

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

Absent: Harmon

Also Present: Village Clerk, Marshall
Public Services Director, Meszler
Council member, Koss

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 18, 2006

Motion by O'Reilly, second by Schmitt, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on May 18, 2006 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

COURT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The next park improvement project involves renovation of the tennis, basketball and volleyball courts. O'Reilly reported that he has not received feedback at this point on whether asphalt resurfacing of the basketball courts can be tied into this year's Village road asphalt resurfacing program. The volleyball court work will be accomplished as part of an Eagle Scout project and will cost less than projected.

It has been determined that the tennis courts are in fairly good shape and are in need of a new playing surface with striping. There are only hairline cracks in the cement; larger cracks at the seams or joints could be filled. O'Reilly has been attempting to contact two companies that specialize in renovating tennis courts in order to request that they determine the scope of work and provide cost estimates prior to drafting specifications and seeking Council approval for administration to go out for bids on the project. He will be in the process of making contact with these contractors over the next four weeks to determine what can be done to renovate the courts properly and within the Village's budget constraints. O'Reilly will have more information at the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Village Clerk Ellen Marshall introduced new Public Services Director, Tom Meszler. He has taken a look at the condition of the tennis courts. Meszler questioned the Village's practice for obtaining bids. O'Reilly explained that he will be contacting two tennis court specialist companies and will request that they evaluate the courts in Beverly Park and provide cost estimates for the necessary work. This input will be used to draft bid specifications for a project scope that would come within the budget for the project.

Marshall mentioned that two items were distributed to Parks and Recreation Board members at the start of tonight's meeting. One was an additional large group event request. The other item was a letter and backup material regarding a revised proposal from the Birmingham Patriot Youth Football Board.

DISCUSS REQUESTS FROM BIRMINGHAM PATRIOT YOUTH FOOTBALL BOARD

Carl and Michael Pendracki were present representing the Birmingham Patriot Youth Football Board. Carl Pendracki related that members of the Patriot Board have toured Beverly Park and identified the areas that will offer the greatest safety for the three teams that will begin practicing in August at Beverly Park. The area west of the sled hill, which was originally considered as a practice site was deemed to be unsuitable. Michael Pendracki stated that this area was viewed in January when there was snow covering the ground. A more recent visit confirmed that there were rocks, ridges and standing water in the area, which would not be conducive to a football practice.

Greening remarked that Board members have just received new material regarding the Youth Football League practice sites this evening and have not had the opportunity to review the proposal. Questions from Board members regarding the change in their request for practice field locations were addressed by the Pendrackis.

Michael Pendracki stated that the only other alternative for a practice area is Seaholm High School, which they want to avoid in an attempt to promote a unified football team and practice on a neutral site. The cost and availability of using fields at the high schools for practices was a consideration.

Carl Pendracki referred to a map of Beverly Park on which they designated three practice locations for different age groups including an area east of the sled hill and the outfields of both baseball fields. His letter to the Board dated June 15, 2006 also mentions the need for a storage pod on the site and erection of temporary football goal posts.

Board members discussed the proposal. Wilms stated that she views the youth football league as a service that is needed in the area. The purpose of the park is to be used for activities like baseball and football. She would request that the Patriot organization establish a backup practice location in the event that the Village receives complaints from residents. Carl Pendracki indicated that they would consider an alternate site.

Jeff Pynnonen of 31724 Allerton Drive had several questions regarding the youth league football practice in the park including wear and tear on the park grounds. He asked that the teams be informed that there is no parking allowed along Allerton.

The dates for use of the park for youth football practice would be August 7 through the middle of October or the first week in November if the team makes it to the super bowl.

O'Reilly asked where the conditioning program will be held beginning July 3, noting that the baseball fields will be active at least through the middle of July. Carl Pendracki responded that it is his understanding that conditioning sessions will be held at both high schools.

O'Reilly expressed the view that the Village should allow this organization an opportunity to practice in Beverly Park in the three areas proposed with the understanding that this would be a recommendation for this year only. If it causes damage to the outfield areas of the baseball diamonds that are in use every night of the week for four months, then the Village would not renew the availability of the park as a youth football practice area.

This is a new program for the Birmingham Youth Football Organization, and O'Reilly would like to work with them to get young people involved in being physically active and having an after school activity. His endorsement is tempered by whatever physical effect the football practice will have on those areas, particularly the outfield areas of the baseball diamonds.

Michael Pendracki remarked that Lisa Ross, who is involved with Little League baseball, is also on the Patriot Youth Football Board. Carl Pendracki stated that the Patriot organization will help take care of the grounds so that the park will not suffer from the football practices.

O'Reilly will recommend that the Village Council approve the use of Beverly Park for three youth football practice areas in accordance with the map attached to the letter from Carl Pendracki to the Parks and Recreation Board. He suggested that the organization ask for approval for use of these three practice areas without requesting goal posts or a storage pod.

Motion by O'Reilly, second by Wilms, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council approve the use of the outfield areas for both baseball diamonds and the area east of the sled hill for football practices by the Birmingham Patriot Youth Football League from August 7, 2006 through and including November 7, 2006. The Village will review this use of the park at the conclusion of the football season.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

PROMOTE PARK ACTIVITIES

Nagle asked Board members to spread the word that concerts in the park will begin on July 13. She plans to place signs at the entrance of Village subdivisions.

Resident Jill Sickles remarked that there are many dog lovers in the community, and she suggested organizing an activity in Beverly Park involving dogs. People would bring their dogs to the park for contests such as most obedient and cutest dog. There could be a pet adoption area. Dog treats and commemorative dog tags could be sold with proceeds going towards parks and recreation. Sickles suggested that the event be called "Dog Days of August".

Greening thought that the idea was a good one if Sickles would organize the event or interest someone to help her coordinate a dog day in the park. There was agreement that the event would have to be planned for next summer. It was suggested that Sickles draft a proposal that would outline the event and indicate which part of the park would be used. Council approval is required for any sale of goods in the park. The event organizers would have to provide the Village with a Certificate of Insurance naming Beverly Hills as an additional named insured on the policy.

REVIEW BRICKS

Davis reported that there will be a brick order submitted for 14-\$100 bricks and nine \$50 bricks. She has requested a proposal from the company that provides bricks for the successful program sponsored by the Birmingham Community House. Davis was not pleased with the quality of the bricks that have been supplied by the current company.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER LARGE GROUP SURVEY

There were two large group event planning forms submitted for July 15 and August 26. Board members had questions on the inflatable twister proposed for the July 15 event and whether a Certificate of Insurance is required to bring this into the Park. Marshall described the item in question.

The Board had no objections to the large group events as long as the applicants provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Village as an additional insured to cover the equipment they are bringing into the park. Greening informed Marshall that applicants require insurance coverage any time they bring something into the park that could result in injuries. This should probably be part of the large group event planning form and permitting process.

LIAISON COMMENTS

The Council liaison was not present.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Tom Meszler asked to see information on the tennis courts after the scope of work and preliminary cost estimates have been obtained.

Marshall reported that the Village has employed two park attendants for the summer, Michael Belaustegui and Raechel Tomasino. They each work 15 hours during the week. There is an attendant at the park every day from 8 a.m. until noon on Monday through Friday and until 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The responsibilities of the park attendants include keeping the park, pavilion and restroom areas clean. They will check the playground equipment to be sure it is in proper working order. These individuals will routinely inspect the trail and pull weeds in the park.

Administration has contacted Lawncrafters, the contractor that installed the landscaping around the pavilion last fall, about replacing dead or dying plant material. Mulch has been spread around the plant material.

Marshall stated that the lantern that hung over the arch to the parking lot entrance fell and broke. It is thought that the mishap was caused by wind action over time. The lantern will be replaced and fastened with safety chains.

BOARD COMMENTS

Nagle thought that the park looks great, especially the picnic tables on the patio extending from the pavilion.

Schmitt welcomed Tom Meszler and Ellen Marshall to the meeting. He proposed that Stan Pasiaka's name be added to the plaque displayed in the municipal building lobby that recognizes people who have contributed to the park. Not only was Stan Pasiaka a member of the Parks and Recreation Board, but he was the liaison from Village administration for over 11 years. He provided a great deal of service to the Board and to the parks. The Board was in unanimous agreement to have Stan Pasiaka's name engraved on the plaque.

Schmitt clarified that the noxious weed being pulled at the Douglas Evans nature preserve is the garlic mustard plant or *Alliaria petiolata*. The Parks and Recreation Board was represented at the River Day event at Douglas Evans on June 3 and contributed to efforts to pick up trash and pull noxious weeds.

Davis asked that members take a look at the engraving job on the paving bricks. She is not happy with the quality and suggested that Village administration write to Creative Brick and request that some of the inferior bricks be replaced.

Dustin White outlined a proposal for placing recycling bins in the pavilion to collect items from people picnicking in the park. He had submitted a written proposal to Stan Pasieka. White will be graduating from Groves High School and attending Michigan State in the fall and would only be able to carry on the program until late August or early September. White proposes to collect bottles and cans in recycling containers and use the proceeds for a model business venture. He has an idea for a larger business that involves recycling.

Board members looked favorably on the idea of recycling bottles and cans in the park. However, White was informed that he would have to present his plan to the Village Council for the reason that he is proposing to make a profit from recycling.

Wilms remarked that the trash cans in the pavilion area look good. She has observed bees in the area of the play structure. They are flying into the grooves in the pipes under the structure, where there may be hives. Marshall will have this investigated.

Wilms mentioned that a millage for renovating Beverly School did not include playground equipment or drainage improvements. She would welcome suggestions from anyone on how the school could obtain low-cost advice on how to solve drainage issues on the site.

Greening mentioned that the first wedding in Beverly Park will be held on August 5. She asked if new ground material has been added to the playground area. Meszler responded that he is in the process of making contact with vendors that carry the sterilized wood chips.

Greening stated that it was suggested by Gladys Walsh at the last Council meeting that this Board was not taking care of all of the parks in terms of doing enough for Douglas Evans and Hidden Rivers. The two nature preserves fall within the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Board with restrictions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Patricia Greening, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary