



**Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Rec Committee
Monday, August 7, 2017
7.00pm
102 West Savidge Street (EOC Room)
Minutes**

I. Call to Order

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

Absent: Cal Braun, and Megan Doss (Village Liaison)

Also Present: Chris Burns (Village Manager), Maryann Fonkert (Deputy Clerk)

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

Yes: 5 No: 0

- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, to approve the Minutes from the July 6, 2017 regular meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

- IV. Finance Reports:** **Burns** said that this report was as of June 30, 2017, and shows how everything has closed out for the 2016/2017 fiscal year.

- V. Mill Point Park:** A complaint had been received regarding geese at Mill Point Park. **Burns** shared that Mike and Melanie Inman were in attendance to discuss the issue of goose waste at the park. **Schuitema** reported that he had done a weeks worth of goose inventory and researched geese control. **Schuitema** said that the best remedy he had found was to bring in herding dogs to keep the geese out but, in the spring there was a large amount of time where the geese were protected by the State so they could nest. **Schuitema** said he had contacted the Ottawa County 4H extension office to see if there were any clubs that work with dog training, herding dogs particularly, but he had not heard back yet. **Schuitema** said that there were also companies that rent dogs for this purpose. **Schuitema** said he had also researched an ultrasonic bird control device but the geese must overnight to nest but the geese at Mill Point do not nest.

Mike Inman said that he had a boat at Mill Point docks and that the goose waste was the worst that it had been and if there was an outside faucet, he would be happy to take responsibility for some of the cleaning. Mr. Inman felt that the goose

waste was also a health hazard and that if something could not be done, then they would have to find another marina because they bring their grandchildren to their boat. Mrs. Inman said that the docks, bridge and sidewalks had never been cleaned off until the 3rd week of July, and when someone did come out they drove the lawnmower on the sidewalk and never touched the entrance to the bridge so it was not helpful. Mrs. Inman said that they used to have lawnmowers with brushes, which were very helpful, but they did not seem to have them anymore. **Poel** said he used a portable washer for the geese waste the dock where he kept his boat. **Burns** said that she and her husband rent a dock at Keenan Marina for their boat, and pay quite a bit more, and that she took care of the goose waste on her dock herself. **Barfield** asked what the DPW's schedule was to keep the docks cleaned up. **Burns** said that a reasonable expectation was that the docks be cleaned off periodically but, they could be cleaned off in the morning and be a mess by afternoon. **Burns** also said that, over the years, DPW had tried all kinds of products to keep the geese away, and so far, nothing had worked. Mr. Inman said that it was not just the dock area but the whole park was a mess. The **Board** discussed several options to rid the park of the geese.

Motion by **Barfield**, second from **Schuitema**, to recommend DPW clean more often and to research the cost of installing a water faucet or pump at the docks. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

VI. Tanglefoot Park: **Burns** reported that the Park Manager has asked to dismiss a couple of tenants from the park. **Burns** said that the people that he would like to dismiss are a problem but, she felt that if they were to dismiss them mid-season, they might have problems down the road. **Burns** asked the **Board** for their opinion and said she was also waiting for an opinion from the attorney. After some discussion, the **Board** agreed the tenants should be allowed to stay through the season and then not approve a license for next season.

VII. Parks Updates

- Central Park – **Burns** reported that the DPW cleaned up around the tower and it is looking better. **Burns** also said that not a single limb came down during the last big storm, which she felt was due to the good forestry management and trimming done last fall. Some of the **Board** members had heard that there were still some issues going on between the pickleball players. **Barfield** reported seeing 2 children on the roof of the pavilion and that he had made them get down.
- Lakeside Trail – **Burns** said that they had to reschedule the meeting with the lighting guys for next week.
- Lakeside Beach – **Burns** reported that **Barfield** had shared pictures of some shenanigans by the lifeguard and that she had passed them

on to the Township Manager and Supervisor. **Barfield** asked if the fire hydrant that was by the beach was active, because the curb was not painted so he squeezed into a parking spot there, damaging his car, and then saw the hydrant. **Burns** said they would take a look and get the curb painted.

- Whistle Stop Playground – **Burns** said there had been a lot of compliments regarding the park and a couple of complaints about not enough places for adults to sit so they were working on getting more benches. **Burns** said they had also received complaints from the travel agency that park goers were parking in their lot.
- Miscellaneous - **Burns** updated the **Board** on disincorporation. **Schuitema** asked if anyone had looked at the hole on the bike path by Martinus's house. **Burns** said that she was not aware of a hole but she would have it looked at.

VIII. Tree Board Meeting

1. **Arborist Report** – **Burns** shared the Arborist's report with the **Board**. The **Board** discussed the school tree on Hammond that the Arborist had recommended be removed.

Motion by **Barfield**, second from **Groenevelt**, to except the Arborist's recommendation for the removal of all the trees in his report.

Yes: 5 No: 0

2. **Miscellaneous** – **Schuitema** asked if anyone had looked at the pine trees at Whistle Stop for removal. **Burns** said that they had not had the Arborist look at them because they were being removed anyway and new trees would be planted. **Burns** said that the Baldus family had donated money towards a memorial tree, so that would be done in the fall.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk