

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

Absent: None

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Wilms, second by Nagle, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on August 18, 2005 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeffery Pynnonen of 31724 Allerton expressed his appreciation to the Village and the Parks and Recreation Board for giving his son Blake an opportunity to work as part-time park attendant in Beverly Park this summer. It was a good experience, and his son learned a lot. Pynnonen hopes that the Village provides this opportunity to other young people next year.

Pynnonen commented that most of the people who are affected by the configuration of the ball diamonds in Beverly Park prefer to have home plate located along the path. He was informed by the Board that discussion of ball field improvements will be an agenda item, and Pynnonen can relate his concerns at that time.

PAVILION CONSTRUCTION STATUS

Greening outlined the status of the pavilion construction project. Board members expressed concern with the slow progress of work being performed by the contractor. The project has exceeded the 120 day contract period. Pasieka indicated that Building Official Byrwa is monitoring the project and has been in contact with the company regarding timely completion of the pavilion renovation.

Four bid proposals were received for landscaping around the pavilion area. The lowest bid was from Kezko of Lake Orion in the amount of \$11,359. The next lowest bid of \$11,975 was received from LawnCrafters, a business that has assisted the Village with its Beverly Park clean up on a regular basis. It was noted that the difference in the bids appears to be that LawnCrafters included watering the hydro-seeded lawn and landscape materials for six weeks after sowing and planning.

Considering the \$616 difference in the two bids, Board members unanimously recommended that Council accept the bid of LawnCrafters for the reason that the company's crew conducted yard work in the park during Park Clean Up Day for the last three years. Their bid also specifies plant watering for six weeks after planting. It was noted that the contract requires that the landscaping company guarantee the plants for one year.

Motion by Nagle, second by Harmon, to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution for Pavilion Landscaping

WHEREAS, bids were received for the pavilion landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the bid of the second lowest bidder, LawnCrafters LLC, was \$616 higher than the lowest bid; and

WHEREAS, the second lowest bidder is well known to be reputable and helpful to the Parks & Recreation Board, having participated in the last three "Park Clean-Ups", supplying labor and landscaping equipment; and

WHEREAS, LawnCrafters LLC's bid included watering the hydro-seeded lawn and landscape materials for 6 weeks after sowing and planting, which the lowest bid did not include; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Board asserts that watering is crucial for lawn and plant establishment; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available from the landscaping portion of the dedicated millage, as well as the pavilion portion of the dedicated millage and donations for the park renovations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks & Recreation Board unanimously recommends accepting the bid of LawnCrafters LLC, to landscape the pavilion area of Beverly Park, in an amount not to exceed \$11,975.00, said funds coming from the dedicated park millage.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Koss suggested that Pasieka include specific information in his memo to Council regarding the time and cost of labor that LawnCrafters contributed to the Village in terms of sending its crew and equipment to participate in the last three Park Clean Up events.

BALL FIELD BID

O'Reilly reported that a subcommittee consisting of himself and Davis has been working with Village administration on plans and specifications for ball field improvements that will come within the budgetary limitations for this project, which is \$72,500. The proposal before the Board for consideration involves spending most of the budget on taking down and reconstructing fencing as well as painting.

O'Reilly distributed a two-page overview of the plan and a diagram, which he used to describe the project in some detail. The project encompasses improvements to the north diamond only at this time. A separate project for south diamond work will be coordinated with the Little League.

The north diamond will be rotated about 15 degrees to the north so that the left field line is facing the Little League field and not Allerton Road. The fencing along the first and third base line will be taken down. The dugouts will be taken out and reconstructed so that they are behind

the fencing. There will be bleachers on both sides of the field. The fence along the third base line will be extended only about 60 ft. The first base line fencing would go along the line from the dugout to the corner. The outfield fence will be extended approximately 33' to accommodate the 15 degree rotation. Backstop fencing will be altered and painted rather than replaced. The 4' high fencing along the base lines will be increased to 6' high fencing to prevent balls from going over the fence towards the bleachers.

The timetable for this project was discussed. The proposal will go out for bids after approval by the Parks and Recreation Board and Council. Whether the work can be completed before the middle of November is uncertain. There will be a logistical problem with doing the work in the spring because the baseball season begins in April. O'Reilly estimates that the work will take three weeks once the contractor begins.

Questions from Board members on the scope of work were answered by O'Reilly. He emphasized that the existing back stop must be retained in order to stay within the amount budgeted for this project.

Jeffery Pynnonen of 31724 Allerton disagreed with the proposal and suggested that the plan be revised to move home plate near the outfield fence closer to the park path. People would then be able to walk along the path to the ball field. It would bring the activity in the park towards the center of the park and away from Allerton Drive. It would decrease the amount of people who park on Allerton and the threat of balls coming onto the property of Allerton homeowners.

The Board responded that the main obstacle to the plan proposed by Pynnonen is the lack of funds to make major changes to the ball diamond configuration. O'Reilly reviewed that the possibility of moving the existing infield so that it is adjacent to the Little League ball diamond was explored a number of years ago and was determined to cost \$25,000. The total budget for this project is \$72,500, which would be the cost of a new backstop and infield alone.

Board members questioned whether the proposed plan could be accomplished within the budgeted amount. O'Reilly related that he and Pasioka have consulted with the facilities director for Birmingham Public Schools, who has assisted them with formulating a cost effective proposal that can be accomplished within the budget requirements. It is their thinking that the cost can be kept within the budget if most of the money is spent on fencing and painting as opposed to working on the fields, which is something that can be done on a yearly basis through contributions from organizations that use the fields. O'Reilly added that he is confident that the Boy Scouts will assist him with making the necessary improvements to the infield.

Board members discussed the concerns of Mr. Pynnonen. In response to an inquiry, O'Reilly explained that fencing around the ball park and the outfield fencing are necessary to enclose the field and for safety purposes. The proposed plan includes erecting safety fencing and moving the dugouts and will provide additional safety to Allerton residents. It may not be the ideal plan because the Village does not have a large amount of money to spend on the ball fields. Greening added that the Board attempted to be as fair as possible and do the best it could in terms of undertaking park improvements in various areas of the park with the dedicated park millage money.

Wilms remarked that Mr. Pynnonen has made some valid points but observed that there are great advantages of living on Allerton Drive. These include the fact that it is a dead-end street; it is across the street from a park; and there is no parking allowed on the street.

Motion by Harmon, second by O'Reilly, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend proceeding with obtaining bid proposals for renovation of the ball diamonds according to the plans prepared by a subcommittee of the Board.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

ADVERTISING SEPTEMBER 24th SHOWING OF *GHOSTBUSTERS* MOVIE

At its August meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board recommended approval of a request from the Beverly Hills Club for the use of Beverly Park pavilion for an Outdoor Movie Night subject to review by Village administration. The event is being sponsored by the Beverly Hills Club for the families of its employees, but the general public is invited. The movie *Ghostbusters* will be shown on Saturday, September 24th at 8:00 p.m.

Nagle volunteered to assist with publicizing this event in the Village. She will contact the Beverly Hills Club regarding the availability of a flyer. Information on the event will be displayed on the message board sign in front of the municipal building.

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR FUTURE JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL

There were no additional topics proposed for a joint meeting with Council. Several topics had been proposed at the August meeting.

LIAISON COMMENTS

McCleary commented that this will be his final meeting as Council liaison to the Board.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Pasieka clarified that residents Carla Rocz and Pamela Rijnovean had volunteered the use of their gardens for a Garden Tour sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. They donated their portion of the proceeds from the event towards Riverside Park improvements such as signage and/or a picnic table.

BOARD COMMENTS

Davis expressed the hope that the Board can proceed with the baseball diamond improvements in a timely manner.

Nagle thanked Dan McCleary for his work on the Parks and Recreation Board as Council liaison.

Harmon related that he walked through Beverly Park with Stan Pasieka a week ago to determine the wellbeing of new trees planted to replace dead Ash trees. Approximately 20 of the new trees are dead and another 20 are not doing well. Harmon thinks that the tree planting program has been successful considering the number of trees planted and the dry weather. He would like to organize a couple of volunteers to do some selective pruning of the sick trees.

Wilms related a recent incident in Beverly Park during a school picnic where two young children were stung by bees in the woods near the playground. Public safety and an ambulance were called, and the children are ok. It was mentioned that bees are aggressive at this time of the year. Wilms proposed that no sedum be planted in the park for the reason that it attracts bees. Pasieka related that the DPW crew sprayed for bees in that area for three days after this occurrence.

Greening announced that, if anyone wants to plant daffodils along the sled hill, she would be happy to donate a bushel of bulbs. Board members wished Stan Pasieka a happy birthday.

Motion by Wilms, second by Harmon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Motion passed.

Patricia Greening, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary