

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

Absent: Davis, Greening

Also Present: Council member, Oen
Public Services Director, Meszler

Chairperson O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Township of Southfield municipal building at 18550 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2007

Motion by Schmitt, second by Wilms, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on April 19, 2007 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board recognized a number of Boy Scouts in the audience from Troop 1024 working on their communication merit badges.

Dan Nelson of 32311 Sheridan suggested that painting the posts on street signs might be a good Eagle Scout project.

RECAP OF BEVERLY PARK CLEAN UP DAY

O'Reilly reported that there was a large turnout for Beverly Park Clean Up event on Saturday, May 12. There were volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and community members. Crews from Comeau Equipment and LawnCrafter landscaping company provided assistance. The park looks great.

Schmitt thanked Renzo Spallasso, Ellen Marshall and Erin Saur for attending the Clean Up as well as Council members Jon Oen and Rosanne Koss. The Lions Club provided refreshments.

STATUS OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

It was reported that Council approved funding in the 2007/08 budget for two concerts in July. The Sun Messengers will start off the concert series on June 21. On July 19, Two Men and a Tenor will perform; the Tartar Sauce Jazz Band will be featured on July 26.

STATUS OF COURTS (BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS)

The basketball court improvements are complete except for painting lines on the court. O'Reilly did not have a report on the tennis courts. He introduced Derrick Brewer, boy scout from Troop 1024, who has volunteered to undertake improvements to the volleyball court as his Eagle Scout project.

Brewer distributed a handout outlining his plan to place a border eight feet from the edge of the playing surface of the volleyball court. The sheet includes a description of the material, quantity

and cost. The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$1,350 including replacement sand.

Brewer described the scope of the project in some detail and addressed questions and suggestions from Board members. He has compared prices of sand at a number of places. Brewer proposes to solicit the help of five or six boy scouts and accomplish the project in two weekends, weather permitting. At the suggestion of the Board, Brewer will request an amount not to exceed \$1,500 for material. The increase from his original estimate was to allow for additional sand if needed.

Motion by O'Reilly, second by Harmon, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council approve the Eagle Scout project of Derrick Brewer to undertake improvements to the volleyball court in Beverly Park and to allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,500 from the park dedicated millage fund to cover the cost of material with all labor provided by boy scouts.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

Brewer was advised that he would be required to appear before the Village Council at an upcoming meeting to present his proposal and request funds for materials.

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS BROUGHT UP AT JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL

Members of the Board expressed disappointment that Council did not allocate any funding in the budget for park capital projects or for replacement of existing facilities in Beverly Park. At its joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board in January, Council directed the Board to consider several new park projects; however, no funding was allocated for those items in the 2007/08 budget.

O'Reilly proposed that it would be beneficial for the Board to look into the items suggested by Council so that a determination could be made on projected costs for future reference. The Parks and Recreation Board would then be prepared to approach Council for funding to accomplish specific projects or improvements. Harmon added that discussion of the projects plays into the Five Year Park Plan. The Board agreed that it should form a plan for future improvements to the park.

Due to the absence of Davis and Greening, there were no updates on the following projects: soccer field at the park, five-year park plan, and grants for future projects.

New equipment for play structure area – Wilms reported on her playground equipment research. Council had suggested that the Board look into additional equipment for the play area including monkey bars. Wilms related information she received from Ann Marie Piotrowicz, who chaired the playground committee at Beverly Elementary School. The Beverly School playground renovation is relevant to what equipment is provided in Beverly Park because of their proximity. The plan for Beverly School was distributed, with mention made that there will be modifications to scale down the project.

Wilms is in receipt of the latest brochures from the company that provided the current play equipment in Beverly Park. She questioned how to proceed with selection and planning for additional playground equipment considering the lack of funding.

O'Reilly asked if there was any noticeable deterioration of the play structures at this time. Wilms responded that she has not seen evidence of deterioration and commented that the equipment is holding up well. She added that the drainage has been good this spring.

There was a discussion of ideas for the play area including monkey bars, equipment for disabled children, items that promote imaginative play, etc. Wilms was asked by the Board to prepare a draft plan and wish list for additions to the playground equipment.

Heat for restrooms – Harmon reported that his cursory assessment was that the pavilion restrooms were not constructed to be heated. There is natural ventilation and limited insulation. The cost of heating the area would not be economically feasible.

Irrigating the pavilion area – Harmon stated that there is a water supply to the pavilion. A determination will have to be made as to how much area is to be irrigated. Board members proposed that the area around the pavilion and around the playground be irrigated to maintain the garden, lawn, and landscaping. It was emphasized that the Parks and Recreation Board has been requesting capital improvement funding in the budget so that the Village could maintain and improve what is existing and proposed in the park.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER LARGE GROUP SURVEY FOR JANE SCHMID

Members reviewed the large group event planning form submitted by Jane Schmid for a church picnic scheduled for September 16, 2007. It was questioned how a group of 150 people could not require more than 50 parking spaces. There were no objections to the event proposed.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Council member Oen stated that he was looking forward to Derrick Brewer making repairs to the volleyball court. He commented that the Park Clean Up Day went very well.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

Tom Meszler had no comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

Schmitt challenged Village Council members to re-stain the gazebo located near the pond in Beverly Park. The acting Council in 2003 stained the gazebo after it was erected. The gazebo was dedicated to William Pfeifer, late husband of Dorothy Pfeifer.

Schmitt observed that there is a log across the path in the southwest section of Beverly Park. He suggested that a few people, possibly boy scouts, could move the log off the path. O'Reilly indicated that he will try to get this accomplished on or before Memorial Day weekend.

Nagle commented that she was pleased that Council approved funding for the July concerts. She reiterated the dates of the summer concerts.

Wilms thanked Boy Scouts from Troop 1024 for attending the meeting. She thought that Derrick Brewer did an excellent job of presenting his proposal to renovate the volleyball court.

Harmon thanked the Boy Scouts for attending the meeting. He announced that tonight will be his last meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board. Harmon will be submitting his resignation after 17 years of service on this Board. Board members affirmed that Harmon will be missed and invited him to attend next month's meeting in the park.

O'Reilly thanked the Boy Scouts who attended especially Derrick Brewer who put together the volleyball improvement project. O'Reilly asked Brewer to advise him of when he will begin work on the volleyball court. It was suggested that Brewer coordinate the project so as not to be doing the work on a day when a large group is using the park.

O'Reilly announced that the Rouge River Rescue Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 2 at the Douglas-Evans Nature Preserve. There will be tours of the retention treatment facility at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Jim O'Reilly, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Board

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary