

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, Burry  
Council members, Rijnovean and Taylor

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

It was the consensus of the Board to add item 2A to the agenda, "Request from RE/MAX to hold a fundraiser in Beverly Park on Sunday, May 21, 2006 benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation".

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Harmon, second by Davis, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on March 16, 2006 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire was present to request that the Village provide the field mix that is needed for both ball diamonds. He commented on the lack of ball diamond maintenance by the Village. The baseball fields are used by over 400 families in the community. The Beverly Hills Little League along with some of the other groups who use the fields to a lesser extent have brought in materials and worked on the fields. The Little League has supplied the breakaway bases and maintains the home plate and pitcher's mound. The organization spent \$2,500 two years ago to fix up the south diamond. He requested that the Village supply the much needed field mix and rake the diamonds regularly. He maintains that communities in the surrounding area maintain their baseball diamonds.

It was estimated that the cost to bring in field mix for the ball diamonds would be \$3,000. Mooney asked the Parks and Recreation Board to recommend that Council allocate funds to purchase field mix and provide minimal maintenance to make the fields playable.

Schmitt questioned whether there was money in the park maintenance account for the field mix. Pasieka responded that the items generally covered in terms of ball field maintenance have included grass cutting and dragging of the diamond once or twice a year.

Janet Mooney recalled that the Village contributed \$1,000 to the Little League in previous years, but discontinued the practice a couple of years ago. She mentioned that the Little League has paid for field mix in the past, but they do not have the money this year.

John Mooney added that the Village used to provide a summer recreation program for children in the community, but it was discontinued. The only organized recreation that occurs in the park

is at the ballfields. Opening day for the Beverly Hills Little League has the largest turnout for any event with the exception of the Halloween Hoot.

O'Reilly supported Mooney's request that the Village provide field mix for the ball fields. It has been his experience that the repair and maintenance of the ball fields has fallen upon the entities that use the fields. The Village cuts the grass and drags the fields occasionally. Greening stated that the Board will bring this request to Council and get back to the Little League. She was informed that Lisa Ross is the current president of the Beverly Hills Little League.

Janet Mooney asked if the schedule for opening the restrooms in the pavilion and the hours of operation can be published in the next *Villager* newsletter.

Greening stated that the restrooms are generally open for the Memorial Day Carnival and closed following the Halloween Hoot in October. It was noted that the opening date for the facility varies due to weather and frost considerations. Porta-johns are provided as a reasonable solution when the Village facilities are not available. Pasioka stated that the plan is to have the restrooms open this coming Monday. He will publish the times and dates for restroom availability in the next newsletter.

Pam Rijnovean commented that information is available at the municipal office regarding Village revenue and expenses as well as the proposed budget.

Dan Nelson of 31311 Sheridan stated that he attended the last Council meeting and heard Gladys Walsh state that the Parks and Recreation Board is supposed to be developing programs. He suggested that Walsh may encourage Council to allocate funding for park programs initiated by this Board.

Janet Mooney related an idea she received from a resident, which was to sponsor a pet adoption in Beverly Park. It would encourage use of the park and draw in people who may not have children or use the park for any other reason. There would be no cost to the Village associated with this event.

Jeff Pynnonen of 31724 Allerton suggested that the Village encourage the YMCA to provide a youth program in the park. Greening responded that the Birmingham YMCA used Beverly Park for a number of years for its summer camp. The continued use of the park for their program was discouraged due to complaints received from residents regarding the lack of supervision of the participants. People believed it to be an unsafe atmosphere.

Rijnovean suggested that an article be placed in the *Villager* newsletter asking residents for suggestions in terms of fund raising events for the park.

**REQUEST FROM RE/MAX TO HOLD A FUNDRAISER IN BEVERLY PARK ON SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2006 BENEFITING THE SUSAN G. KOMEN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION**

Mary Gentry and Mary Kay Buckley were present on behalf of RE/MAX Title Company requesting the use of Beverly Park to hold a fundraiser on May 21 to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. People who come and donate to the Breast Cancer Foundation can have their kids take free tethered balloon rides from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. weather permitting. The event will be called “Pink Up the Town” because people who attend will be decorating pink ribbons to line the Race for the Cure route on June 10, 2006.

The tethered balloon rides will be held at the ball field or sled hill area. Gentry stated that Susan Tedesco, owner of RE/MAX Showcase Homes, has sponsored the tethered air balloon rides in Beverly Park at the Memorial Day Carnival. She distributed pictures of the event. This fundraiser is being sponsored by RE/MAX Showcase Homes Metropolitan Title Company, First Advantage Mortgage, and Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors.

Questions and comments from the Board were addressed by the RE/MAX representatives. RE/MAX has reserved the park pavilion for May 21. They are working on reaching out to the local schools to help spread the word and will be sending flyers to past clients, family and friends. There will be an advertisement in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle newspaper. RE/MAX will provide the Village with a Certificate of Insurance with the Village named as an added party insured.

Pasieka stated that Village Administration has no objections to the event contingent on the proper insurance being provided to the Village. He reiterated that RE/MAX has provided the tethered balloon ride successfully in the park during the Memorial Day event. Taylor stated that he would encourage and support an event like this.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend Council approval of a request from RE/MAX Showcase Homes Metropolitan Title Company for use of Beverly Park on Sunday, May 21, 2006 to hold a Hot Air Balloon fundraiser benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation subject to submission of insurance certificates and other requisite documents.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

**REVIEW AND CONSIDER THREE LARGE GROUP SURVEYS**

Board members are in receipt of three large group event planning forms. There was a question on the June 17 reservation with regard to erecting a free-standing tent on the brick paver area for additional shelter. Pasieka will contact the individuals about the need for a tent and how they intend to anchor the tent in that area. If there is a problem, the applicant will be required to move the tent to the other side of the pavilion. There were no objections to the events as proposed.

### **DISCUSS RECENT DONATIONS**

There have been recent donations to the Village for park use. Pasieka stated that three individuals present tonight – Dan Nelson, Jeff Pynnonen, and Jack Harmon, along with Ms. Michalak and Mr. Kelly, have donated towards the purchase of evergreen trees to screen the view of the bleachers on the east side of the north baseball diamond from Allerton residents. A number of Arbor Vitae will be purchased and planted between the existing deciduous trees and the fence.

Jeff Pynnonen asked where the trees will be planted and whether there is adequate space for lawn mowing. Pasieka stated that the proposed location was suggested by the Village DPW contractor. In response to Greening's inquiry, Pynnonen stated that Allerton residents will provide water for the evergreen trees.

Another donation was received from Delores Paige on Devonshire, who expressed satisfaction with recent park improvements and wrote a check to the park for \$1,000. Pasieka related that the Senior Men's Club and Ann Bernardini representing the West Beverly Homeowners Association have expressed interest in a donation towards the park.

Pasieka reported on research he has been doing with Greening with respect to selecting a company to use for the purchase of replacement picnic tables for the pavilion.

### **STATUS OF BRICK PROGRAM**

Davis stated that she has an order for 13-\$100 paving bricks and 7-\$50 bricks. Greening proposed that the personalized paving brick program to raise money for the park be continued, which Davis agreed to do.

### **PARK CLEAN-UP MAY 13, 2006**

Harmon will be organizing the efforts of volunteers at the May 13, 2006 Park Clean Up. Scout leader Laverne Cleary has printed and distributed flyers advertising the event. Harmon is expecting confirmation from the Lions Club on whether their group will supply refreshments on that day as they do each year.

Harmon commented that the plants growing in the bio-swale need trimming along with removal of dead material. He suggested that work be done this year to clean up the detention area and bring the plants and weeds under control and that additional planting be considered in the fall or next spring.

Pasieka stated that an individual from LawnCrafters Company has committed to attending the park clean up with a crew. Pasieka asked that the Board line up specific projects for them. He suggested that the crew could cut down and remove dead trees tagged by the Village. Pasieka will contact SOCWA to make sure that there will be a load of compost available for these volunteers to spread. Harmon asked that LawnCrafters be asked to do trimming of trees.

Jeff Pynnonen asked if anything is being done about mosquito control in the bio-swale. Pasieka explained the purpose and operation of the bio-swale and indicated that it should not be necessary to treat the area. The plantings are designed specifically to absorb water. It was noted

that there is a mosquito larvicide product available that is being used in wet areas such as catch basins to control mosquitoes.

