

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

Absent: Davis

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager - Pasioka
Council members – Burry, Koss, Pfeifer, Rijnovean, Taylor, and Walsh

Chairperson Greening called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Harmon, second by O'Reilly, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on October 20, 2005 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eileen Michalak of 31788 Allerton read a statement signed by individuals representing eight households on Allerton in opposition to installing bleachers along the third base line as part of the ball diamond renovations in Beverly Park. The residents hope that the Parks and Recreation Board members will reconsider their plans and place the bleachers along the first base line. They maintain that locating the bleachers across the street from them would decrease property values, which are already affected by the deteriorating fence and the drainage ditch across from Allerton. Another solution would be for the Village to provide landscaping behind the bleachers that would obstruct the view from their homes.

O'Reilly provided information regarding the size and location of the bleachers. Board members discussed the possibility of planting evergreens to screen the view of the bleachers from Allerton, but indicated that money is not available for this expense. There is only enough money in the Parks and Recreation budget to improve the ball diamonds to the extent that there will be added protection to Allerton residents from foul balls. The remaining park millage money is allocated toward improvements to the tennis, basketball and volleyball courts.

It was questioned whether the Allerton homeowners would contribute towards this landscaping. O'Reilly commented that he would consider approaching the baseball teams and organizations that use the ball diamonds and solicit donations towards landscaping behind the bleachers. He suggested that Michalak and her neighbors look into what types of plantings would be satisfactory and obtain cost estimates in order to provide a target for fund raising.

O'Reilly emphasized that the primary purpose of designing these renovations was to alleviate problems on Allerton in terms of foul balls going into the street and yards. The Parks and Recreation Board is trying to do what is best for everyone with respect to park improvements. Discussion of the ball field project will continue during the joint meeting with Council following this Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

The tenth annual Winter Family Fun Day is scheduled for January 15, 2006 from 1-4 p.m. weather permitting. Schmitt, who is organizing the event this year, reminded everyone that

the Beverly Hills Winter Family Fun Day was recognized in 1999 by the Michigan Municipal League for an achievement award.

Schmitt related that the Parks and Recreation Board spent about \$1,000-\$1,500 per year on the event over the last few years. He thinks we can get by this year with about \$300 by cutting expenses including the cost of the ice sculpture activity. Activities will include winter golf, score-o, skating, curling, sledding, snowshoeing and snow cave building. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the pavilion where there will be a fire in the fireplace. The Parks and Recreation Board looks forward to seeing everybody there.

DISCUSS UNDERSTANDING OF LIAISON ROLE

Greening commented that, after discussion at the October Parks and Recreation Board meeting, she thought that Council liaison Burry was clear on the ball diamond proposal and was in support of the project. Burry voted against awarding the contract for the ball diamond renovations at the November 1 Council meeting. Greening asked what the Board can do to adequately answer Burry's questions so that he can be in sync with the Board.

Burry responded that the definition of a liaison is not an advocate. He serves as a conduit for communication between the Parks and Recreation Board and Council. This does not mean that he will agree with the Board at all times. Burry explained that he supported the ball park renovations proposed, but saw a need for compromise after listening to Allerton residents objecting to the placement of the third base bleachers at the Council meeting. Burry stated that he would have approved an amended proposal that would have included moving the bleachers to the first base line.

Greening stated that the Board would like to be able to address the concerns and answer questions from its Council Liaison if there is a problem. The Board will do its best to do that in the future.

DISCUSS CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 15, 2005 MEETING

Motion by Schmitt, second by O'Reilly, to cancel the December 2005 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

Due to time constraints, the last three agenda items will be discussed at the joint meeting with Council immediately following this meeting. The agenda items are Liaison Comments, Administration Comments, and Board Comments.

Motion by Schmitt, second by O'Reilly, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Motion passed.

Patricia Greening, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary