

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 15, 2010 – PAGE 1

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

Absent: Davis and Ross

Also: Assistant Manager, Marshall

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2010 PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The correction was made on pages 4 and 5 to change “Beverly Hills Club” to read “Beverly Hills Athletic Club”.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Arvant, that the minutes of a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on March 18, 2010 be approved as amended.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Representatives from the Groves Envirothon Team 2010 were present with a request for the Parks and Recreation Board. A group of five students from Groves and Seaholm High Schools have placed first in their region and qualified to move on to the 2010 Michigan Envirothon State Competition. They are focusing their Community Outreach requirement on promoting and instituting water conservation techniques in the Oakland County area.

The students propose to give rain barrels to families through the school and around the community. The team members constructed the barrels themselves. The rain barrels are used to store rain water that would normally be lost to runoff and evaporation. They are generally attached to a hose that can be used to water gardens and other areas around the house.

The group requested that the Parks and Recreation Board allow them to install one rain barrel in Beverly Park with the intent of informing the public about the benefits of rain barrels and water conservation in general. Informative flyers will be provided at the barrel location in a plastic box. The proposed location of the rain barrel would be in the pavilion area under a downspout.

In response to an inquiry about who would monitor the rain barrel, the students said that they would take care of it during the summer. A decision will be made at the end of the summer whether to pass the responsibility on to the next Envirothon Team or remove it.

Motion by Schmitt, second by O'Reilly, that the Parks and Recreation Board approve the Groves Envirothon Team's request to place one rain barrel at the Beverly Park pavilion along with informative flyers at the direction of Village Administration.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

UPDATE ON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Drew Steffes provided the Board with an update on his Eagle Scout project, which is to stain the sled hill fence and replace damaged boards. He conducted a can and bottle drive to raise \$500 towards refurbishing the sled hill fence. Work will begin on cleaning the fence this Sunday, April 18. Board members commended him on his resourcefulness.

PRESENTATION BY MATT ROMAN REQUESTING THE USE OF BEVERLY PARK FOR A COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN

Matt Roman of 32021 Weston Drive presented a proposal for a Beverly Hills Community Garden in Beverly Park. The vision is to have an organic fruit and vegetable garden in the park where members of the community could get together to grow their own healthy and fresh foods, acquire and share knowledge about gardening, and build a stronger neighborhood. The Beverly Community Garden would be a non-profit, 100% self funded initiative. There would be a nominal fee charged to members that would cover year-to-year maintenance and help defer some of the garden expenses and water costs.

They are targeting to have 40 Beverly Hills families, each with a 20' x 10' garden plot. Roman commented that a community garden is a great social opportunity for the young and old; it increases park utilization; it is a potential learning tool for area schools and a chance to help the less fortunate. The proposed garden will be good for the natural environment. It will occupy a little used area of the park and create another area of interest within the park.

Roman requested that the group be allowed to utilize an area of the park west of the playground area. The project size is based on 40 plots of 20' x 10' with pathways. They also request to run a water line from the existing water access at the pavilion to the target area. The members would pay for the water use. This visible location would create interest, encourage participation, and provide protection from vandalism.

Roman displayed sample photographs of community gardens with paths and landscaping around the structure so it becomes an area of interest within the park. The garden would include fencing to protect from animals and vandals and mulch or gravel pathways between plots. Five or six hose bibs would run from the pavilion to permit water access and drip irrigation system for efficient water usage.

There will be a Garden Committee made up of Beverly Hills residents. Several of them are in attendance to support the presentation. A membership group will get the word out to the residents. A volunteer will do community and educational outreach. That person will work with gardeners who want to grow food to donate to local food programs in the area. Roman mentioned that 20 families have already committed to participate. He asked for input from Board members.

Greening commented that the location proposed for the community garden is the only open grassy area within the park. She would prefer that the area past the playground remain open in order to retain the aesthetic look of the park.

Arvant liked the proposal for a Beverly Community Garden. She asked if the group would consider using a smaller plot to start out. A member of the Garden Committee responded that it would be cost effective to do it all at one time.

Kondak remarked that it would be difficult to estimate water usage because Village water used in the park is not metered. Roman said that he would estimate the usage. Questions on the nature of the water line were addressed by Roman.

Schmitt said that he liked the idea but did not agree with the proposed location. He suggested that the community garden group explore the area in the back of the park.

Don Greening mentioned that water may be available from two wells in the park, one going to the pond and one in the woods. A pump might be able to draw water out of the wells. O'Reilly added that there is a water line that goes to the baseball fields.

O'Reilly summarized that there is a general consensus that the Board likes the idea of a community garden. The majority of the members present would prefer to have the garden located in an area other than the front of the park.

Pat Westerlund suggested another location for the garden in the southeast corner beyond the ball diamond.

Matt Roman said he would look at other locations at the back of the park and rethink the proposal for a Beverly Community Garden in Beverly Park.

DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CARNIVAL

The Board discussed preparations for the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival to be held on Monday, May 31. As of April 8, 2010, donations in the amount of \$2,475 were received for this year's event, which is down from last year's collection of \$3,450. Greening volunteered to contact people and attempt to solicit additional contributions.

O'Reilly updated the Board on the carnival games secured through the contract with Galactic Transport Authority. The show mobile has been reserved for the event, and the Straw Hat Band has committed to perform during the carnival. The Groves Marching Band will march in the parade. Janice Hausman is in the process of organizing volunteers to run the community organization games. O'Reilly reported on other items needed for the carnival.

O'Reilly informed the Board that Congressional Gold Medal recipient Sylvia Granader will be out of town and not available to serve as Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day Parade. The Board was pleased to bestow the honor of Grand Marshal on veteran and former Village employee Stan Pasiaka.

Arvant reported on the status of food court proposals from Papa Romano's and National Coney Island. Board members discussed the best options for providing food and beverages in the pavilion during the carnival. Volunteers will be needed to serve food.

Westerlund reported on participants that have committed to this year's parade in terms of entertainment, vehicles, public officials and sponsors. The fly-by has been confirmed. He will be coordinating the ceremony with veteran's groups. Westerlund is encouraging neighborhood groups to put together floats and participate in the parade.

The suggestion has been made to relocate the cable television production van and reviewing stand in order to provide a better view of the parade for those watching the rebroadcast on television. Ellen Marshall has contacted a resident who owns a vacant lot on a corner near the park. She is waiting to hear back from the property owner about use of the lot. Everyone agreed that it was a good location.

PICNIC IN THE PARK UPDATE

Arvant reported on progress made organizing the Picnic in the Park on Wednesday, July 21st. Oakland County Parks and Recreation has approved the Village's request to provide the Mobile Recreation Unit called, "Old School Playground Program" at no charge. They bring equipment for activities including kickball, whiffle ball baseball, Nok hockey boards, hula hoops, parachutes, marbles/jacks, gimp lanyards, Silly Putty/Play-Doh, yo-yo's, scoops, sidewalk chalk and more. The county will provide people to run the games from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Arvant envisions the event as an evening where families come to Beverly Park with their picnic dinners and socialize with their neighbors. She is working on getting an ice cream cart sponsored for the event. The Picnic in the Park will start at 5:30 p.m.

UPDATE ON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT (cont.)

An update on the project to repair and re-stain the sled hill stairs was received during public comments. Kondak reported that another scout is researching a project to build a sandbox in the park. The Board agreed that the location should be in the same area of the playground where the original plan proposed a sandbox. Members would like to have the scout present his plans for a sandbox before approving the project.

UPDATE ON LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Schmitt reported that he met with Jim from Goldner Walsh to review the status of the material planted in the park by their nursery last fall. All plantings wintered well except for a couple of rose bushes near the gazebo. Schmitt asked about the possibility of planting additional trees in the park. Jim suggested that the park had sufficient trees, unless the Board wanted to plant trees for commemorative purposes.

Goldner Walsh does not install irrigation systems, but the company has experience working with irrigation companies. Their estimate to provide irrigation in the area of the park designated by the Board was \$5,000-\$7,000. Schmitt will contact a couple of irrigation firms that were recommended by Goldner Walsh and report back to the Board.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER LARGE GROUP SURVEYS FOR FAKHOURY, BONE, WIND, THOMAS AND HANSEN

There were no objections to the large group event planning forms.

BEVERLY PARK CLEAN UP

Beverly Park Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. until noon with a rain date of Saturday May 15. Schmitt is coordinating the event this year. Details were discussed.

LIAISON COMMENTS

There was no liaison present.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Ellen Marshall informed the Board that the pavilion restrooms will be unlocked tomorrow and there will be water. The first pavilion rental is scheduled for next Saturday. The Village will be employing park attendants again this summer. The same two young men will return.

The Oakland County Recreation Commission has requested the opportunity to provide a short presentation to the Board at its June or July meeting. The purpose is to update Board members on resources available to the community and obtain feedback on the County Park programs. Board members recalled that they heard the presentation and viewed the video at a previous meeting. It was noted that there are no facilities in the park to show a video. Board meetings are held in the park during summer months. Members added that the Village is already taking advantage of County park programs.

BOARD COMMENTS

Greening questioned whether there were plantings destroyed at the March 27th Easter Egg Hunt in the park. Marshall responded that new plantings were not harmed during that event. However, administration will work closely with Kensington Church next year to determine the best location for activities to protect landscaping within the park.

Schmitt thanked Administration for their responsiveness to the Parks and Recreation Board's concerns.

Arvant was happy to meet in the park again noting that the park looks great this Spring. She commented on the heavy use of the park this afternoon.

Kondak also appreciated the responsiveness of Administration with respect to removing heavy equipment and construction material from the park. He was pleased with everyone's efforts in organizing the Memorial Day parade and carnival.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Westerlund observed that there are some damaged areas of curbing in the parking lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.