

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

Absent: Harmon, Nagle and 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 Nelson, second by O'Reilly, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on January 20, 2005 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Schmitt of Riverside Drive commented that the ice skating areas are firming up in Beverly Park.

GIRL SCOUT PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED GIFT TO BEVERLY PARK

Carol McConnell of 31574 E. Bellvine Trail, Girl Scout cluster director, was present with troop leader Betty Slewenski to request approval of the Parks and Recreation Board to donate a bench to Beverly Park in commemoration of Girl Scout leaders who have passed away. Pasieka provided scout representatives with information on the type of bench that was placed in the park in memory of Bob Nichols. A plaque can be attached to the bench. It will likely be placed near the playground area.

Greening thanked the Girl Scouts for their generous donation.

Motion by Nelson, second by O'Reilly, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council accept the generous donation of the Girl Scouts to purchase a memorial bench for use in Beverly Park.

Motion passed unanimously.

PROPOSED SUMMER CAMPS

Cub Scouts

Pasieka stated that it is time for the Parks and Recreation Board to consider requests to use Beverly Park for summer camps. The Village office will be taking reservations for pavilion rentals beginning on March 1.

The Cub Scouts have asked to use the park for a day camp for 150-300 scouts from Monday, July 11 through Friday, July 15 during the hours of 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be adequate supervision. Pasieka indicated that this will be the third year that the Cub Scouts have used the park for their event. They will not have exclusive use of park

facilities other than the pavilion. The Village would charge the scout organization for the cost of the park opener and refuse removal.

Questions from Board members were addressed by Pasieka. The Board had no objections to the Cub Scout use of the park for that week.

YMCA Camp

The Village is in receipt of a letter from Anne Hauger, Youth and Family Program Director of the Birmingham YMCA, requesting the use of Beverly Park for its school age day camp this summer from June 6 to August 19. Pasieka stated that the YMCA camp plans a number of day trips and activities away from the park each week with the park used as a home base. The YMCA is charged a fee that covers the Village's costs to open the park, clean the restrooms, and remove trash.

It was clarified that families who are not members of the YMCA can use the summer camp for their children by paying a higher fee. Pasieka remarked that there are Beverly Hills residents who participate in the camp. He is looking for direction from the Board on whether to allow the YMCA the use of the park this summer.

Davis stated that she is not in favor of the YMCA using Beverly Park for its summer camp on the basis that it limits the use of the park by the public. Greening added that she heard from absent members Cynthia Nagle and Tami Wilms on this topic. They both have objections to the YMCA using the park on a daily basis from June through August. Wilms has expressed concern that the campers who use the playground sometimes intimidate the younger children playing in the area.

Greening expressed the view that the priority should be to have the park and pavilion available to the public and not allow the YMCA camp to have exclusive use of the pavilion five days a week all summer. She noted that the park will have to be closed for a period of time anyway this summer for pavilion renovation. Greening suggested that the YMCA be asked to look for another location this year.

O'Reilly commented that he does not have a problem with the YMCA camp using Beverly Park as requested. This is a group that provides a benefit to Beverly Hills residents as well as others. He questioned how many objections are received from residents about the YMCA using the park.

Pasieka responded that he is not aware of objections to YMCA use of the park. He believes that concerns about supervision and clean up have been addressed with the organization. If there are any concerns from residents or Board members regarding the program, he could speak to the YMCA Director in order to resolve problems.

McCleary mentioned that he has not heard complaints about the use of the park for the summer camp. He thinks it would be a disservice to a number of people if the YMCA could not use Beverly Park for its camp. The camp is a service to the community and the children.

Motion by O'Reilly, second by Nelson, that the Parks and Recreation Board accept the request for the Birmingham YMCA to use Beverly Park for its summer camp from June 6 to August 19, 2005.

Yes – Nelson and O'Reilly

No - Davis and Greening

Motion fails (2 – 2).

Pasieka will discuss the position of Parks and Recreation Board members with the YMCA Director.

UPDATE ON PAVILION PLAN

Pat Westerlund reviewed that the Board decided at its last meeting to contact the three lowest bidders on the pavilion renovation project and request them to provide additional information about their companies. Profile sheets were sent out to ML Schoenherr, Schoolcraft General Contractors, and AAD Contractors. Members of the Parks and Recreation Board assisted with checking references provided by the contractors and determined that all of the three contractors are reputable. The insurance coverages are up to date on the contractors, and there were no complaints registered with the Better Business Bureau. It was noted, however, that some of the references provided by AAD Contracting were dated.

The two lowest bidders were asked to come in for an interview last Friday, February 11. At that time they were informed that the scope of the project will be reduced to conform to the Village's budget for pavilion improvements. The construction time frame was discussed and the contractors were made aware that work may not begin until August or September of 2005 due to spring weather conditions and/or events in the park. Renzo Spallasso was in attendance at the meeting and indicated that the park is very wet in the spring and construction at that time would tear up the grounds.

Westerlund related that the contractors at the meeting seemed agreeable to the proposed construction schedule and the reduction in the scope of the project. He followed up with a faxed letter to both contractors asking them to sign and return the letter in acknowledgement that 1) the contract execution would be extended an additional 45 days; 2) the scope of the project will be reduced, and 3) construction of the project may not occur until August or September of 2005. Westerlund received a signed response from Schoolcraft Contractors but not from ML Schoenherr. He spoke with a representative from ML Schoenherr and addressed his questions and concerns. As of this evening, Westerlund has not heard back from the low bidder. ML Schoenherr was the low bidder at \$225,900. The next lowest bid was from Schoolcraft Construction at \$249,406.50.

Westerlund proposed faxing another letter to ML Schoenherr giving the contractor an opportunity to respond with a deadline of Monday, February 21 at 5 p.m. If ML Schoenherr decides not to go forward with this construction project, the Board should consider working with Schoolcraft Contractors on reducing the scope to meet the budgeted

amount and proceed with a recommendation to Council. The Board will have to eliminate some aspects of the project that will reduce the cost of construction.

In answer to an inquiry, Westerlund stated that the contractors have estimated that the length of construction from start to finish will be 120 days. In the interviews, the contractors indicated that they could get the job done in approximately 12 weeks.

There was discussion by the Board members and others in attendance regarding a feasible time for start of construction. Spallasso has recommended against spring construction because of wet conditions and the effect of construction on the park. Westerlund suggested closing the park for construction after the first of July instead of waiting until the end of summer. It was suggested that the Village should be flexible with the construction schedule in order to achieve a better price on the project.

Once it has been determined that there is a qualified low bidder who acknowledges the changes that have to be made to the proposal, the Board and Westerlund will sit down with the contractor and work on reducing the cost to meet the budget and forward a proposal to Council with a construction figure. Westerlund received direction from the Board to go forward with Schoolcraft Contracting if ML Schoenherr does not agree to the terms set forth by the Parks and Recreation Board. Westerlund expects to know by the Monday deadline which contractor he should talk to about how to reduce the cost to meet the budget and to determine a time frame for construction.

Pasioka stated that the Village accepts reservations for pavilion rental on March 1 and that there is a need to direct staff as to when the park will be closed for construction.

Pasioka acknowledged Mike Molivar in the audience from Lawncrafters. Westerlund reviewed the pavilion landscaping plan with him.

BRICK SALES

Davis is continuing to receive orders for personalized bricks for the park entranceway.

LIAISON COMMENTS

There were no further comments from McCleary.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasioka stated that the Birmingham Jaycees requested to hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt in Beverly Park on Saturday, March 26. The Village has allocated \$500 in its budget to support of this event.

The Village Woman's Club of Beverly Hills has requested to use Douglas Evans as one of the sites for the Garden Tour scheduled for Sunday, July 10. Administration will study this further before bringing the request to Council for approval.

Pasioka informed the Board that Laverne Cleary has prepared a park clean up flyer for distribution to scouts.

There will be information for residents in the next Villager newsletter regarding an opportunity to purchase trees through the Global ReLeaf program. The list of available trees was published in the newsletter.

BOARD COMMENTS

Greening thanked administration for repairing the light on the flag in Beverly Park. She asked if there was a decision made by Council on whether Parks and Recreation dedicated millage money will be used to fund part of the matching grant for tree replacement in the park. Pasioka stated that Council has not made a decision on this matter.

Motion by O'Reilly, second by Nelson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Motion passed.

Patricia Greening, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary