

Present: Chairperson O'Reilly; Members: Arvant, Davis, Kondak, Nagle and Schmitt

Absent: Greening

Also Present: Council Liaison, Oen

Chairperson O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA

There was unanimous agreement to add item 3A to the agenda, "Request of Beverly Hills Bobcats to improve and modify the north baseball diamond at Beverly Park".

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2007

Motion by Nagle, second by Schmitt, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on October 18, 2007 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

WELCOME NEW MEMBER CINDY ARVANT

O'Reilly welcomed newly appointed Board member Cindy Arvant.

REQUEST OF BEVERLY HILLS BOBCATS TO IMPROVE AND MODIFY THE NORTH BASEBALL DIAMOND AT BEVERLY PARK

O'Reilly introduced Ernie Moosherr of 31450 East Bellvine Trail, who will present a proposal from the Beverly Hills Bobcats to renovate the north baseball diamond in Beverly Park. The Beverly Hills Bobcats is a new team that will be playing in the North Oakland Baseball Federation in 2008 and would like Beverly Park to be its home field as often as possible. The team is requesting approval to improve the field and make the infield larger for 13-under baseball. They have the support of the Beverly Hills Little League for the reason that the Bobcats give local kids a chance to continue playing ball in Beverly Hills and prepare for high school ball.

Moosherr related that there is currently a lack of fields to accommodate youth over age 12 in our community. There are many little league size fields and some major league size fields. The lack of intermediate fields in the Village prevents the formation of a team for this age group that can represent Beverly Hills. For this reason, youth in the community past the sixth grade are going to Birmingham, other cities, or are not playing.

The north diamond at Beverly Park has the outfield to accommodate a 70' or 80' base length. The field is currently set up with 60' bases for Little League play. Twelve-year-olds play at 70' and 13-year-olds play at 80 feet. The Beverly Hills Bobcats team has been formed to play in the North Oakland Baseball Federation and is trying to find a home field for practice and home games.

Referring to a diagram submitted to the Board, Moosherr outlined a proposal to make an adjustment to the north diamond in terms of pushing the grass line between infield and outfield back 20 feet to accommodate a Pony League size diamond (80 ft. bases vs. 60 ft. bases). Little League games could still be played on the field. Scheduling time on the fields will be coordinated with Beverly Hills Little League. They have an interest in this proposal because the Beverly Hills Bobcats will provide a place for kids to play ball when they complete the Little League program. Moosherr indicated that he is also on the Board of Beverly Hills Little League.

Moosherr stated that the Bobcats are not asking Beverly Hills for money. Bricco Excavating Co. is donating equipment and an operator to remove sod with the help of volunteers from Beverly Hills Little League and Beverly Hills Bobcats. Stone aggregate material mixture will replace sod and be applied by volunteers. That sod and underlying dirt will need to be removed from the field so that it can be replaced by a sand/clay/slag mixture. Moosherr commented on the high cost of trucking and disposing of the material. He asked if there is a low lying area in the park where this material can be deposited.

Oen suggested that the material could possibly be placed on the sled hill, but not until spring. The suggestion was made that the material be stored elsewhere in the park until it could be moved to the sled hill. Moosherr will consult with the Village engineer about the possibility of filling in a low area of the park with the material from the field. The Bobcats would like to receive approval from Beverly Hills and get this project done in November.

Questions from Board members on the construction and the use of the north diamond were addressed by Moosherr.

Motion by O'Reilly, second by Arvant, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council accept the generous donation of the Beverly Hills Bobcats to renovate and expand the north baseball field in Beverly Park to accommodate Pony League as well as Little League baseball subject to coordination with Village Administration.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

STATUS OF SOUND GARDEN BOY SCOUT PROJECT IN THE PARK

O'Reilly updated the Board on the status of Eric Hausman's Eagle Scout project in Beverly Park. The Sound Garden is partially completed. O'Reilly will be in contact with Hausman about his plans for completing the work.

REVIEW OF SURVEY ON BEVERLY PARK NEEDED FOR MASTER PLAN

Board members reviewed a copy of the revised Parks and Recreation Survey that will be distributed to all Beverly Hills residents in the Villager newsletter mailed in early December. The survey is a required element of an updated five-year Park Master Plan and is necessary in order to be eligible for grant money. The two-page survey is designed to obtain information on how people use the parks and what they would like to see in the parks. It will assist the Village in making plans for the future.

Residents are being asked to return the survey by December 31, 2007. The survey is available on the Village web site and can be taken online. O'Reilly and another Board member will tabulate survey results.

DISCUSSION OF PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Winter Family Fun Day will be held on Sunday, January 20 from 1 pm – 4 pm in Beverly Park. Kondak has been in contact with Assistant Manager Ellen Marshall, who prepared an article on the event to be included in the December newsletter. Kondak will draft an article to appear in the Eccentric, Oakland Press, and Eagle newspapers and look into having the event broadcast on the radio as a public service announcement. Flyers will be distributed to students in the elementary schools. A banner publicizing the event will be displayed on the park fence.

High school students are used to supervise activities. Nagle will contact the community service person from Groves High School about an announcement requesting volunteers for the Winter Family Fun Day. Groves high school students are required to do volunteer work in the community.

Kondak went through a list of activities to discuss the materials required and solicit volunteers to be in charge of events. All Board members were encouraged to attend and assist with the Winter Family Fun Day.

DISCUSS POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 20 MEETING

It was the consensus of Board members to cancel the December 20, 2007 Parks and Recreation Board meeting. The January meeting will take place prior to the Winter Family Fun Day event.

Motion by Kondak, second by Nagle, to cancel the regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting scheduled for December 20, 2007.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

LIAISON COMMENTS

Oen stated that there have been new Council liaison assignments, and Todd Stearn will be the new Council contact to the Parks and Recreation Board. Oen welcomed new member Cindy Arvant and commented that he is looking forward to the Winter Family Fun Day.

O'Reilly thanked Jon Oen for his support of the Parks and Recreation Board.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

No one was present from administration.

BOARD COMMENTS

Members welcomed Cindy Arvant to the Board, thanked Jon Oen for his support of Parks and Recreation, and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Arvant commented that she is glad to be a member of the Board, noting that she has two small children and spends a lot of time in Beverly Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.