

Present: Chairperson Arvant; Vice-Chair Kondak; Members: Hausman, Ruprich and Schmitt

Absent: Davis and Greening

Also Present: Assistant Manager/Clerk, Marshall
Council Liaison, Mooney

Chairperson Arvant 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Motion by Schmitt, second by Hausman, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on November 21, 2013 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REVIEW AND CONSIDER SILENT AUCTION AT MEMORIAL DAY CARNIVAL

Kim Fischer, Treasurer of the Groves High School Band Boosters and member of the London Trip Committee, was present to request permission to allow the Groves Band Boosters to conduct a fundraising event at the 2014 Memorial Day Carnival. They would like to conduct a Silent Auction of items that have been donated to them in support of the GHS Band participation in the 2015 London New Year's Day Parade and Festival. Fischer said that the Boosters are offering to enhance the Memorial Day celebration through additional participation of the band with a post-parade performance. She requested approval and assistance with this event from the Parks and Recreation Board and Council.

Arvant advised Ms. Fischer that the Memorial Day Parade and Carnival is weather dependant, which may affect the attendance and the success of their event. It was noted that fund raising efforts have always involved an 80-20 split of the profits with the Village to cover the costs of the carnival including table rentals and other supplies.

Fischer remarked that proceeds from the silent auction could be significant. She proposed that the Boosters make a donation to the Village in lieu of a percentage of the profits. Following a discussion of the policy, Board members agreed to place a \$200 cap on the Village's share of the Booster's proceeds.

Motion by Hausman, second by Arvant, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council approve the proposal of the Groves High School Band Boosters to hold a Silent Auction at the Memorial Day Carnival in Beverly Park with the customary 80-20 revenue split maxed out at \$200.

Motion passed.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PAINTING PICKLEBALL LINES ON ONE OF THE TENNIS COURTS AT BEVERLY PARK

Board members are in receipt of information with a description of pickleball and photographs of the game being played, a list of local courts that offer pickleball, and how to lay out a pickleball court on a tennis court. The material indicates that pickleball is a fast growing sport for adults over 50. It is played on a badminton-sized court with a perforated plastic ball similar to a whiffle ball and wood or composite paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles.

Hausman commented on the popularity of pickleball. She related a conversation with individuals at the BASCC center about playing pickleball. It can be played indoors or outdoors, as singles or doubles, and is easy for beginners to learn. The game can be played by all ages and is particularly popular with senior citizens.

In an effort to make Beverly Park an enjoyable venue for people of all ages, Hausman proposed that the Parks & Recreation Board consider adding a pickleball court on at least one tennis court at Beverly Park. Her research indicated that this use would not require lowering the nets. The only cost in providing pickleball is painting lines on the court using a different color than the tennis court lines; a contrasting but subtle color was suggested. It would not hinder the play of tennis on the courts, but would increase the usage of the courts, especially during off-peak hours.

Council liaison Mooney stated that Pat Greening asked him to voice her comment that converting a tennis court to accommodate pickleball players should not interfere with the tennis players. Resident Jeff Pynnonen on Allerton Drive commented on the pickleball proposal.

Motion by Hausman, second by Schmitt, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that Council authorize the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$2,000 from the park dedicated millage fund to paint one tennis court in Beverly Park for dual use as a pickleball court.

Motion passed.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM JH HART FOR REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS TREES AND BRANCHES ALONG THE PATH AT BEVERLY PARK

The Board is in receipt of a proposal from J.H. Hart Urban Forestry for the removal of hazardous trees and branches adjacent to the Beverly Park path, including the trimming of live trees creating a potential hazard to those using the path. When ground conditions warrant, Hart recommends utilizing their log loader to remove all hazardous trees/limbs the 36' crane can reach. He quoted a cost for this work not to exceed \$3,400.00

Judd Hart would not recommend removing all dead trees and existing fallen trees for the reason that doing that would have a significant and negative impact to Beverly Park. It would take years for the adjacent trees to recover from the heavy machinery traffic, and wildlife in the wooded area would be negatively impacted. The cost of performing that work would be substantial.

Board members discussed the proposal from J.H. Hart. It was the suggestion of the Board that trees be left in their natural state off the path if possible. There was agreement that some of the dead trees would have to be removed because they are in a location where they cannot be dropped.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Kondak, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend Council approval of a proposal in an amount not to exceed \$3,400 from J.H. Hart Urban Forestry as outlined in correspondence dated November 26, 2013 from Judd Hart. The Board recommends leaving as much of the dead tree and limb material on the ground as reasonably possible. Funds for this expenditure should come from the Village R&M Park Account.

Motion passed.

DISCUSS FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Board members Hausman and Ruprich are co-chairing this year's Winter Family Fun Day scheduled for Sunday, January 26. They reviewed plans for the event and discussed details with Board members relative to games, refreshments and volunteers. Activities will include ice skating, sledding, winter baseball, hockey, winter disc golf, snow golf, score-o, and possibly snow shoeing. Scouts will make a snow cave and tend the fire. Former member Jim O'Reilly will assist with providing equipment for some of the games.

Hausman has notified area schools of the event and has requested volunteers from Groves and Seaholm high schools.

DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CARNIVAL

Bill Kondak will chair the Memorial Day Carnival again this year. A chairperson for the Memorial Day parade has yet to be determined. Board members discussed how to proceed with planning for Memorial Day and whether to make changes this year to scale down the carnival. Ideas included discontinuing the sale of tickets for food and games and inviting food trucks to provide various refreshments. Members talked about the rides and activities offered at previous events, the work involved, and the success of the games.

Arvant offered to research food trucks and provide information at next month's meeting. Council approval may be required for selling food in the park. Kondak will contact previous vendors and Oakland County regarding rides and activities. Members were asked to think about a candidate to serve as Grand Marshal.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Mooney suggested that the Board consider following up on several park improvements. These include work on the first three disc golf holes; rehabilitation of dugouts on the north diamond and various improvements to the two ball fields; and, improvements to the steps and sled hill.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Assistant Manager Marshall informed the Board that plans for a storage shed proposal for Beverly Park will be coming before the Planning Commission at its regular February meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Schmitt proposed that the Board consider improvements to the wooded path in Beverly Park, particularly the section near the pavilion. The path becomes rutted and impassable following the Halloween Hoot after vehicles are driven through the area to reach the trick-or-treat stations. Schmitt suggested that a substance like gravel would hold up better than wood chips.

Hausman thanked the Board for supporting the pickleball idea for Beverly Park.

Arvant thanked Janice and Jeff Hausman for hosting a Christmas gathering at their home.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.