### **PARKS & RECREATION EXPOSURE AT CARNIVAL**

The Memorial Day Carnival held at Beverly Park on May 29 is attended by a large number of residents. Greening asked if the Parks and Recreation Board would like to have any exposure at the carnival in terms of setting up a table or tent with Board members present to provide information on parks and recreation and to solicit donations for the park. The carnival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Village Woman's Club sponsors the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival. O'Reilly understands that the person who has organized the parade for a number of years will not be running it after this year. The Woman's Club would like the Parks and Recreation Board to consider organizing the parade and carnival. With respect to this undertaking, Greening commented on the size of the Woman's Club membership compared to the seven-member Parks and Recreation Board.

Wilms thought that having a Parks and Recreation booth at the carnival was a good idea. She proposed that Board members contact Pat Greening within a week if they want to commit to doing this.

### **MOVIE NIGHT ON MAY 27, 2006 IN THE PARK**

A representative from The Beverly Hills Club came before the Parks and Recreation Board at its March meeting requesting to sponsor a movie night in Beverly Park on Saturday, May 27, 2006. The Board reviewed the proposal and recommended that Council approve this event.

Pasieka reported that Council voted unanimously at its April 18 meeting to accept the offer of the Beverly Hills Club to sponsor a movie night in the park. Board members were enthusiastic about this community event.

### **CONCERTS**

Nagle affirmed that there will be four concerts in Beverly Park this summer on Thursday evenings beginning on July 13. She will make an announcement about the fourth band that has been booked at the next Council meeting and thank Hugh Woodrow for funding the August 3 concert. Nagle will make another appearance at a Council meeting in June to promote the music in the park series.

Nagle will be contacting local newspapers about advertising the concerts. She proposed to email the flyer to all Beverly Hills neighborhood association presidents. The flyer will be included in the *Villager* newsletter, which is mailed to every resident.

Greening stated that Parks and Recreation Board members will meet for a picnic dinner in the park prior to each concert.

### **RIVERSIDE PARK PROPOSAL**

Council member Pam Rijnovean and resident Carla Rocz have donated \$1,169.83 to the Village with the request that the money be spent on a new bench and sign for Riverside Park. Board members have received a photograph of the proposed bench and a sheet depicting the design and wording of the sign.

Rijnovean proposed removing the two existing signs at Riverside Park indicating the park hours and replacing them with a larger, attractive sign located near the edge of the water. She has been in contact with Fastsigns of Birmingham. They will produce a sign that duplicates the Village entrance signs in terms of design and color but would be constructed of anodized aluminum. The sign company will install the sign. Rijnovean thought that the dimensions of the sign would be the same as the Village entrance signs.

Greening related that Ann Bernardini, president of West Beverly Homeowners Association, thought that the name of the park should appear in the center of the sign rather than the park hours. Rijnovean responded that she thought that it was important to post the hours of the park, particularly the closing time.

Board members expressed concern that the proposed bench would not be sturdy enough for park use. The benches located in the playground area of Beverly Park are the type of bench that the Board would approve for park use. Members thought that the bench selected by Rijnovean was attractive but more suited toward residential use.

Rijnovean stated that the bench selected fits the scenic setting of Riverside Park. The design for this bench was taken from the large parks in the country at the turn of the century. It is a heavy duty bench that will not rust or need painting. In answer to an inquiry, Rijnovean indicated that Board members can take a look at the proposed bench at Smith & Hawkins or English Gardens stores.

Janet Mooney questioned whether the proposed bench is designed for home or commercial use. She was concerned that the bench selected be constructed with the safety of small children in mind.

Wilms remarked that the Board appreciates this donation towards the park. Many communities decide on items such as benches and trash cans that meet specific specifications as well as being attractive. She questioned the cost difference between the bench Ms. Rijnovean is suggesting and the benches that the Village has been purchasing for the park. Pasioka stated that the cost of the benches in the park are near \$1,000 for an 8' bench. The company also sells 6' benches.

Rijnovean withdrew the proposal for purchasing a bench for Riverside Park.

Motion by Harmon, second by O'Reilly, to recommend that Council approve the sign proposed for Riverside Park to be purchased with money donated by Pam Rijnovean and Carla Rocz.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Rijnovean suggested that a wood box that holds flyers on park events or community activities be located in the park. Board members liked the idea and would be appreciative if a volunteer would construct such a box.

### **LIAISON COMMENTS**

Council liaison Burry stated that the maintenance budget items proposed by the Parks and Recreation Board were reviewed by Council. He concurred that the new park improvements need to be properly maintained, and he recommended that Council increase in the park maintenance budget to cover some of the items. Council will do what it can to find funds to help maintain the park. Burry stated that Council and the Parks and Recreation Board need to work together to maintain the park for the future.

Burry suggested that volunteerism and fund raising be pursued and encouraged in order to defray budget expenses. The Parks and Recreation Board needs to continue to do fund raising and encourage donations. Park capital improvements have not been addressed at budget meetings, and Burry does not know if they will be considered in view of attempts to cut costs and find savings. The General Fund fund balance at the end of the next fiscal year is projected to be close to the 20% of expenses range.

Greening asked Burry if he thinks there is a problem with Council allocating the money needed to maintain the park improvements. She asserted that this group has been working to find funding wherever it can and has done more fund raising than any organization in the Village.

Burry responded that he hoped that there is not a problem with budgeting money for additional park maintenance. He understands that it will cost the Village more in the long run if facilities are allowed to deteriorate.

Greening commented that the Board appreciates Burry's support and hopes to have him in attendance at future meetings.

Rijnovean proposed that volunteers be sought to do things like stain the gazebo. Greening responded that the gazebo was stained by volunteers initially. The \$200 requested is to cover the cost of the stain. Rijnovean proposed asking for volunteers to do other park maintenance.

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Pasieka asked that members provide him with any information they would like included in the next newsletter by tomorrow.

Board members are in receipt of a City of Northville policy regarding insurance. Pasieka explained that the recent request for tethered balloon rides in the park prompted a discussion with the Village's insurance carrier on the topic of risk management. Current litigiousness was a factor. The Northville policy was provided to the Parks and Recreation Board as an example of how another community developed insurance requirements that vary with the particular situation and level of hazard. It should also be recognized that there are some events that do not require a certificate of insurance. Pasieka has asked the Village Attorney to take a look at the Northville policy and provide an opinion.

Rijnovean asked if the porta-johns can be removed from the park. It was explained that the pavilion restrooms are not opened until there is no longer a frost threat. The porta-johns could be removed during the summer months.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Davis stated that she has been working in the garden areas in the park. She commented on the number of people that have been using the park and the pavilion.

Schmitt welcomed President Taylor to his first Parks and Recreation Board meeting. He mentioned that a portion of the new office building on Southfield Road has been leased to Flagstar Bank and suggested that the bank may be interested in making a donation to the park.

Schmitt reviewed that, in 2003, a gazebo was purchased with money donated to the park from the Pfeifer family in memory of Bill Pfeifer and from another resident. The gazebo was assembled primarily by members of the Parks and Recreation Board and Karl Woodard. It was stained by a group of Council members. Schmitt challenged the current Council to re-stain the gazebo.

Nagle commented on some of the negative interaction that occurred at tonight's meeting and made suggestions in terms of conducting a more orderly meeting. She does not want these meetings to be an arena for matters that are going on outside of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Harmon thanked the Council members who attended the meeting. He remarked that the Board talked about \$2,600 worth of gifts to the park at this meeting.

O'Reilly informed the Board that work on the north baseball field is 99% done. The fencing has been installed, dugouts and benches have been installed, the backstop has been painted, and the bleachers were installed today. The contractor leveled out the area in right field and it was seeded and fertilized. There is some maintenance to be done. Over the last few weekends, O'Reilly reconfigured the diamonds, moved home plate and the pitching rubbers, and removed, relocated, and cemented the old foul poles.

O'Reilly commended Pasiaka for keeping on top of the project. He mentioned that he is very satisfied with the contractor. The baseball field improvements will be completed next week weather permitting. O'Reilly confirmed that field mix is needed for the north and south diamonds.

The contractor has consulted with the Board with regard to tennis courts repairs. The Parks and Recreation Board is trying to determine the cost of the improvements needed for the tennis and basketball courts. O'Reilly informed the Board that the contractor's suggestions reveal that the cost of needed improvements will exceed the budgeted amount. The volleyball courts were also evaluated with recommendations made.

Greening asked that the Village purchase gravel so that volunteers can repair the sled hill steps on park clean up day.

Dan Nelson suggested that sanding and staining the wood picnic tables would be a good scout project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

**Ellen E. Marshall**  
**Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard**  
**Recording Secretary**