



Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Rec Committee
Monday, July 12, 2016
7.00pm Village Hall EOC Room
Minutes

I. Call to Order

Roll Call: Curt Brower (Chair), Claire Groenevelt (Vice Chair), George Barfield, Erik Poel, Lee Schuitema and Megan Doss (Village Liaison)

Absent: Cal Braun

Also present: Christine Burns (Village Manager), Maryann Fonkert (Deputy Clerk)

- II. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by **Poel**, second from **Schuitema**, to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Poel**, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2016 regular meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

IV. General Business

1. Central Park:

- Pickleball – Suggestions for rules and scheduling

Three members of the Lakeshore Pickleball Club, Bob Helder, Cindi McKinney and Carrie Rodgers, were present and shared their ideas for rules, scheduling and signage for the new courts. After much discussion the **Board** agreed to a temporary plan for fees and reservations until they could finalize a formal plan.

Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Poel**, to approve temporary fees and scheduling plan with open play only, on all courts, during “Peak Times” (8 a.m. - 11 a.m.), Monday through Friday, a fee of \$100 dollars per day per court to reserve courts for tournaments or other for profit activity that was closed to the public and no fee for tournaments or activity that was open to the public, allowing up to 6 courts to be reserved at any one time leaving the remaining 2 courts available for drop-in players.

All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

- Basketball Courts – Complaint on size and lighting

Manager **Burns** reported to the **Board** that she had received a complaint regarding the new Basketball Courts not being regulation size. **Burns** said she explained to this gentleman that the park renovation was constructed with 100% donated funds, \$61,000 for the basketball courts, and would estimate it would take another \$10,000 to expand the courts. **Burns** said she told him she would be happy to meet with him to discuss what his ultimate goal was (i.e. to expand the courts) but that she was not willing to spend tax dollars to obtain an estimate for an expansion without first knowing that he was serious and would be willing to follow the lead of the Pickleball players and raise funds to accomplish this goal. **Burns** said he did not currently have a fundraising plan in place because that wasn't his initial goal when entering into this conversation, however, he did have a few connections to companies that did that kind of work so he would inquire whether \$61,000 (the cost for the new courts) for 2 non-full size basketball courts was appropriate as well as the \$10,000 to expand them. The **Board** discussed this issue and felt that recreational size was adequate unless this person was willing to raise the money needed to expand the courts since there had not been any other complaints and that the courts seemed to be being used regularly. **Schuitema** suggested that, with the help of fundraising, they could add baskets to the north and south ends to make one large court when there are more players or use the 2 smaller courts with less players. **Burns** said they would wait to see if this person would like to follow through.

Burns also reported that she had received a complaint from a neighbor who lives just south of the basketball courts that his backyard and kids bedrooms were lit up until 11:00 at night. **Burns** said she was going to have DPW check out the lighting and that the solution could possibly be as simple as redirecting the lights and if that didn't work, they could use some baffling.

- Capital Campaign Update

Burns reported that they were just paying the last of the final bills on Friday. **Doss** asked how they were with the funds that had not come in. **Burns** said everything had come in and that they were pretty close to where they needed to be although they did have a few overages. **Burns** said they still needed to purchase all of the commemorative plaques and the signage to change the name of the park and she was not sure if there would be enough to cover these costs because they had not priced out the signage yet.

2. Lakeside Beach Update

- Complaint.

Manager **Burns** shared that a complaint had been received regarding the high water level and lack of beach area and that the person was concerned that the sidewalk would erode away again. **Burns** said that it was suggested that more sand be brought in, however, that would not help in this situation because the water level was just too high. **Burns** said there were also concerns with signage and that had been taken care of. **Barfield** asked about the concern for the sidewalk eroding away again. **Burns** said that

when the sidewalk was repaired last year there was a coffer put in and then backfilled so that should not happen again. **Groenevelt** asked about the life guard since a few years ago there was discussion about not having one. **Burns** said that the life guard was paid for through Spring Lake Township taxes.

3. **Dog Park Updates** – **Burns** said Diane Shindlbeck would like to be on the August or September agenda to discuss some fundraising for more improvements she would like to do.
4. **Tanglefoot Park** – **Burns** shared a nice compliment that had been received regarding Wally.
5. **Mill Point Park** – Nothing new.
6. **Whistle Stop Playground** – **Burns** said that to date \$5,544 had been raised. **Doss** said she would like to do some brain storming to raise money because what she had tried so far had not worked. **Doss** explained that they had a grant from the State of Michigan to match up to \$50,000 but that this grant information had not been shared yet because she wanted people to miss the park and also, once this project was launched, there was a very short period of time to raise the match. **Doss** also asked the Board to reach out, collectively, to ask Council for money to maintain the parks because at this time there was nothing set aside to keep the parks maintained. **Brower** said he agreed and wondered if some of Tanglefoot's income could be set aside for parks maintenance. **Burns** said that when you look at the actual number cleared at Tanglefoot it might be \$20,000 and spread among all the parks would not go very far. **Schuitema** said that even if the Village only made a dollar on Tanglefoot, the tenants from Tanglefoot brought in a significant amount of money at Village businesses. The **Board** agreed.
7. **Communications** –
 - Holiday Inn communications – **Burns** shared that the Holiday Inn had made a suggestion to add some sort of sign that would stand in the middle of the bike path at the Holiday Inn driveway because bikers didn't always stop for cars coming in and out and there had been some near misses. **Burns** said that there were stop signs there and that more signage probably wouldn't make much difference.

V. Tree Board Meeting

1. **Tree Nursery Update from Ben VanHoeven** – **Burns** reported that Landscape Design LLC. had planted 20 Maples and 10 dwarfs at the tree nursery and Krause Brothers Sprinkling had installed the irrigation needed.
2. **Miscellaneous**

Burns said that she hoped that the Board had a chance to look at the trees on the list that were in need of removal. **Burns** said that a tree on the corner of Mason and

Buchanan was dead and that she and the property owner were worried that during a storm the tree might come down so she did not want to wait to have that tree removed.

Burns reported that letters to homeowners were being sent out for approval to remove trees that were clearly dead or damaged. **Schuitema** reported that there was a dead tree on Prospect that needed to be added to the list for removal. **Burns** said DPW had started a list of trees that they think need to be addressed and will present that list to the new Arborist this fall and a list will be provided to the Board at that time.

- Village Cove marina – Cottonwood tree debris

Burns reported that Mike from Village Cove Marina had called several months ago and asked to have the Cottonwood trees removed because they leave a terrible mess on their boats. **Burns** said she had met with Mike and, she had to agree, they make a sticky mess, but many of the trees were in a protected wetland area. **Burns** said Mike offered to store the Village docks for free in return for removing the Cottonwood Trees, however, the Village already had a lease agreement with Village Cove that was due to expire this year and needed to be renewed. **Burns** said that, per the lease, the Village gave Village Cove 20 boat launch permits in return for storing the docks which was not a large dollar amount but removing the large Cottonwood trees would be expensive, if it was even possible to remove them since some of the trees were in the protected wetland area. **Schuitema** said that the Village had only owned this property for about 6 years so he felt that this had to have been a problem before the Village owned it and since the trees were 40 years old they had to have been there when the marina was built. **Burns** said that it would cost thousands of dollars to remove the trees and there was no money in the budget for it. **Burns** said she did understand why the boat owners were upset but that it was not a problem that the rest of the Village tax payers should have to pay for.

Motion by **Barfield**, second from **Groenevelt**, to decline the request from Village Cove to remove the Cottonwood trees. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

- 116 S. Park – Damaged by semi
- 217 N Jackson – Dead tree
- 210 E Exchange – Dead tree
- Alden Street End (Apple Trees – need pruning) – **Burns** reported that Dr. Massey had asked to have the apple trees pruned again. **Burns** said that it was not the right time of the year to prune them but they were on the list for this fall.

Groenevelt asked when the 2 rail fence had been put up. **Burns** said it was installed in June as part of the Wetland Remediation for the Greenway project and was required by

the DEQ and the Army Corp of Engineers. **Groenevelt** also asked if anything had been done with the Zock property. **Burns** said she did not know at this time.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by **Poel**, second from **Barfield**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47p.m.

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk