

JOINT PARKS & RECREATION BOARD/COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 21, 2021 - PAGE 1

Present: Parks and Recreation Board: Chairperson Borgon; Vice Chairperson Goodrich; Members: Bresnahan, Hausman, Kondak, Ross, and Ruprich

Council: President George; President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko
Members: Abboud, Kecskemeti, Mooney, O’Gorman, Peddie

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all members participated remotely via Zoom from Beverly Hills, Michigan.

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Wilson
Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski

Chairperson Borgon called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 7:34 p.m. remotely via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Kondak, second by Ruprich, the meeting agenda is approved as published.

Motion passed (7-0)

APPROVE MINUTES OF A PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Motion by Hausman, second by Kondak, to approve the November 19, 2020 Parks & Recreation Board meeting minutes as published.

Motion passed (7-0)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Maxwell, Beverly Hills, presented on pocket parks and open spaces on the east side of the Village. He discussed the 2020 millage renewal and offered suggestions on how the funding could be used to improve spaces on the east side such as installing benches, picnic tables, stationary grills, trash receptacles, and dog waste stations. He stated that adding several minor items will provide a positive step in a character-building movement on the east side.

Dan Nelson, Beverly Hills, commented on pocket parks and the HOA’s ownership of Pinecone Patch. He discussed the large amount of work he has put into the parks, such as landscaping, and sees continued maintenance as a potential issue.

Kathleen Tootell, Beverly Hills, commented on her desire to restart a Village-wide garden club. She recommended rain gardens, rain barrels, and native plantings.

Janet Mooney, Beverly Hills, encouraged the Board to set a list of priorities. She would like to see Beverly Park cleaned up. She thanked the Board for all that they do.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM GROVES HIGH SCHOOL TO HOLD FORTE 5K AT BEVERLY PARK ON MAY 16, 2021

Laurent Gillard was present on behalf of Groves High School and spoke about the event. Groves has requested to hold their annual Forte 5K Run and Walk at Beverly Park and on Village streets on Sunday, May 16, 2021 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM to benefit the Groves Orchestra. They have also requested to use the pavilion during this time and asked that the pavilion rental fees be waived. A map of the route was provided.

The Board and Council previously approved the request for May 2020, but the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion by Hausman, second by Ross, the Beverly Hills Parks & Recreation Board recommends Village Council approve the request from Groves High School to hold their annual Forte 5K Run on Sunday, May 16, 2021 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. This event will begin and end at the Beverly Park pavilion and they will utilize Village streets and sidewalks for the run. It is recommended that fees for use of the pavilion be waived for this event.

Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST TO EXTEND BIKE PATH AT BEVERLY PARK

Brian Reemmer, resident of Beverly Hills, provided an overview and presentation on the request to extend the bike path at Beverly Park. He stated the path was built mostly by kids from the Village in the summer of 2020. The trail blends in with existing terrain, avoids the woodchip foot path, and avoids the disc golf course. He proposed extending the current trail southwest within the wooded area of Beverly Park. He also proposed adding two new features: a “skinny” and a “wave” which allow riders to safely improve balance and gain confidence. The proposed new features would be placed within the trail boundaries.

The Board asked about the timeline of the project and Reemmer stated it would take a few months. The wetness of the ground at the park was a noted concern.

The Board and Council discussed what type of materials are used or would be used on the trail. The consensus was that only natural materials should be used.

Motion by Hausman, second by Ross, the Beverly Hills Parks & Recreation Board recommends the Village Council approve the request to extend the bike path and the request to add two new features, the skinny and the wave, to Beverly Park with the condition that all materials used must be natural.

Motion passed (7-0)

RECAP WINTER DECORATION INSTALLATIONS AT VILLAGE PARKS

Goodrich thanked everyone for their participation and help with decorating the installations around the village. He thought it was a success and said the trees looked great.

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The Board discussed whether to keep or donate the leftover decorations.

The Board will finish taking down the decorations, trees, and rebar soon.

DISCUSS DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS' INSIDE|OUT PROGRAM

Hausman provided an overview of the 2021 DIA Inside|Out program. The Village will receive 5 works of art to display: 2 at Beverly Park, 1 at Riverside Park, 1 at Auburn/Reedmere, and 1 at Pinecone Patch (pending written HOA approval). They will be on display from May to October.

The Board discussed tailoring events around the art displays, such as a slow roll bike ride or Painting at the Park event.

DISCUSS BUCKTHORN ERADICATION AT BEVERLY PARK

Rutkowski provided an overview of buckthorn eradication. The Parks & Recreation Board has had discussions on the buckthorn eradication project at Beverly Park at several of their recent meetings.

The contract with Natural Community Services (NCS) for buckthorn eradication expired December 2020. At the August 2020 meeting, the Board reached a consensus that the eradication project should continue and requested to see more specific bid language from administration for review and recommendation. At the September 2020 meeting, the Board provided input for the "Scope of Work" section of a potential Request for Proposals (RFP). Among their recommendations, the Board would like to see the work expanded across the entire park; not contained to Zones A and B from the initial agreement. A map was provided for reference.

