

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

Absent: 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 JANUARY 16, 2014

Motion by Schmitt, second by Hausman, that the minutes of a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board held on January 16, 2014 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST TO USE BEVERLY PARK ON SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014 FOR THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH BIRMINGHAM EASTER EGG HUNT

Robyn Whitelaw presented the request from Kensington Community Church Birmingham to use Beverly Park on Saturday, April 12, 2014 for the annual Beverly Park Easter Egg Hunt. They are requesting the use of the park from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The event is open to all members of the community.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend Village Council approval of the request from Kensington Community Church to utilize Beverly Park for the purpose of conducting an Easter Egg Hunt in Beverly Park on Saturday, April 12, 2014 between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Further, it is recommended that the pavilion rental fees be waived and that the Village provide three portable restrooms for the event. A certificate of insurance will be provided upon approval of the Easter Egg Hunt.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER DONATION FROM MARSHALL LASSER TO INSTALL A JAPANESE GARDEN AT BEVERLY PARK

Mr. Marshall Lasser from Bingham Farms presented an offer to gift the Village of Beverly Hills with a Japanese-style rock, conifer and maple garden occupying an area in Beverly Park to be installed in 2014. He said that the project was originally intended for Linden Park in the City of Birmingham; the Birmingham City Commission did not authorize the proposal.

Board members are in receipt of a proposal submitted by Mr. Lasser with a drawing by landscape architect Michael Dul & Associates for a 40' x 90' Japanese garden. Boulders for the large rock arrangements would be provided by a company called Rockworks out of Lake Orion. Ray Rogers from Rockworks would put the bid together and do the work. Lasser provided an enthusiastic description of the proposed Japanese garden and said that he would provide funding for the approximately \$45,000 project. He would be willing to spend an additional \$15-\$20,000 to put in a water feature if permitted by the Village. The proposal would require that the Village purchase the materials and be reimbursed by Mr. Lasser.

Lasser proposed to locate the Japanese garden at the northwest corner of Beverly Park, but he would consider other areas. He indicated that the requirements of a Japanese garden are visual and noise seclusion. Board members pointed out that there are 2-3 disc golf holes in that area.

Questions from the Board on the following topics were addressed by Mr. Lasser: location; source of water and electricity; maintenance requirements and replacement of plants; expense of the water feature; alternative locations for the garden away from the disc golf area; proximity of the playground; concern about a secluded area; whether it complements the comprehensive community recreation plan; disruption to the park during construction; and consideration of Riverside Park as a garden location.

Board members concurred that Japanese gardens are beautiful. There was the question of whether this garden area would be a good fit for Beverly Park as a concept or considering the type of existing recreation and use in the park.

Motion by Schmitt to refer the donation from Marshall Lasser to install a Japanese Garden at Beverly Park to Council for consideration.

Elsie Levasseur of 19676 Warwick stated that she is familiar with Japanese Gardens and is excited about the idea. She pointed out that there are other areas of the park such as the trail that is not in view of Public Safety Officers. She asked the Parks and Recreation Board to consider accepting this gift as an enhancement to the park.

Rosemary Corey of 17416 Kinross commented on the generous offer of Mr. Lasser and urged members to visit his lovely garden. She thought that it would be appropriate for all ages.

Roll Call Vote:

Arvant	- no
Davis	- yes
Hausman	- no
Kondak	- no
Ruprich	- yes
Schmitt	- no

Motion failed (4 – 2).

Arvant thanked Mr. Lasser for his generous offer. Japanese Gardens are beautiful, but may not have a place in Beverly Park.

DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CARNIVAL

Kondak reviewed that there was discussion at last months meeting about how to proceed with planning and overseeing this year's Memorial Day Parade. The Village solicited volunteers to chair the parade through its website and the GovDelivery email program. As a result, residents Kim and Mike Eberhart volunteered to help with the 2014 parade in any way they could. Assistance was also offered by resident Matt Goodrich, who had helped former parade organizer Pat Westerlund.

Kondak was enthused about the offer of Mike and Kim Eberhart to work on the parade. He has provided them with a list of the previous parade participants. There was about \$2,000 in expenses related to the parade last year. There followed some discussion relative to the organization of the parade.

Kim and Mike Eberhart of 21631 E. Valley Woods Drive introduced themselves. They are relatively new to Beverly Hills and thought that helping out with the parade would be a good way to become involved in the community. Both Kim and Mike have experience in the public relations field.

Board members talked about plans for the carnival. Arvant presented information she researched relative to food trucks that work at fundraisers including Jacques' Tacos, Kona Ice, Detroit Licks, Franks Anatra (hot dogs), Mac Shack, Treat Dreams, and Red Coat Tavern. The trucks would be located in the parking lot. Sales would be done on a cash basis, which would require Council approval to allow sales in the park.

Kondak reviewed fund raising efforts and carnival rides. He noted that Ellen Marshall is applying for a grant through Oakland County for inflatables.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Council liaison Mooney stated that he has been contacted by an Eagle Scout candidate regarding a project to rehabilitate the picnic tables in the Beverly Park pavilion. He spoke with a second scout who was looking for an Eagle Scout project. Mooney has committed to assist these young men.

Schmitt proposed renovating the inside of the pavilion, which is in need of painting, caulking, and other repairs. Kondak said that another Eagle Scout project may be to repair the south side of the sled hill where erosion has occurred over the years deepening the gully. It would involve driving in posts, building a retaining wall, and backfilling it with dirt. Mooney recalled that a couple of disc golf holes are in need of repair. He asked if the Board was interested in constructing a boardwalk or putting down material to make some of the areas passable.

Mooney commented on the generosity of Mr. Lasser's offer to construct a Japanese Garden in Beverly Park. It is a great concept, but he understood the decision of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Mooney commented on the good turnout for the Winter Family Fun Day held on Sunday, January 26 in the park. He thanked residents Kim and Mike Eberhart for volunteering to help the Board with the Memorial Day Parade.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Ellen Marshall informed the Board that Council acted on the Board's recommendation to have Pickleball lines painted on one of the tennis courts. Volleyball and basketball nets will be replaced as needed this spring.

BOARD COMMENTS

Schmitt thanked Hausman and Ruprich for doing a great job of organizing this year's Winter Family Fun Day. Everyone had a great time.

Davis mentioned that she supported the motion to forward the Japanese Garden proposal to the Village Council. She thought it would be good to publicize that there are people who are willing to make donations to Beverly Park.

Kondak also congratulated Hausman and Ruprich for an excellent Winter Family Fun Day. It was well organized and families had a great time. Having snow shoes available was great. He thanked Scout Troop 1024 for building the snow cave. There was great support from the Parks and Recreation Board, Council and Administration.

Hausman thanked everyone for their support of Winter Family Fun Day. She was pleased with the huge turnout. Ruprich also thanked everyone for their support.

Ruprich stated that it was difficult to turn down funding for a park improvement. She agreed that the Japanese Garden was not a perfect fit for Beverly Park.

Arvant thanked Hausman and Ruprich for organizing this year's Winter Family Fun Day. She acknowledged former Board member Jim O'Reilly for his assistance all day and for housing Board equipment. She offered her good wishes to Pat Greening and hoped that she would return soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.