

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Council members, Koss and Peddie

Chairperson O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Beverly Park.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Greening, second by Schmitt, to remove item #7 from the agenda: "Review and Consider Adopt-a-Garden Program".

Motion passed.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2008

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

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Council member Peddie distributed a timeline for the Pancake Breakfast portion of the 50th Anniversary Celebration in Beverly Park on Saturday, June 14. Members of the Parks and Recreation Board including O'Reilly, Schmitt, Greening, Arvant and Davis volunteered to be present at 7 a.m. to help set up for the breakfast and greet guests at the check-in desk.

Peddie and Koss outlined how the morning events will progress and commented on the continuing activities scheduled throughout the day until 9 p.m.

PRESENTATION FROM BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL ON BALLFIELD IMPROVEMENTS

At its last meeting, the Parks and Recreation Board discussed a proposal from Brother Rice High School to invest a substantial amount of money to create a baseball complex in Beverly Park and use the park for their baseball program. John Eddingfield, development consultant representing Brother Rice, was in attendance to give a presentation on the improvements proposed for Beverly Park.

Eddingfield explained that Brother Rice has been playing varsity baseball games at the Birmingham YMCA for about 32 years. As a result of an upcoming expansion of that facility, this will be the last year that Brother Rice will be able to use the YMCA for its home games. Brother Rice is landlocked on their school site and is looking for another location for a home

baseball field. The School has significant dollars to infuse into a program, but not enough to buy and develop land. They are looking at engaging in a private/public partnership. Brother Rice has a couple of potential options and was hoping that Beverly Hills would be amenable to a proposal. Eddingfield would like the Parks and Recreation Board to conceptually agree or disagree with the presentation.

Eddingfield displayed a drawing of Beverly Park as it would look with the improvements and modifications proposed by Brother Rice. The plan shows the current parking lot extended to increase the lot from 96 parking spaces to 132 spaces. This would eliminate area used for ice skating rinks.

A new Little League field would be constructed towards the north end of the park. Trees would provide a buffer for Allerton Drive residents. The tennis courts and sand volleyball court would be relocated. The current north diamond would remain with improvements. The field used currently for Little League play would be reworked in order to be adequate in size for high school play. The field would be used by Brother Rice Varsity, Reserve and Freshman teams. It would have new dugouts and an infield with synthetic turf. The improvements would include a press box that would allow for equipment storage and a second story area.

Eddingfield stated that Brother Rice is willing to infuse significant dollars so that Brother Rice can secure a baseball field long term for use throughout their season from March 15 through June 15 each year. That field would be open for any other programs at other times of the year.

Eddingfield addressed questions from Board members on a number of items. Drainage was identified as an ongoing problem in Beverly Park. A bioswale was created to collect runoff so it does not run into the sewer. Eddingfield did not think that the proposed plan will infringe on the bioswale or disrupt the current elevations. It would be graded to continue to direct runoff to the bioswale.

Brother Rice would be interested in putting in batting cages on the site. They would be open for use by Little League programs. A restroom would be located in the press box structure. Bleachers would be situated near the field. Fence height to keep balls out of Allerton was discussed. The existing sidewalk would be repositioned. It was noted that there is a swale in that area and there may be a need to divert water to accommodate the proposed plan. Eddingfield commented that an architect or engineer would survey that situation.

Kondak questioned whether the bleachers would be in the path of sleds coming down the sled hill. Eddingfield responded that the bleachers could be moved to the north. Kondak expressed concern about the impact on adjoining properties. Issues with respect to fences, the press box, and parking may be raised by neighbors.

The Brother Rice game schedule and use of fields for their Freshman, Reserve and Varsity teams was a major topic of discussion. The fact that the School has three teams would suggest that Brother Rice would need to use the other fields and may request priority use of ball diamonds. O'Reilly anticipated having difficulty with scheduling the teams that currently use the ball fields.

Janet Mooney of 19111 Devonshire commented on the loss of the ice skating rinks. She observed that the proposed drawing appears to depict a park that consists primarily of ball diamonds.

Dave Fabbri of Southfield, field director for Beverly Hills Little League, questioned plans for the middle field, currently the Beverly Hills north field. Eddingfield responded that it would be left as it is with possible upgrades to the outfield.

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire expressed concern with the continued availability of the ball fields for Little League. He mentioned possible parking and traffic congestion issues. Mooney stated that Beverly Park is a multi-use park; he objects to creating what would feel like an all-athletic park.

Tim Mercer of 17400 Locherbie objected to the manner in which John Mooney was asking questions and suggested that he direct his inquiries to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Greg Gromek of 19900 Chelsea Place, Brother Rice Alumni, thought that the entire community would benefit from the proposed improvements to the park. The additional investments would add value to Beverly Park.

Bill Donnelly of 18714 Chelton stated that he lives near the north entrance of the park. He objected to the proposal for the reason that he would rather look out at trees than a two-story press box.

Fabbri asked about ongoing maintenance of the field, which was addressed by Eddingfield, who understood that some maintenance was done by community members, parents and volunteers from the leagues.

Janet Mooney, former Parks and Recreation Board member, stated that she was involved in promoting the park dedicated millage. She talked to a large number of residents, many of whom wanted Beverly Park to remain as park-like as possible. This is not a proposal that would be endorsed by residents who like the natural environment of the park.

John Mooney questioned the net gain for the Village in terms of this proposal from Brother Rice. He thinks that the plan would change the entire feeling of the park. He cannot see this plan working for the reason that there is not enough room to accommodate all the facilities.

Ernie Moosherr of 31450 E. Bellvine Trail, member of Beverly Hills Little League Board, stated that the current field situation and scheduling is tight. He thought it was critical that the schedule be maintained by the Village and not by Brother Rice.

O'Reilly recapped that the Parks and Recreation Board talked about this proposal last month and raised several concerns. One issue was parking, which was addressed by Brother Rice. Another issue was the fact that there are only two fields available. The drawing presented shows a third field. The tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts are reconfigured on the site. The park would be losing the ice rink area. Potential concerns from adjoining neighbors would be a consideration. A major issue is how the proposal would affect the character of Beverly Park.

O'Reilly stated that his personal feeling is that the citizens of the community do not want Beverly Park to become Beverly fields. As much as the plan presented by Brother Rice accommodates all of the athletic needs, it takes away from what we know as Beverly Park. O'Reilly did not support the proposal for that reason.

Cynthia Nagle stated that there have been concerns raised about the press box and foliage along the north side. She would like to continue the conversation until all the questions have been answered. Eddingfield responded that Brother Rice is looking for conceptual approval so they can work through the details.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Greening, that the Parks and Recreation Board thanks Brother Rice for its generous offer. Because of concerns over scheduling, skating rinks, engineering, change of park character, and dubious value for the residents, the Board recommends that the proposal be declined.

Board members commented on the motion. Nagle suggested that the Board continue to address some of the issues related to this proposal, which she viewed as dynamic. Kondak said that a number of issues have been considered; he believes that the proposed plan changes the character of Beverly Park. Arvant expressed opposition to the proposal based on the concentrated use of the east side of the park with three ball fields.

Ayes – Arvant, Davis, Greening, Kondak, O'Reilly, Schmitt
Nays – Nagle

Motion passed (6 – 1).

RECAP OF BEVERLY PARK CLEANUP DAY

The annual Beverly Park Clean UP was held on Saturday, May 10. O'Reilly reported that there was a good turnout and the park looks pristine. He thanked the scouts who attended and the organization efforts of LaVerne Cleary. Also thanked for his participation was 46th District Court Judge William Richards.

STATUS OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Nagle reported that she met with members Arvant and Greening to discuss reinitiating a summer concert series next year. They talked about scheduling five consecutive concerts in July of 2009 possibly on a Thursday or Friday. Greening is making contacts in an attempt to obtain sponsorships. There are many details to be worked out, but the subcommittee is making strides.

Funding for summer concerts was not included in the 2008/09 Village budget. A budget request of \$5,000 will be made for the 2009/10 budget. It was noted that other communities are having difficulty funding their summer concerts.

STATUS OF COURTS (BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TENNIS)

O'Reilly reported that the volleyball court improvements are done. The basketball court has not been painted as yet. Two bids were received for tennis court resurfacing, and 11 bids received for fencing. Public Services Director Meszler is looking at the low bid received for resurfacing,

which did not meet the requirements of the specifications. A report from administration on the tennis court bids should be available for Board consideration at next month's meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER LARGE GROUP SURVEYS

There were no objections to the large group event planning applications from Beverly Elementary and Ann Mammond. Schmitt commented that the Parks and Recreation Board needs direction from Council on why it is reviewing these forms.

LIAISON COMMENTS

None

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Arvant commented that her Devonshire block party was rescheduled so the date will not conflict with the Village's 50th Anniversary Celebration in the park.

Kondak commented that he was glad to see a good turnout for the Beverly Park cleanup. The park looks wonderful.

Schmitt proposed that the Village obtain bids for painting the backstop of the south ball diamond. He mentioned that the Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan received approval from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He thanked Erin Saur for her assistance.

O'Reilly adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.