

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

Absent: Davis

Also Present: Village Clerk/Asst. Manager, Marshall
Council liaison, Mooney

Chairperson Kondak 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 HELD OCTOBER 21, 2010

Motion by Schmitt, second by O'Reilly, that the minutes of a regular Parks and Recreation Board meeting held on October 21, 2010 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Mooney of 19111 Devonshire commented on a recent letter to the editor published in the Eagle newspaper written by Jeff Nowak, a member of the "A Better Beverly Hills" organization. She believed that this individual exploited the success of a young man in the community in order to disparage the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Nowak attempted to diminish the great job and positive attitude of Eagle Scout Drew Steffes by incorrectly presenting the facts. Mooney clarified that Eagle Scout candidates are required to seek donations as part of the scope of their project. Candidates reach out to the Parks and Recreation Board and Village Council to arrive at projects and not vice versa. Mooney thanked Board members for the hours that they spend making Beverly Park and the activities that occur in the park so great.

Board members expressed their disappointment with Mr. Nowak's letter to the editor and clarified facts regarding Eagle Scout projects. The Board thanked all of the Eagle Scouts for the many projects they have accomplished in Beverly Park.

REVIEW SUCCESS OF 2010 HALLOWEEN HOOT

Greening presented a final accounting of the Halloween Hoot revenue and expenses. She reported that there was \$3,871 in surplus money from the 2009 Hoot. After accounting for 2010 donations and expenses, there is \$3,600 remaining to conduct next year's Hoot. Greening said that this year's event was a remarkable success with people in the community going all out in terms of costumes and providing stations along the trail. She thanked everyone who participated and expressed appreciation to Board members for their help.

Kondak thanked members of the Board for supporting the Halloween Hoot as well as the volunteers who assisted with the event. He commended Pat Greening and Janet Mooney for their efforts in making the Hoot a huge success. Board members commented on the large attendance at this year's Hoot.

DISCUSS PREPARATION FOR 2011 WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Ross will be in charge of organizing the Winter Family Fun Day scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2011. She listed a number of things to do before the event including purchases, repairs to equipment, and contacting individuals to request volunteers. Ross mentioned that Kathy Armstead from WideOpenWest has offered to help in some way, possibly serving hot cocoa. Ross recalled that the idea of a sled dog racing sponsored by Oakland County Parks was mentioned last year as a future function. O'Reilly had contact information and offered to follow up on this idea.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

Kondak reviewed that the Board has been discussing how to use the remaining Park Dedicated Millage Fund and other funding available for improvements to the park facilities, landscaping, or grounds. There is \$53,000 remaining in the park millage fund. Suggestions from Board members last month included installing a splash pad, placing a fountain in the pond, and landscaping the sides of the sled hill.

Arvant related that she talked to representatives of other park departments in cities that have a splash pad in their parks. She learned that the cost of operating this feature and the insurance aspect are limited. The downside is the approximate \$300,000 cost of a splash pad. There was agreement that including this feature in the park was not feasible.

O'Reilly said that he and Davis will provide a report and recommendation on installing a fountain in the pond at an upcoming meeting. Kondak expressed a concern that placing a fountain in the pond will take away from the natural setting.

O'Reilly raised the possibility of providing a disc (Frisbee) golf course in the park. His initial research indicated that setting up a simple 9-hole course would cost approximately \$15,000. O'Reilly will research this further. Arvant offered to provide him with the name of someone who owns a disc golf shop.

Schmitt questioned the status of providing a manual flush override on the sensor-operated pavilion toilets. Clerk Marshall had no update, but noted that Tom Meszler was looking into this.

Kondak reviewed the results of a park survey conducted a couple of years ago. He asked if the suggestion to add lights at the tennis courts was considered. Board members commented that it doesn't get dark in the summer until 9 o'clock. It was mentioned that Allerton Drive residents may object to tennis court lights.

Kondak said that another suggestion was to install a board on the tennis court fence so that a single person could hit balls. The survey also included a suggestion for a water mister in the playground area to spray water on a hot day. Board members viewed this as a problem in terms of plumbing.

Council Liaison John Mooney remarked that most of the wooden benches in the park are in need of repair or replacement. He suggested that Board members walk through the park at regular intervals to inventory items that need maintenance. Greening proposed placing an article in the

Villager Newsletter informing residents that they could purchase a bench in the park as a memorial or keepsake.

Don Greening related that the bench near the pond area is too close to the water and has become unusable. He suggested draining the water and installing a permanent cement pad under the bench.

Kondak proposed purchasing two grills this year and locating them near the volleyball court. He remarked that the Board is waiting to receive bids from Administration on a park irrigation system.

DISCUSS POTENTIAL PARK ACTIVITY FOR SUMMER 2011

Arvant was in support of planning activities in the park, but noted the lack of budgeted funds. She was hesitant to do fund raising for another event at this time. The Memorial Day Parade and Carnival is a large-scale event. Last summer's Picnic in the Park had a small turnout, which may have been due to the lack of publicity. Arvant would consider organizing a similar small-scaled event this summer. She hoped that the Oakland County grant that supplied the Mobile Recreation Unit and staff would be available again this year.

There was agreement to sponsor a community event in Beverly Park this summer. O'Reilly suggested the possibility of organizing a softball game between two teams that evening.

John Mooney suggested showing an outdoor movie in the park. This was done previously when the Beverly Hills Club sponsored a movie in the pavilion. Members discussed the costs associated with renting a movie and the necessary equipment. Arvant will obtain cost estimates for a movie night in conjunction with the Picnic in the Park event.

DISCUSS POSSIBLE CANCELATION OF DECEMBER 16 MEETING

Motion by Arvant, second by Greening, to cancel the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Board meeting of December 16, 2010 due to the holidays.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

LIAISON COMMENTS

Mooney reminded the Board that it has the strong support of Council. During a recent walk through the park, he observed several maintenance issues that could be addressed by Village staff. The new fencing around the south dugout has come loose. Mooney has already mentioned the disrepair of park benches. It is incumbent on members of this Board as well as himself to walk through the park and make sure that maintenance items are addressed. Mooney hoped to be a strong advocate for the park.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Ellen Marshall reported that the Village staff has not received any complaints or concerns this summer regarding the Beverly Hills Athletic Club use of the tennis courts in Beverly Park. It was noted that the BHAC did make a voluntary donation to the Village in appreciation for the use of the courts.

BOARD COMMENTS

Schmitt welcomed John Mooney as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board. He agreed with Mooney's comments on the condition of the park benches.

Arvant congratulated Greening and her committee on a fantastic Halloween Hoot and an enjoyable day in the park. It is great advertising for our community to have this kind of event in Beverly Park.

Greening understood that Public Services Director Tom Meszler has inspected the condition of the parking lot. She did not think that the paving would last another five years and asked that Meszler take another look at it. In answer to an inquiry, Ellen stated that the rain barrel was emptied and placed in storage for the winter.

Kondak thanked Pat Greening and all the volunteers for their efforts on the Halloween Hoot. He appreciated the work of Don Greening, who painted the dugout at the ball field.

O'Reilly reiterated the appreciation expressed to Pat Greening and others who helped make this the best Halloween Hoot ever. He thanked Don Greening for the work he did in the park. O'Reilly congratulated the Village for saving the relationship with Baldwin Library and retaining our Public Safety Officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.