

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Public Services Director, Meszler
Alternate Council Liaison, Berndt

Chairperson O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. He informed the Board that the joint meeting with Council on the calendar for tonight will be rescheduled.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Motion by Davis, second by Arvant, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on November 15, 2007 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Nelson of 32311 Sheridan commented on the upcoming Winter Family Fun Day on Sunday, January 20 in Beverly Park.

REVIEW PARK SURVEY RESULTS

A Parks and Recreation survey was included in an issue of the Villager Newsletter mailed to all Beverly Hills residents in early December. The survey was a required element for updating the Park Master Plan and for receiving grant money.

The two-page surveys returned by December 31, 2007 were tabulated by Village staff member Erin Saur and forwarded to the Board chairperson. There were approximately 150 responses to the survey. The results were displayed in the form of graphs and charts and included a summary of written comments. O'Reilly highlighted the comments from respondents. There was some discussion of the survey results.

O'Reilly remarked that the survey results indicated that the respondents were satisfied with what the parks provide and thought that the parks met their needs. Some of the comments had to do with access to the parks and nature preserves. There appears to be residents who have not gone to Riverside Park, Douglas-Evans, and particularly Hidden Rivers. Because four of the Board members did not receive the survey results emailed by O'Reilly, this agenda item will be held over until next month's meeting when all Board members have an opportunity to analyze the material.

REQUEST FOR GRANT FROM STATE OF MICHIGAN FOR TREE PLANTING

The Village has applied for a matching tree planting grant in the amount of \$3,000 through the Michigan DNR and the DTE Energy Foundation. O'Reilly stated that he was contacted by Village administration in November regarding the matching grant and encouraged staff to proceed with the application. He was advised that the Village had money set aside for the

matching funds. O'Reilly subsequently learned that the Village's share of the grant would be \$12,000 and that the money would come from Parks and Recreation funds.

The Village's application has been received by the State, but a decision is pending. Meszler informed the Board that grant money can be rejected at any time before a contract is signed. Board members were opposed to accepting a grant with the Village's share at \$12,000 and with funds coming from the Parks and Recreation account.

The Parks and Recreation Board requested further documentation on this grant and matching funds for consideration at its February Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

DISCUSSION OF PREPARATION FOR WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Winter Family Fun Day is scheduled to be held on Sunday, January 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Beverly Park. Press announcements for the event went into the Eccentric newspaper and the Free Press. Flyers were distributed at local area schools.

Kondak reviewed the activities and confirmed plans with individuals assigned to assisting with various events. Tom Meszler reported on the status of the ice rinks and the availability of firewood. There was some conversation among members on whether to delay the event for a week due to lack of snow and frigid temperatures forecasted for Sunday. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to continue with the event as planned on Sunday. All members were encouraged to attend and assist with the Winter Family Fun Day.

PRESENTATION OF POSSIBLE BOY SCOUT PROJECT FOR LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD

O'Reilly informed the Board that the boy scout project has been withdrawn.

DISCUSSION OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO BEVERLY PARK & FUNDING FOR PARK ACTIVITIES

These items were taken off the agenda; they were topics for discussion with the Village Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Nelson thought that there were a couple of suggestions included in the survey responses that might be accomplished through Eagle Scout projects. The ideas were to assemble exercise stations in Beverly Park and to provide stakes indicating walking distances along the path.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Ron Berndt was present as the alternate Council liaison. He commented that there were some interesting written remarks included in the park surveys that should be considered.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Meszler stated that he would have firewood delivered to the park on Sunday for Winter Family Fun Day.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members commented that they were looking forward to Winter Family Fun Day and hoped for a good turnout.

In response to an inquiry about plans for the Village's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Greening stated that there will be a meeting of the organizing committee on January 29 at 9:00 a.m. in the Village offices. Greening thanked Village administration for putting up Christmas decorations at Beverly Park and taking them down in a timely manner.

Schmitt commented that the Village Calendar for 2008 was well done. He suggested that the hours of 1:00-4:00 p.m. for Winter Family Fun Day be included next year. He asked that Riverside Park be color coded on the calendar.

O'Reilly stated that the Eagle Scout Eric Hausman has completed his wind chime project in Beverly Park. It is a remarkable structure that adds to the park. O'Reilly sent photographs of the completed sound garden to area newspapers to gain publicity for Eric Hausman and the park. He mentioned that Hausman wrote a letter thanking the Board and Village administration for their assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.