westerlund highlighted

changes from the previous plans in terms of pedestrian traffic and access to the pavilion. The walkway will be widened to seven feet from the parking lot to a certain point leading to the playground. Questions and comments from the Board were addressed by Westerlund. A few additional suggestions will be incorporated into the plan.

Landscaping is not included in the bid specifications because the Village Woman's Club is considering a grant to the Village for landscaping. Bids from the three contractors on the revised plan were estimated at \$246,000, \$213,000, and \$281,000. The initial budget for the pavilion project was \$150,000 to which \$60,000 was added from the pond improvement budget, which will bring the total amount available at this point for pavilion renovation to \$210,000.

Westerlund commented that he would be comfortable with the middle range bid. He suggested that some of the construction elements be separated in the bid proposals. Greening remarked that the pavilion design has been trimmed down as far as possible without eliminating all of the elements that the Board wants to preserve.

Westerlund will need some time to carry out all the changes approved by the Board into the finished drawing. He suggested that the Village bid this out with a construction start date of Spring. This will eliminate concerns about winter conditions and also give the Board additional time to raise funds.

Motion by Nelson, second by O'Reilly, to accept the architectural plan for the pavilion renovation as designed by Pat Westerlund.

Motion passed unanimously.

Pasieka noted that Planning Board member and landscape architect George Ostrowski has indicated a willingness to work with Westerlund on a landscape plan for the park pavilion area. Westerlund stated that he would appreciate Ostrowski's input and assistance in helping refine and develop a landscape plan to present to the Woman's Club for funding.

Board members received a handout on Parks and Recreation Board funds that are available for use on the park improvement program. Greening received from Finance Director Wiszowaty an accounting of funds remaining in the budget for park improvements. It appears that there is \$390,000 available in park related accounts.

UPDATE ON BALL DIAMONDS

O'Reilly reviewed that the original bids received for upgrading the baseball fields far exceeded the budget for this project. The Board reduced the original scope of the project to \$72,500. Specifications were prepared for new backstops and fencing as well as dugouts for both the north and south diamond and installing bleachers on either side of both fields. Administration sent the specifications out for bids and received only two solid bids. One was a combined bid from the same fencing company that worked on the

sled hill along with C&H Landscape. There was a second bid. The bid amounts were \$196,000 and \$160,000.

Expectations were scaled back to omit the renovation of outfield grass area. It was thought that bleachers could be purchased and installed for less than the \$15,000 quoted for two sets of bleachers. A revised scope of the project including new backstops, fencing, and dugouts would bring the cost down to \$96,000 from one contractor and \$120,600 from the other. The problem still exists as to what can be done and how much is available to spend on ball field upgrades.

Pasieka has had discussions with representatives from the Birmingham Public Schools, Birmingham Parks and Recreation Department, West Bloomfield, Berkley and Southfield regarding ball field renovation and maintenance. Each one of them has indicated that their community maintains the fields but do not put a lot of money into the ball fields in terms of upgrades. An individual from BPS is willing to meet with Village representatives in November to look at our fields and provide a recommendation on what improvements might be done. His suggested approach was for the Village to consider doing this work on the baseball fields on a piecemeal basis.

O'Reilly has had discussions with representatives of Little League baseball. The recommended approach is to obtain bids from fencing companies on work for the north diamond in terms of backstops, fencing and dugouts. The south field is a little league diamond, and that group has volunteers available who are willing to help with the improvements. O'Reilly envisions hiring a company to help with the south diamond backstop. Some of the other work on the south field such as dugouts, benches, extra fencing and bleachers could be done with volunteer labor.

Pasieka related that ball fields will deteriorate if they are not maintained each year. Greening emphasized that additional money needs to be allocated to the Parks and Recreation budget to maintain the improvements made with dedicated millage funds.

O'Reilly concluded that his committee and administration will continue to look at cost estimates for improving the ball fields. His approach will be to acquire more input from knowledgeable individuals on what is needed to upgrade the Village ball diamonds.

HALLOWEEN HOOT UPDATE

The Halloween Hoot will be held this coming Sunday, October 24 at Beverly Park. Topping and gutting of pumpkins takes place between 10 a.m. and noon followed by carving until 2:00 p.m. Trick or treating begins at 6:00 p.m. There will be an enchanted forest and troubadours this year. Shrek and his girlfriend Fiona will make an appearance. Greening commented that she is thankful to the Groves High School thespians for their help. She looks forward to seeing Parks and Recreation Board members at the Hoot.

BRICKS AND DONATIONS

Davis reported that brick sales continue to come in. She will bring order forms to the Halloween Hoot. Greening related that Parks and Recreation has made a net amount of about \$27,000 from brick sales.

LIAISON COMMENTS

McCleary concurs that the Halloween Hoot is not just for Beverly Hills residents. He has taken his children to events in other communities and views the Hoot as something Beverly Hills can offer.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka stated that he and Harmon have been working with Chuck Comeau and Judd Hart on arrangements for locating and planting trees purchased through two matching tree grants. Trees will be delivered this week and next week. The next task will be to mark the specific locations for planting 150 trees in and around the park. Those interested in helping to locate spots around the park were invited to the staking meeting on Wednesday, October 27 at 3:00 p.m.

The Alliance Church donated and planted a Honey Locust tree in the park. A memorial plaque will be hung in the pavilion, and a name plate for the Alliance Church will be added to the plaque.

Pasieka distributed a handout depicting an informational sign that is required to be located in Beverly Park near the bioswale as a requirement of the Clean Michigan Initiative matching grant from the State Department of Natural Resources. Board members asked Pasieka to provide clarification on where the funds for the \$700 sign will come from.

BOARD COMMENTS

Each member of the Board thanked Pat Westerlund for his diligent work on the pavilion renovation plan. He has donated a lot of extra time to this project, and the Board has enjoyed working with him.

Board members are looking forward to the Halloween Hoot on Sunday.

Nagle asked about the status of the resident tree planting program. Pasieka responded that administration and Council are investigating the possibility of undertaking this type of program in the spring.

Nelson thanked everyone for working so hard on the park pavilion plan.

Harmon thanked Pasieka for his work on obtaining grants for tree planting in the park. The Village is spending \$40,000 on trees, with half of that being reimbursed by state grant money. The trees will make a huge difference to the landscape of the park.

Board members questioned where the matching \$20,000 portion of the tree grant will come from. Pasieka responded that the Village's share will come from three accounts – the park fund, the local road fund and the major street fund.

Mooney and Schmitt stated that it was their understanding that no money would come out of the park fund for the matching tree grants. Pasieka will verify the accounts that will contribute to the matching grant for purchase of trees for Beverly Park.

O'Reilly thanked administration for its help with research on ball field renovations. He urged everyone to vote on November 2nd.

Greening thanked Pat Westerlund and all Board members for working exhaustively on a pavilion design. Hopefully, there will be information available at the November meeting on revised costs and approval from Council to commence with the project.

Greening suggested that the December Parks and Recreation Board meeting be canceled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary**