



Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Rec Committee
Monday, October 3, 2016
7.00pm Central Park
Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Absent: Erik Poel

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

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

Yes: 5 No: 0

- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Braun**, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 regular meetings. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

IV. General Business

- 1. Dog Park Update (Diane Schindlbeck):** Diane Schindlbeck and Debbie Rewitzer were present and shared their ideas for more improvements to the dog park including a bulletin board, since people had been posting notices on the shelter, and eventually, artificial turf called K-9 grass and agility equipment. Diane explained that the artificial turf was porous and could be hosed down. **Burns** shared that the Township was getting rid of some office supplies and furniture so they might be able to get a bulletin board from them. Diane said they were also hoping something could be worked out between the Village and the Township so that her husband Eric, a Township employee, could do weed whipping as well as other maintenance at the dog park and they still wanted to run water over to the small dog park.

Schuitema said the only complaint that he had heard about the dog park over the last couple of months was that people were using it as a fenced play area for children while their other children were playing ball.

- 2. Eagle Scout Project Update – Burns** reported that Mr. Gelderbloom had not made much progress on his project so she was not optimistic that it was actually going to come together at this point.

3. **Whistle Stop Playground Capital Campaign** – **Doss** shared that she was very excited that this was the week they were launching the campaign using the slogan that Claire Groenevelt had created “50 K in 50 days”. **Doss** said she and George Barfield were being interviewed by WGHN on Wednesday for a radio campaign and then on Thursday a video was being created by MEDC with her 2 young son’s along with Hunter and Roan Verplank who had grown up playing at Whistle Stop Park. **Doss** said she was most excited that she and **Burns** had met with Lucia from The Disability Network who had shared ideas to swap out and/or add a few pieces of equipment to create an all-inclusive park. **Doss** said that the Tribune would be running an ad suggesting donations for Christmas as a Memorial or to Honor a loved one.

4. **Park Updates** –

- **Tanglefoot** – **Burns** shared that she and Wally had met with a Tanglefoot resident with a very long list of past and current complaints. **Burns** said that after 30 minutes of verbal abuse from the resident they would be making a decision as to whether or not to allow this tenant back next year.

Schuitema said he had received 2 requests from Tanglefoot residents to bring the grill from the Cutler Street fishing station to Tanglefoot. **Burns** said they would consider buying a grill for Tanglefoot because she has seen fisherman use that grill.

- **Lakeside Beach** – **Burns** reported that over the weekend a car traveling north on Lake Avenue missed making the turn onto Beach Street and drove through the dune causing damage and taking out the 2 lifeguards chairs. **Burns** said that once they received the repair estimates they would be go to the driver’s insurance to pay for the damages.
- **Central Park** – **Burns** reported that the Pickleball nets would be left up as long as weather permitted playing time.

V. **Tree Board Meeting**

1. **Arborist Update** – **Burns** reported that the Arborist met with Ben and looked at the tree out front of Village Hall, the 2 trees on Jackson and the tree at Tanglefoot. **Burns** said that he attributed the stress of these trees to the number of over 90° days this summer verses no 90° days last summer. **Burns** said his recommendation was to wait until spring and see if they rebounded.
2. **Oak Tree at Intermediate School** – **Burns** said she had received a voicemail from Dennis Furton indicating that the oak tree had dropped a number of limbs. **Burns** said she asked Ben to have the Arborist look at the tree and see what needs to be done. The **Board** discussed the oak tree and agreed that due to the amount of construction around it and the age of the tree, it was not likely to survive long term but they would continue whatever care was needed to keep it alive as long as possible.

3. **Consumers Energy Grant – Burns** shared that the Village had received a \$1000 Consumers Energy Tree Planting Grant and that Gary Verplank had generously given \$6,270 from the Victoria Verplank Fund for trees to use towards a match on this grant as well as a match on the DNR Grant, with the remaining funds to be used towards tree maintenance in the Village. **Doss** shared that she chaired the North Bank Communities Fund that had created the tree nursery in Central Park and suggested to the **Board** that they could request Grant funding from the North Bank Communities Fund for a Victoria Verplank plaque for the new Tree Nursery. Burns said that all of the funding for the tree nursery move and restocking had come from memorials from Victoria Verplank’s funeral.

Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Barfield**, to request a Grant from the North Bank Communities Fund for a Victoria Verplank plaque for the new Tree Nursery. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

VI. **Adjournment**

Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Barfield**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk