

Present: **Parks & Recreation:** Chairperson O'Reilly; Vice-Chair Wilms; Members: Davis, Greening, Harmon, Nagle and Schmitt
 Council: President Stearn; President Pro-Tem Pfeifer; Members: Berndt, Koss, Oen, Peddie and Woodrow

Absent: None

Also Present: Public Services Director, Meszler

Chairperson O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Nelson of 32311 Sheridan commented on his recent tour of the Hidden Rivers Nature Preserve.

REVIEW OF CHECKLIST OF PARK PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE MASTER PLAN

Council and Board members were provided with copies of the Beverly Hills Community Park Master Plan dated February 19, 1998. O'Reilly reviewed that the Parks and Recreation Board prepared a list of priority improvement projects discussed in the 1998 Park Master Plan including cost estimates. With the help of a grant from the State of Michigan and a dedicated park millage passed by residents, the Village was able to accomplish a substantial number of the proposed projects.

The top priorities and most costly projects were the playground equipment, parking lot paving, and pedestrian entrance. The north fence replacement occurred at the time the playground equipment and parking lot paving was done. The pavilion was renovated. Improvements were undertaken on the sled hill. The north ball diamond reconfiguration and upgrade has been achieved; there is work yet to be done on the south diamond.

Landscaping is an ongoing project with some of the remaining millage money allocated for that purpose. Upgrading the paths is ongoing. Pond area improvements were given a lower priority so that other projects could be undertaken. There were visions of placing a multi-purpose building near the pond to accommodate equipment storage. This remains a possibility, but the location would be between the baseball diamonds. A gazebo was erected near the pond through donations honoring Bill Pfeifer. The idea for a new west pavilion was vetoed after consideration.

Work on upgrading the existing basketball, tennis and volleyball courts is in process. The basketball court has been resurfaced. Repainting the lines and lowering the baskets will complete that project. The volleyball court will be done as part of an Eagle Scout project this summer. The tennis courts will be re-graded and a determination will be made on whether to replace or repair the existing fencing.

The Parks and Recreation Board has accomplished all of the Master Plan improvement projects with the exception of a new west pavilion, a multi-purpose building, and pond area

improvements. Everything else has been achieved or is ongoing with a completion date of fall or next spring.

PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR 2007

O'Reilly outlined items that the Parks and Recreation Board proposes to undertake in the coming year.

Access/use of Hidden Rivers "park" – O'Reilly stated that he toured the Hidden Rivers nature preserve for the first time last weekend after living in the Village for 29 years. There is some interest on the Board to explore the possibility of resident access and use of Hidden Rivers.

Schmitt referred to a map of Hidden Rivers distributed to Council and Board members and engaged those present in a discussion of where there may be public access to the nature preserve. He suggested posting a sign at Hidden Rivers similar to the Douglas Evans nature preserve sign.

Schmitt proposed that research be done to determine what is public land and the location of the public access to Hidden Rivers. He would like to receive an opinion from Village legal counsel relative to the sanctions involved if there is an improvement made at Hidden Rivers. He questioned whether the only remedy would be that the people who deeded the property to the Village could take it back, which would place it on the tax roll.

Koss agreed that people should be able to access and enjoy the nature area. Peddie understood that adjacent residents purchased the property to keep developers from building on the land.

There was no objection from Council to obtaining more information on the use and access of Hidden Rivers and to seeking an opinion on this from legal counsel.

Review pavilion rental rates – The Parks and Recreation Board will be reviewing the fee schedule for Beverly Park pavilion rentals.

Finish court improvements – The Board is in the process of renovating the basketball, volleyball and tennis courts.

South baseball field improvement – Improvements to the south diamond is a wish for this year but might not happen until next spring.

Landscaping improvements/bioswale plantings – A portion of the remaining park millage money will be used for park landscaping.

Upgrade paths through the park – There is a need for additional woodchips on the path that goes through the park.

Continued brick sales – The Village Clerk's office is handling brick sales.

At a study session held on January 13, 2007, Council members presented their ideas as to what they would like to see accomplished in the Village within the next year or into the future. There were a number of items related to the park.

Accessibility to nature preserves – This item has been discussed.

Soccer Fields – The Parks and Recreation Board was asked to look into providing a soccer field in the area next to the playground. The thought was that it would not be difficult or costly to lay out a soccer field.

Five-Year Plan – Stearn noted that the Parks and Recreation Board has accomplished almost all of the projects outlined in the Park Master Plan. It may be time to start looking at what we want to do over the next five years and begin budgeting for park items.

Grants – Council would like the Parks and Recreation Board to investigate whether there are grants available for park projects. The suggestion was made that a member of the Village staff or a Board volunteer attend a grant writing class.

Additional Equipment – Council was interested in continuing to upgrade the park in terms of playground equipment and other facilities to improve the park.

Heating Restrooms – This idea was generated from the Council study session. The Board was asked to look into the cost of heating the restrooms in the pavilion.

