

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

Absent: None

Also: Assistant Manager, Marshall
Council Liaison, Mooney

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2010 PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Motion by Arvant, second by Schmitt, that the minutes of a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on April 15, 2010 be approved as presented.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

UPDATE ON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Kondak reported that Drew Steffes is nearing completion of his Eagle Scout project, which is to replace damaged boards and re-stain the sled hill fence in the park. He noted that another scout from Franklin is interested in an Eagle Scout project to install bike racks in Beverly Park near the ball diamonds. The scout is also considering providing benches and a bike rack at Riverside Park. Kondak was contacted by a scout interested in doing some tree planting in the park as his Eagle Scout project. He plans to do initial research on types of trees and locations.

DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CARNIVAL

O'Reilly informed the Board that he presented an overview of Memorial Day Parade and Carnival activities at the Tuesday, May 18 Council meeting. He updated the Board on the participants, entertainment, and activities confirmed for the parade and carnival. A highlight will be a flag ceremony honoring veterans. O'Reilly mentioned that numerous donations were received for the silent auction being sponsored by the Village Woman's Club.

O'Reilly had flyers printed listing the schedule and activities for the Memorial Day events. They will be distributed to all of the elementary and middle school students in the Birmingham area and will be available at local businesses. The flyer contains a list of contributors to the event; there are currently \$4,400 worth of contributions to the parade and carnival.

O'Reilly will meet with Ellen Marshall from Village Administration to work out the logistics of supplying required items for the event. He will be coordinating the advance preparation that needs to take place prior to Monday.

Ross reported on the volunteers she has secured from Groves High School and family members. Arvant added that she has recruited additional volunteers to help with the food court shifts.

Volunteers are needed for the food court, selling tickets, setting up tables, organizing the parade, monitoring games, selling stuffed animals, etc.

Arvant gave a detailed report on the food court operation and offerings. Papa Ramano's will provide all the food this year – pizza, hot dogs, chips, pop, ice cream bars, corndogs, hot pretzels and juice pouches for kids. Costs will be the same or lower than last year. Prices will be set by subcommittee.

UPDATE ON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT (continued)

Shaun Costello from Troop 1029 presented an overview of an Eagle Scout project involving planting trees in Beverly Park to replace trees lost by the Emerald Ash Borer disease in the forest area. He plans to research types of trees that would be suitable for the park and look for spots in the woods where a tree would thrive. It was mentioned that there is a fund raising component to the Eagle Scout project.

Costello displayed photographs of the woods in the winter to illustrate the need for additional trees. He pointed out the number of dead trees.

Resident Matt Roman stated that keeping the dead trees in the woods will help with regeneration.

Board members suggested that Costello contact Goldner Walsh Nursery and consult with the individual who has recently prepared a landscape plan for the park. He might be able to provide some insights to tree planting in Beverly Park as well as cost estimates. The Board will want a more detailed plan from Costello for planting trees in the woods with respect to the species of trees and location.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM MATT ROMAN TO USE PART OF BEVERLY PARK FOR A COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN

Matt Roman of 32021 Weston Drive gave a comprehensive presentation at the April Parks and Recreation Board meeting on a proposal for a Beverly Hills Community Garden in Beverly Park. The idea was 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. The Beverly Community Garden would be a non-profit, 100% self funded initiative. It is targeting 40 Beverly Hills families, each with a 20' x 10' garden plot. 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.

At last month's meeting Roman requested that the group be allowed to utilize an area of the park west of the playground area. The majority of Board members did not want to consider a community garden at that location, which is the only open grassy area within the park. Matt Roman said that he would look at other locations at the back of the park and return with an alternate proposal.

Matt Roman distributed a revised proposal that would move the Community Food Garden to a location at the rear of the park. He met with three companies in the park to discuss a suggestion

to use the aquifer in the park to supply water to the target area. All three individuals said that the most feasible solution would be to make a connection to the water line on Allerton.

Roman referred to a drawing in the information packet to explain the garden detail. The area would run about 100' wide by 144' deep to encompass 40 plots that are 20' x 10'. The viewable portions of the front and side of the garden would be landscaped for aesthetic reasons. It is proposed to install a waist-high decorative wood post fence on the west or approach sides of the garden with a wire garden fence behind it. Roman would work with the Board on the aesthetics of the fence.

Kondak asked how the gardeners would move equipment in and out of the area. Roman suggested erecting a small utility shed in the southeast corner in a treed area. He asked if Allerton Drive would allow parking on the weekends to accommodate the gardeners. Based on past experience, Board members did not think that Allerton residents would approve of parking on their street.

Roman said that there was not enough time to plant this year. If the plan were approved, the group would target the fall for site preparation. Board members discussed aspects of the proposal including the fence, proposed shed, exclusive use of plots for organic gardens, and membership fees.

Council liaison John Mooney did not think that the proposal complied with the Beverly Park deed restrictions. Operating a garden would benefit the participants and not the community as a whole. The deed restrictions prohibit a charge for park use except with special dispensation from Council. He did not think that the proposed water connection was feasible. Mooney suggested that Mr. Roman read the deed restrictions before proceeding further.

Matt Roman said that he will obtain a copy of the deed restrictions at the Village office to determine what is feasible.

UPDATE ON LANDSCAPING AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Schmitt opted to delay discussion of landscaping and irrigation in order to address a timely and significant pavilion issue. An ongoing problem has been that kids are too small to activate the automatic flush mechanism on the toilets in the pavilion bathrooms. There is a need to install an override button on the four units. Schmitt suggested that these be provided with park dedicated millage money.

Motion by Schmitt, second by O'Reilly, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Village Administration install automatic flush valves with an override button on the four toilets in the pavilion restrooms at a cost of under \$1,000 using park dedicated millage funds.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Schmitt thanked everyone involved with the Beverly Park Clean Up on Saturday, May 8. The Beverly Hills Lions Club has been providing refreshments for the park clean up event for many

years. The organization provides other assistance at park events. Schmitt suggested that the Lions Club be added to the plaque hanging in the municipal building lobby acknowledging contributors to the park.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Board request that administration have the name ‘Beverly Hills Lions Club’ engraved on the plaque hanging in the municipal building lobby acknowledging contributors to Beverly Park.

Motion passed (7– 0).

PICNIC IN THE PARK UPDATE

Arvant had nothing new to add to the Wednesday, July 21st Picnic in the Park. She will provide an update after the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Mooney stated that he did not want to offend the group requesting to establish a community garden in the park. It was his opinion that it is not an appropriate use for the park.

Mooney offered to do anything he could either personally or in his capacity on Council to help with the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival. He is impressed by the job this group is doing on organizing the event.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Ellen Marshall thanked those who participated in the Park Clean Up during inclement weather.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ross questioned whether the Board could suggest ideas for Eagle Scout projects. She was informed that the Parks and Recreation Board has recommended projects over the years.

O’Reilly and all Board members conveyed their condolences to Irene Davis on the loss of her husband Bob Davis.

Schmitt thanked the Boy Scout who worked on the sled hill fence. He was disappointed that Council decided not to hold the volunteer appreciation dinner this year.

Greening mentioned that children have been turning the faucet on to empty the rain barrel in the park. She asked that the rain barrel be moved away from the Hosta plant in the flower garden.

Kondak thanked the participants of the Park Clean Up, especially given the weather conditions.

Arvant said that she was looking forward to the Memorial Day parade and carnival and thinks that the Board’s second year of organizing the event will be their best yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.