

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

Absent: Davis

Also Present: Administrative liaison, Meszler
Council member, Peddie

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 FEBRUARY 21, 2008

Motion by Schmitt, second by Greening, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on February 21, 2008 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rita Battocletti introduced herself and stated that she is working with Pat Greening and Council member Lee Peddie on organizing the Village's 50th Anniversary celebration. She thanked Parks and Recreation Board members for their offer to help with the pancake breakfast scheduled for Saturday, June 14th in Beverly Park. Battocletti would like to return at the April 17 meeting of the Board to firm up information on this event. She may be in contact with Chairperson O'Reilly in the meantime to answer questions about Beverly Park.

Battocletti related that it was the consensus of Council and those assisting with the event to kick off the 50th Anniversary celebration with a pancake breakfast in Beverly Park on the morning of June 14. There will be a break at noon with festivities resuming at about 5 p.m. with a cookout and a band concert to be followed by an outdoor movie. The Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce has offered its assistance with obtaining corporate and local sponsorships. Peddie added that the group is in the process of gathering resources and planning activities.

Battocletti stated that this will be an ongoing celebration throughout the year, and she may be coming back before the Board requesting support for other events.

REVIEW MARCH 18 COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON PARK MASTER PLAN

O'Reilly reviewed that Council held a public hearing at its March 18 meeting to receive comments on the updated Five Year Community Recreation Plan. There were no comments from the public. Council member Pfeifer proposed a few changes, which will be incorporated into the document. Council unanimously adopted the Community Recreation Plan and will submit it to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for its adoption.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE GRANT AVAILABILITY FROM HOMETOWN HELPER ORGANIZATION

General Mills and Hamburger Helper are funding initiatives to help hometowns across America with monetary grants of up to \$15,000 per project during the time frame of February 1, 2008 – March 31, 2008. Board members discussed items that could be purchased for use in Beverly

Park. It was the consensus of the Board to request that Village administration apply for grant money to fund monkey bars for the park playground. One or two sizes of horizontal ladders would be a positive addition to the existing play structure.

Motion by Schmitt, second by O'Reilly, to request Village administration to apply for the My Hometown Helper grant for the purchase of additional playground equipment including horizontal ladders for Beverly Park.

Motion passed unanimously.

FOLLOW UP ON PRIOR DISCUSSION FOR DOGGIE BAGS AT DOUGLAS EVANS NATURE PRESERVE

Providing doggie bags for use at Douglas Evans Nature Preserve was discussed previously by the Parks and Recreation Board. Village administration had information on file regarding a company that sells dog waste bags and dispensers. There was interest on the Board to determine the current cost to purchase and install the dispensers at both Douglas Evans and Beverly Park. It was suggested that more people would clean up after their dogs if doggie bags were readily available.

The location for the dispenser in Beverly Park would be at the gate where the path begins near the parking lot. There was not unanimous agreement that a doggie bag dispenser and receptacle should be installed in the Douglas Evans nature area.

Motion by Greening, second by Kondak, to request Village administration to investigate the cost and feasibility of providing doggie waste bags with dispenser at Beverly Park and Douglas Evans and possibly a trash receptacle at the nature preserve.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET REQUESTS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

O'Reilly stated that Council is beginning the process of budget deliberations. It is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Board to request that Council set aside money for capital improvements for the park. There has been a great effort in terms of time and money to undertake improvements in the park, and it is imperative that park facilities be maintained. No capital improvement funding was included in last year's budget.

O'Reilly proposed to attend a Council budget session to present the need for a specific park capital improvement budget. He has contacted members of the Board who will serve on a subcommittee to research and prepare a capital improvement plan for replacement and/or maintenance of park facilities including the parking lot, tennis court surface, volleyball and basketball courts, pavilion, roof, play equipment, wood chips for the playground and path, infield mix and fencing for ball diamonds, picnic tables, grills, trash cans, drinking fountain, gazebo, sled hill, etc. Data will be compiled on the cost and life expectancy of each item along with a schedule for setting aside money for future repair or replacement. There will be a thorough assessment of the cost of maintaining and improving the park into the future so the Village can set aside money for that expense.

Public Services Director Tom Meszler commented that the Village has a routine maintenance budget that covers work such as minor repairs, building maintenance and mowing the grass in Beverly Park. It does not cover capital maintenance items.

Peddie thought that preparing a thorough capital maintenance plan was a great idea in terms of putting the park capital budget in perspective.

O'Reilly stated that subcommittee members Arvant, Kondak and Nagle will determine what has been spent on park improvements with the dedicated park millage and research what can be expected in the future in terms of replacement costs. He will present this information to Council for consideration during its review of the 2008/09 budget. A joint meeting of Council and the Finance Committee will be held on April 8 for the first budget study session.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER GROUP SURVEYS

Board members reviewed and discussed large group event planning forms for Callaghan, Oen, Bada, and Bone. There was a concern expressed as to whether these groups of 150 people will leave enough parking spaces for residents attending the park on that day. Only one of the three forms indicates that the group will use more than 50 spaces. It was noted that the event planning form suggests that members of the group use alternate parking and carpooling in order to minimize the inconvenience to everyday users of the park.

Schmitt referred to the Callaghan request for pavilion rental and requested whether the applicant resides in Beverly Hills. Park pavilion reservations are only available to Village residents until April 1. With respect to the event planning form from Bada, Schmitt suggested that the band be moved south of the pavilion instead of west of the pavilion so there will be less effect on the neighbors. Schmitt requested that Village staff ask for more detail on what Bobbie Bone has in mind in terms of music. In response to an inquiry, it was noted that insurance will be required for use of the blow-up bounce equipment planned for the Oen party.

LIAISON COMMENTS

None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Meszler informed the Board that the Village did not receive the matching tree planting grant through the Michigan DNR and DTE Energy Foundation. He mentioned that bids will be opened for the tennis court fencing and resurfacing on April 24.

BOARD COMMENTS

Nagle asked that an item be placed on the Board meeting agenda to discuss restoring music in the park next year. She would like to determine whether Board members are interested in a music program a year from now and explore how to fund and promote it.

Davis entered the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.