The Board and Council have a few options to consider to continue the eradication project: extend the contract with NCS; put the project out to bid; opt-in to one of the two contracts held by Oakland County Parks for terrestrial invasive species removal; or bring the work in-house. The Board has previously expressed interest in contracting the services out.

The benefits of the opt-in option are that the contractors have already gone through a competitive bid process and were vetted by Oakland County, and the prices should be less expensive due to bulk pricing. The participating contractors are Cardno Inc. and GEI Consultants of Michigan.

Kondak advised not to treat the buckthorn too early and to follow all removal guidelines.

Hrydziuszko suggested expanding the buckthorn eradication project to include Riverside Park.

Motion by Hausman, second by Ruprich, the Parks and Recreation Board recommends the Village continue the buckthorn eradication project at Beverly Park and recommends that the Village Council instruct administration to obtain quotes from the Oakland County Parks contractors who offer opt-in options for buckthorn eradication at both Beverly Park and Riverside Park.

Motion passed (7-0)

DISCUSS LONG TERM PLANNING WITH DEDICATED PARK MILLAGE

a. Riverside Park and Island

The Board and Council discussed buckthorn removal at Riverside Park and on the island.

Goodrich talked about creating a hardscape or lookout at Riverside.

b. Hidden Rivers

Borgon gave an overview of a recent walk members took at Hidden Rivers. She recognized that there is little the Village can do in the area due to deed restrictions. She suggested more signage.

Ross would like to inform people how to access Hidden Rivers without trespassing on private property.

The Board and Council members discussed that Hidden Rivers Nature Preserve is a natural habitat that needs to be left alone, but that people should know that it is a Village asset.

c. East Side Pocket Parks

The Board and Council discussed adding benches, picnic tables, and receptacles to open spaces on the east side and noted that there should be a quality standard set for these items.

The Board and Council talked about community involvement and gathering resident feedback from people who live in the area.

Ross suggested setting money aside for HOAs to do improvements to their open spaces/islands.

d. Beverly Park Playground

Borgon provided an overview of the intention to replace the playground and surface in 2023.

The Board and Council discussed accessibility for all and different types of surface materials.

e. Beverly Park Gravel Path

The Board and Council discussed several types of materials that could potentially replace the gravel path. They discussed accessibility for wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, runners, and cyclists. The Board and Council would like to see different pricing and material options.

Kondak noted that there are too many puddles on the path, causing people to walk on the grass. He also noted that the path needs to be able to support vehicles for Public Services and Public Safety.

DISCUSS FUTURE EVENT IDEAS

Goodrich suggested a Camp Out event.

Hrydziuszko suggested a social distanced Concert in the Park.

O’Gorman would like to see a dog park and more emphasis on recreation. He suggested hosting more regular events for better participation. He also suggested Art in the Park, farmers market, food trucks, and plant exchanges.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Rutkowski informed the Board and Council that the OC CISMA is performing buckthorn monitoring at Beverly Park. The CISMA set up 5 treatment plots and 1 control plot prior to the December spray treatment and will be back in the spring to monitor results. Rutkowski stated the ice rink at Beverly Park is being prepped for use.

Wilson thanked Rutkowski for her work with the OC CISMA. He thanked all of the volunteers for their work clearing buckthorn. He thanked the Board for their recommendation for continuing buckthorn removal.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Hrydziuszko asked if there were enough members on the Board to carry out all of the proposed initiatives. She thanked the Board members for their hard work and said she is looking forward to this year.

Abboud thanked the Board members.

Keckskemeti thanked everyone for their patience. She suggested considering reviving the brick program at Beverly Park.

Peddie thanked the Board members for their work. She agreed with comments that more attention should be given to the open spaces on the east side of the village.

O’Gorman thanked the Board for their service.

Mooney thanked the Board for having Council at the meeting.

George stated that he was looking forward to seeing how the Board recommends using the millage funds.

BOARD COMMENTS

Hausman thanked Council for their support. She announced that she submitted another ReLeaf grant application. She said residents are interested in more tree plantings. She talked about butterfly houses and said it could be a potential Scout project.

Ross thanked everyone and stated the Board has a lot to work on.

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Kondak welcomed Hrydziuszko as the new Council Liaison. He thanked Council for their input. He thanked the Board members for their efforts with the decorations.

Ruprich thanked Council for their support. She thanked the public for their participation and ideas. She noted that there are sales restrictions at the parks.

Bresnahan thanked everyone for their time and ideas.

Goodrich commented that he was looking forward to more trees, clean up events, improving the east side spaces, and improving Riverside Park. He thanked Mooney and the rangers for their work at the parks.

Borgon thanked Council for their support. She said there were a lot of great ideas and lots to look forward to this year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 p.m.