

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Council Liaison, Stearn
Administrative liaison, Erin Saur

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 MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2008

Motion by Schmitt, second by Davis, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on January 17, 2008 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PROPOSAL FOR EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT BASEBALL FIELDS – DAN MOONEY

Beverly Hills resident Daniel Mooney of 19111 Devonshire said that he is a Life Scout active in Boy Scout Troop 1024 and an Eagle Scout candidate. He is a sophomore at Groves High School and a member of the baseball team. Mooney played in the Beverly Hills Little League from first to eighth grade.

Mooney is proposing to perform an Eagle Scout service project to improve the south ball diamond in Beverly Park. This is the official Little League diamond where most of the kids in the community go to play baseball. He distributed a handout that outlines his plan to demolish the old dugouts at the south diamond and rebuild new dugouts in their place. He will be consulting with builders and architects from within his troop and from the outside on this project. Labor will be performed by scouts, volunteers, and Comeau Equipment company.

Mooney described the need for improvements: 1) The metal roofs of the existing dugouts provide no protection from lightning during storms; 2) dugout floors flood during rains; 3) fencing is rusted; there are gaps in the fence; 4) the benches are worn; 5) the third base side entrance is unsafe; and 6) the dugouts are unsightly.

Dan Mooney proposed to accomplish the work in four weekends and have the project completed by May 1st. The project will begin on March 15 with the demolition and removal of the existing structures. Mooney outlined the work to be undertaken each weekend until completion. This will be an open design with a view into the dugouts. No problems are anticipated from neighbors because the new dugouts will replace and improve upon the existing dugouts.

Mooney intends to complete this project for a cost not to exceed \$5,000 in materials. All expert advice and labor will be volunteered with the possible exception of the concrete slab and the

demolition work. He asked the Parks and Recreation Board to recommend that the Village Council authorize up to \$5,000 for reimbursement of materials for this project. If the project comes in over \$5,000, the excess will be funded by outside donations. Mooney stated that he will be addressing the Beverly Hills Little League on March 8, 2008 and will request donations towards this project.

Board members commended Dan Mooney on his presentation and backup materials. Questions from Board members on the project were answered by Dan Mooney and his father John Mooney. In answer to an inquiry, it was indicated that the fencing would be replaced by 9 gauge chain link fence. There was concern about damaging the field during demolition of the dugouts when the ground is soft in the spring. John Mooney stated that they will rely on the expertise of Comeau Equipment Company as to how it can be done. O'Reilly added that he consulted with Tom Meszler, who did not think this would be an issue.

O'Reilly thought that the estimate for benches was high. He gave Dan Mooney catalogs to look at in an attempt to stay within the budget. O'Reilly stated that the proposed plan is consistent with the improvements that were intended for the south diamond.

Motion by Arvant, second by Greening, that the Parks and Recreation Board unanimously recommend that Council accept the generous Eagle Scout project proposal of Daniel P. Mooney to rebuild the south diamond baseball dugouts at Beverly Park. Further, that Council contribute an amount not to exceed \$5,000 towards project materials. Funds are to come from the dedicated park millage, park site improvements, account 408-900-985.00.

Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW PARK SURVEY RESULTS

A Parks and Recreation survey was included in 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. Surveys were returned at the end of December 2007, and results were tabulated. Survey results were distributed in the form of graphs and charts along with a summary of written comments. There were approximately 120 surveys returned Village-wide.

Board members discussed the results. Greening thought that there was a need to have more park activities that engage the residents. She suggested that doggie bags be made available at Douglas-Evans area for people who walk their dogs. O'Reilly remarked that 25% of the respondents indicated that they were willing to contribute \$100 or more to the park. Almost half of the people said that there should be another park millage. Nagle commented that a number of people do not know about Douglas Evans and Hidden Rivers nature preserves. There was some discussion of what could be done at Riverside Park.

O'Reilly concluded that survey results provide information that can be used to make plans and adjustments to park programs.

DISCUSS THE GRANT REQUEST 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. It has been estimated that the grant would require the Village to contribute \$12,000 towards planting and maintenance expenses. Board members were not in support of accepting the grant if the matching money was to come from the Parks and Recreation fund. The Board has not received a response from administration on this point.

The grant application was discussed. Administrative Assistant Saur stated that the matching contribution was an estimate based on prior tree plantings. It is a 50-50 grant, so the Village would have to spend a minimum of \$3,000 to obtain the grant. The grant money can only be used to purchase trees and not for labor or maintenance. It was noted that the DNR has maintenance requirements. The application was submitted but the Village has not heard back from the DNR.

O'Reilly summarized that it was the sense of the Parks and Recreation Board that they were not in favor of pursuing a tree planting grant unless it was a 50-50 grant. There is no decision to make at this point because grant approval has not been received. The grant could be refused if there is no money in the budget for a matching grant.

REVIEW COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN/ 5 YEAR PLAN

Parks and Recreation Board members have received and reviewed copies of the draft Village of Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan. Administrative Assistant Erin Saur has assisted the Board with producing the document in its final form.

There were questions and comments on recommendations for the parks. Several modifications were suggested by Board members. There was agreement to include the proposed changes into the final document.

Motion by Schmitt, second by O'Reilly, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council hold a public hearing and approve the Village of Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan as amended.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire commended the Parks and Recreation Board for their work on behalf of the Village. He suggested that the Board exhibit caution before creating soccer fields in the park.

As assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 1024, Mooney clarified that the Eagle Scout plan proposed tonight is an outline and subject to change pending review by architects, builders, and engineers.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Council liaison Stearn congratulated the Parks and Recreation Board on completing the five year park master plan. He advised the Board to prepare a capital budget for presentation to Council prior to upcoming budget deliberations.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Nagle expressed appreciation for Bill Kondak's work on coordinating the Winter Family Fun Day. It was cold, but everyone had a good time. Davis agreed that it was a fun event. Arvant commented on a job well done.

Kondak thanked all the members of the Parks and Recreation Board for their contribution of time and effort to the Winter Family Fun Day. He thanked community volunteers for their assistance including students from Groves, Seaholm and Brother Rice High Schools, Boy Scout troop 1024, and Starbucks.

Schmitt observed that the some planks on the park gazebo have been vandalized and are in need of repair. Schmitt thought that Council should allocate funds for park capital projects on an annual basis whether or not there is an itemized list of expenditures. Council has not budgeted money for park capital improvements since it went out for a dedicated park millage.

It was acknowledged that a \$750 donation has been received by Friends of Beverly Park. O'Reilly congratulated Bill Kondak for organizing the Winter Family Fun Day and thanked Council members for their support.

O'Reilly acknowledged Eric Hausman for completing the sound garden project in Beverly Park. Eric has received well deserved recognition in local newspapers. It was noted that Eric Hausman is the 100th Eagle Scout from Troop 1024.

O'Reilly stated that it would behoove the Parks and Recreation Board to investigate costs for maintaining the existing park improvements including the pavilion, playground area, ball fields and parking lot and compile figures to submit to Council as part of the Board's budget request for annual capital improvement funding. This will allow Council to validate their allocation for park capital improvements to maintain the park. O'Reilly will contact members and assign them specific responsibilities.

Greening stated that she is on the committee to organize the Village's 50th Anniversary Celebration. She outlined plans to hold a pancake breakfast at Beverly Park on Saturday, June 14. Parks and Recreation Board members volunteered to assist with the event. Mooney volunteered members of Troop 1024, noting that it is also the 50th anniversary of the Little League. Terri Stearn offered her assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.