

Present: President Mercer; Members: Burry, Kelly, LaFerriere and Mooney

Absent: Briggs and Oen

Also Present: Village Manager, Wilson  
Assistant Manager/Clerk, Marshall  
Village Attorney, Ryan  
Public Safety Director, Torongeau

President Mercer called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

#### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Mooney, second by LaFerriere, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

#### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Mooney, second by LaFerriere, to approve the consent agenda as published.

- a. Consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held April 2, 2013.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, April 8, 2013.

Motion passed.

#### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

##### **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO RESIDENT RITA MORISETTE**

Greg Burry stated that Council will be honoring resident Rita Morisette this evening for her exceptional dedication as a Red Cross volunteer disaster relief worker. Observer & Eccentric correspondent Diane Bert stepped forward to introduce Rita Morisette and acknowledge Allison Koenigbauer from the Southeastern Michigan Region of the American Red Cross.

Diane Bert described Rita Morisette as a hero in the community; she has been a volunteer with the Red Cross since 2005. She trained with the American Red Cross and became a disaster relief worker. Morisette is also a certified emergency response vehicle driver. Bert talked about Rita's experiences, noting that she has been to 13 major disasters in the country; she is also on call locally. Rita Morisette has provided service to people in their moments of greatest need.

Council unanimously adopted the following Proclamation read by Greg Burry:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Rita Morisette has been a Beverly Hills resident for 28 years; and

**WHEREAS**, after retiring, Ms. Morisette wanted to help others so she began training with the American Red Cross in 2005 to provide disaster relief work; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Red Cross, Ms. Morisette learned cardiopulmonary resuscitation, received training on working with clients and how to do damage assessment, was trained to determine food, shelter and clothing needs, and learned how to set up shelters, and

**WHEREAS**, Rita Morisette has responded to 13 major disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, Isaac, Ike and Sandy with Katrina being the worst she had ever seen; and

**WHEREAS**, when serving as a Red Cross disaster relief worker, Rita is never certain where she will be sleeping or eating, but oftentimes volunteers are housed in churches and sleep on cots; and

**WHEREAS**, Red Cross relief workers provide reassurance and emotional support to victims and help them begin their recovery process while also being instrumental in helping displaced persons connect with their insurance carriers; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Morisette is on-call with the Red Cross one week per month to respond to fires in the Detroit and Pontiac areas and she is also part of a team that analyzes needs and makes connections for fire victims.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Beverly Hills Village Council congratulates Rita Morisette for her exceptional dedication as a Red Cross volunteer disaster relief worker.

Rita Morisette thanked Council for their words of appreciation. She credited all of the American Red Cross volunteers who have supported people in need throughout the United States.

On behalf of Council, President Mercer thanked Rita Morisette for her dedication and her service to this worthy organization. He reminded people that they can give to the Red Cross when disasters occur in order to better help people in their time of need.

**REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL TO USE VILLAGE STREETS FOR A WALK-A-THON ON FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013**

Elaine Apaza and Nicole Montalbano, Marian All School Board representatives, were present requesting approval for Marian High School to hold a Walkathon using Village sidewalks and streets on Friday, May 10, 2013. The Walkathon will benefit OATS (Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles), a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted therapy to children and adults with physical and emotional disabilities. It will also benefit the Song and Spirit Institute for Peace, an organization that promotes greater understanding among people of diverse

backgrounds through music and art. A map of the route has been provided to the Village along with a certificate of insurance.

Motion by Mooney, second by Kelly, that the Beverly Hills Village Council approve the request of Marian High School to use Village streets and sidewalks for its Walkathon to be held on Friday, May 10, 2013. A Certificate of Insurance has been submitted naming the Village of Beverly Hills as an additional insured.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

### **SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF MAY 21, 2013 TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE UPDATED COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN**

The Parks and Recreation Board prepared a draft Five-Year Community Recreation Plan, which has been on display at the Village Office and on the Village website since March 28, 2013 for public review and comment. This plan will help guide the recreational goals and improvements in the Village for the next five years. In addition, eligibility for many state funded recreation grants requires a Five-Year Plan to be on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

President Mercer set a Council public hearing date of May 21, 2013 to receive comments on the updated Five-Year Community Recreation Plan.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **REPORTS – MANAGER**

**Budget Meeting** – A study session for the FY 2013-2014 Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Council members have received a draft copy of the budget for review. Any questions on the draft budget can be directed to Manager Wilson or Finance Director Wiszowaty prior to the meeting or at the study session.

**Southfield Road Joint Meeting** – There was a joint meeting of the Councils for the Village of Beverly Hills, and the cities of Southfield and Lathrup Village on Monday, April 8 to discuss the future of the Southfield Road corridor. An update was provided as to the status of the Environmental Assessment being conducted by the Road Commission of Oakland County.

Representatives of each community had an opportunity to voice their vision for the redevelopment of the Southfield Road corridor. Each of the communities are working on their position statements as requested by the Road Commission for the corridor improvement process. There was agreement that there should be some coordination on the official positions of all three communities relative to the preferred design of the corridor. Work on a joint statement is ongoing.

**Veterans for Memorial Parade** – The Memorial Day Parade and Carnival is looking for veterans to participate in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Beverly Park. Interested veterans can contact Bill Kondak at 313-268-8109.

**Village Website** – The Communications Committee has been working on a new and improved website for the Village. The new design and layout are substantially completed and will be launched soon. Wilson acknowledged the Cable Board for providing grant funding to help with this endeavor and Ellen Marshall and Erin Wilks for their work on the website.

**Interactive Display Screen** – Wilson referred to the new 70” Interactive Display Screen in the council chamber. It is anticipated that the new smart board will be used during the budget presentation at the study session next Tuesday. Wilson thanked the Birmingham Area Cable Board for funding the entire purchase.

**Grand opening of new business** – There will be a grand opening ceremony on Saturday, April 20 for the Books A Million store located at The Corners plaza at 13 Mile and Southfield Road. The new Village fire truck will appear at the grand opening of the store.

**Current financial statements** – Council is in receipt of Village financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2013. Wilson will draft a summary of the report and forward it to Council this week.

**Downed trees in park** – Wilson stated that removal of trees in the wooded area of the park has been an ongoing process over the last few years. Larger trees have fallen in recent weeks, blocking the path. Wilson will be meeting with Public Services Director Meszler and Comeau Equipment Company staff about obtaining a quote from J. H. Hart for tree removal work.

**Public Safety Director** - It has been one year since Director Torongeau started with the Village in his position as Public Safety Director. Wilson thanked him for his leadership over the last year.

#### **REPORTS – COUNCIL**

Burry asked everyone to keep the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing in their thoughts and prayers.

The Joint Senior Services Committee is drafting its final recommendation that will be brought to the governing bodies in early June. Burry stated that this study has uncovered a greater need of essential services for the growing senior population in the area.

LaFerriere reported on the April 8 joint meeting between representatives from Southfield, Lathrup Village and Beverly Hills to discuss redevelopment of the Southfield Road corridor. It was productive to be able to talk to members of other communities about their visions for Southfield Road.

LaFerriere noted that the non-emergency Public Safety Department phone number is 248/540-3400. Press option #2 for the duty lieutenant.

Mooney thanked Bill Kondak and Pat Westerlund for their efforts in organizing the Memorial Day parade and carnival. He mentioned that there is a call out to all Beverly Hills veterans and

active members of the armed services who would like to attend or participate in the veterans monument dedication ceremony on Monday, May 27 in Beverly Park.

Mooney commented that he saw two impressive things yesterday. One was the quick response of all first responders and fire fighters to the scene following yesterday's Boston Marathon bombing tragedy. It reinforced his thinking relative to the importance and value of our public safety officers in Beverly Hills.

Mooney commented that he had the privilege yesterday to attend an Eagle Court of Honor for Eli Jensen, Village resident and member of Troop 1024. His Eagle Scout project was to collect used bicycles for a program in the City of Detroit benefiting children in need. Eli Jensen is the 115<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout from Troop 1024. Mooney talked about the contributions of these young men to the community.

Mercer mentioned that Eagle Scout Dan Mooney built the dugouts at the south ball diamond in Beverly Park.

Mercer announced that the Beverly Park Clean Up will be held on Saturday, May 11 with a rain date of May 18. The Beverly Hills Little League will have its opening day ceremony at the park this Saturday, April 20. Mercer expressed his appreciation of the leadership of the Beverly Hills Little League for the time and effort they put into organizing the softball leagues.

The Birmingham Youth Assistance Committee honors and recognizes volunteers in the communities they serve on an annual basis. Mercer noted the young people from Beverly Hills who volunteered this year to assist the organization: Luke Hardig, Larkin O'Gorman, Brooke Sandercock, Jake Zarolli, Phil Gastineau, Sarah Horvath, Anna Mayer, Ryan VanDagans, and Alexander Warren.

Motion by Mooney, second by Burry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Motion passed.

**Tim Mercer**  
**Council President**

**Ellen E. Marshall**  
**Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard**  
**Recording Secretary**