Irrigation – Spallasso proposed providing an irrigation system for the landscaped area around the pavilion. The Parks and Recreation Board was asked to investigate what this would entail.

DISCUSS CONTINUED FUNDING FOR PARK MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Concert Series (\$5,000) – The Parks and Recreation Board plans to have four concerts in the park this summer. There will be two concerts at the end of June and two concerts at the end of July. Three bands have been booked and there is a possibility of engaging Mitch Ryder for the fourth concert depending on funding.

Nagle has been in contact with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation group about contributing to the concert series in terms of providing entertainment. The County mailed a questionnaire to the Village indicating that they understand the benefit received from communities that provide music in the park events. It brings value to area communities and to Oakland County. The County suggested adding children's theater and puppet shows in the park. Nagle has also communicated with a Beverly Hills resident who is the CEO of a local bank and is considering a donation towards music in the park.

Koss observed that there are Beverly Hills businesses that are supporting the Birmingham outdoor concerts. Council is planning to have a town hall type of meeting with area businesses. She will attempt to rally support for Beverly Hills concerts and park activities.

Koss recalled that local merchants such as Starbucks and Market Fresh set up stands in the park during last year's Easter Egg Hunt and provided free items to promote their businesses. If local merchants could have a display at the summer concerts, they would be asked to provide funding for the concerts.

In response to a suggestion, Nagle will check with the Beverly Hills Athletic Club on dates of their summer swim meets. There could be a parking conflict if the swim meets were held on the same day as concerts in the park.

Winter Family Fun Day (\$1,300) – Schmitt is organizing the event this year and anticipates staying within the budget.

Beverly Park Cleanup (\$750)

Potential celebration of Village's 50th Anniversary – Planning will start for a 2008 celebration.

Movie in the Park (\$2,000) – The Beverly Hills Club has sponsored two movies in the park each year for the last two years. The Club engages a company that provides a screen and movie to be shown in the park, and refreshments are provided.

O'Reilly related that the Board has talked about the Village sponsoring an old-fashioned drive-in movie in the park that would tie into the Dream Cruise festivities. The Parks and Recreation Board will investigate this further and provide Council with more details.

O'Reilly distributed a list prepared by the Board describing ongoing maintenance and capital improvement items for Council consideration during budget deliberations. The Board will be continuing its discussion of funds needed for capital improvements in the park.

It was indicated that there will be approximately \$80,000 remaining in the park dedicated millage account after completion of the tennis court improvements. O'Reilly stated that remaining funds are partially earmarked for improvements to the south baseball diamond and landscaping in the park. The amount budgeted for these projects will be depend on funds available. O'Reilly mentioned that there is a possibility that pond improvements will be accomplished by Eagle Scouts. The only cost to the Village would be for materials.

O'Reilly observed that the projected cost for every park improvement project has exceeded the amount budgeted for that item after a plans and specifications were prepared and bids received. While each project has been scaled back to meet budget constraints, visible improvements to the park have been made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD MEMBERS

Wilms expressed the thought that each person on the Board and Council probably have their own ideas for park improvements if funds were available. She would like to see more shade in the playground area and suggested planting trees and purchasing a couple of picnic tables with umbrellas. A sand box would be a good addition to the playground.

Wilms stated that she recently read that a city passed a resolution that made it illegal for people on the sexual predator list to be in their city parks. She requested that this measure be explored by the Village.

COUNCIL

Council members all expressed their appreciation to the members of the Parks and Recreation Board for the great work that they do on the park. Stearn described this Council as a cooperative group that wants to work with the Parks and Recreation Board. He asked them to consider developing a five year plan for the park.

Pfeifer mentioned that BASCC is raising funds through the sale of a deck of souvenir cards featuring photographs of scenes throughout the local communities, including Beverly Park.

Oen commented that the park looks great and is used by many people. He would like to maintain the park and continue improvements. Berndt passed on a comment from a resident who suggested having two volleyball courts in the park.

Koss agreed that Beverly Park is an integral part of the community but emphasized that Council and the Board will have to figure out a way to raise revenue for the park in light of challenging fiscal conditions facing all municipalities. She pledged to work diligently with area businesses to persuade them to help support park improvements. Greening offered to assist Koss with soliciting help from local businesses.

Wilms suggested that local businesses be allowed to sell food in the park during the summer concerts. Merchants may be more motivated to donate money to the park if they were allowed this exposure. There was agreement to look at Village ordinances and research this possibility.

Woodrow maintained that Council is allowed to consider and approve a petition to sell goods in the park for a particular event. He mentioned that Beverly Hills is part of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. Birmingham summer concerts are advertised on their web site, and businesses belonging to the Chamber help promote those concerts. Woodrow suggested that a Village official contact the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber and request that they advertise Beverly Hills summer concerts on their web site and pursue sponsorship by member businesses.

O'Reilly thanked members of Council for meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

**James O'Reilly, Chairperson
Parks & Recreation Board**

**Todd Stearn
Council President**

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary**