



Village of Spring Lake  
Parks & Rec Committee  
Monday, September 5, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

102 West Savidge Street (EOC Room)  
Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

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

**Absent:** Cal Braun and George Barfield

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

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

Yes: 4      No: 0

**III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, to approve the Minutes from the August 7, 2017 regular meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 4      No: 0

**IV. Finance Reports:** **Burns** reported that the equipment rental was not included in this report because payroll had just been done that day, but everything else was up-to-date.

Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Poel**, to approve the finance report. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 4      No: 0

**V. Park Updates:**

- **Central Park** – **Burns** shared that Central Park would be the staging area for the ½ marathon & 5k on September 23<sup>rd</sup> for Oktoberfest. Letters were sent letting the neighbors know the traffic would be increased the night before and the day of the event. **Burns** also said the park was looking good and the pickleball courts were still being used.
- **Lakeside Beach** – **Burns** said the beach was looking good too and that no smoking signs had been installed due to complaints that smoking was excessive. **Burns** reported that **Barfield** had seen life guard shenanigans again so she had sent that information on to the Township Manager.

- **Lakeside Trail – Burns** said she was still waiting for the sample LED lights in various types/colors from the contractor and that she would follow up with them.
- **Tanglefoot Park – Burns** reported that Wally was getting ready to have the concrete pads poured now that seasonal tenants were moving out and that there had been an issue with a person wanting their deposit back after canceling their reservation on the day they were due to arrive. **Burns** explained that that was not the policy, but if Wally was able to rent the site out for all or a portion of those dates, they would refund the amount that was recouped.
- **Mill Point Park – Burns** said that the resurfacing bids were not in yet and that this would be one of the last jobs done before the asphalt company closed for the season. **Groenevelt** asked if a cone or barricade could be installed in the worst area. **Burns** said that a cone had been put out there but it had disappeared.

## VI. Whistle Stop Playground:

- **Sponsor/Donor Recognition – Burns** said that they were working on the donor recognition plaque and hoping to get that up in the next month or so and that they have a Rotary Club recognition decal for the drinking fountain.
- **Sink Hole Repair – Burns** reported there was still a little bit of a sink hole and the contractor had assured her that he would fix it (it was a warranty item) so she would follow up with him to see what the holdup was.
- **Tree Removal & Memorial – Burns** said that the pine trees along the fence between Whistle Stop and Admiral would be taken out and hardwoods planted. **Burns** shared that the Baldus family has sponsored a rather large tree to be planted and a memorial plaque.
- **Bench Installation – Burns** said a circular bench would be installed around the memorial tree.
- **Fence Repair & Gate Installation – Burns** said that the fence company that was repairing the fence along the connector path and Holiday Inn would be repairing the fence at Whistle Stop and adding a gate where people were cutting through to the Admiral Station's restroom. **Burns** said the gate was being installed after a parent had pointed out that a child could easily slip through that opening to a very busy street. **Doss** noted that the park was greatly utilized and was starting to look dirty so she was wondering if someone that needed community service hours would what to clean it up. **Burns** said she would check on that.

## VII. Miscellaneous

- **Burns** shared that she was going on vacation and getting back on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, (the date of the next meeting) so she gave the board that option of meeting that evening, although she said she would not have an agenda ready, or they could cancel. The **Board** agreed they would cancel the October meeting and meet in November.

- **S. Cutler Street Kayak Launch Complaint – Burns** reported that she had received a complaint that this launch was not useable and that the signs should be taken down. **Burns** said the issue was due to the high-water table and that the engineer had said that adding rocks now and then was about the only solution. **Burns** said there was no reason to take the signs down since the water level changes from year to year.
- **Lakeside Beach Complaint – Burns** said this was the smoking complaint and the sign installation seemed to have rectified the issue.
- **Mill Point Park Complaint – Burns** said geese had been an issue for everyone along water fronts this year and that after researching other communities to see what they were doing to control the them, a burning bush hedge seemed to have been successful, but, anywhere there was a break in the hedge the geese could come through or just fly over it. **Burns** said she had contacted the owner of Goose Busters who was located on the other side of the state, and said he would not bring his dog this far but that he could do some other things that would not involve his dog. **Burns** said that she had been visiting the park about 3 times a week to check out the geese situation and take pictures, and from what she had been seeing, the walkways were clean and the DPW assured her that they were keeping up with it. **Burns** said she felt that the ducks were more of an issue now then the geese.
- **Closure & Repair of Connector Path (09/05/17) – Burns** reported that the repairs had started and there had been some negative feedback on social media about the closure, but the pathway would not be safe for use during repairs.
- **Repair of Pathway Fence (Holiday Inn) - Burns** reported that 6 fence panels had been damaged in various incidents and were being repaired by the same company that was fixing the fence at Whistle Stop.
- **Boardwalk Repairs – Burns** said there had been a complaint from a boater that the tires attached as bumpers along the boardwalk had left black marks on her boat while she was docked there. **Burns** said the tires were originally installed for the riverboat that used to dock there and that the DPW had tried to remove them but the tires were chained from the top and the bottom and were extremely heavy. **Burns** said they would have them removed by the Don Mulder when he pulled the docks at Mill Point out for the winter and that she was hoping to ask the company that was fixing the fences to clean up the scrub brush along the boardwalk allowing a couple more places for boats to tie up by Old Boys.
- **No Wake Public Hearing - Burns** reported that there would be a public hearing held by Spring Lake Township on September 11, 2017, regarding the No Wake issue along the river and that it had been very controversial.
- **Poop bags – Burns** shared that she had received 3 complaints that the poop bag dispensers at the dog park and along Lakeside Trail were empty. **Burns** explained that the company where the bags had been ordered from in the past had gone out of business so they were looking for another vendor

that carried the same type. **Burns** also explained that last fiscal year over \$1,600 had been spent on these bags and that they were supplied as a courtesy; people were still responsible for picking up after their dogs.

## **VIII. Public Comment**

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Inman were present and asked if there had been research done on getting a pump at Mill Point docks so they could clean the geese poop off.

**Burns** explained that the DPW Foreman had said that the park was on a former dump site and trenching was near impossible so a pump was not a realistic possibility. **Burns** said that from what she had seen, the docks had not been an issue but the gangplank was, and that DPW had been cleaning that up. Mrs. Inman said that they had been there 3 times over the weekend and that it had not been cleaned. **Burns** said it would not be cleaned up on the weekends because the Village did not pay overtime to work weekends. Mrs. Inman said that she found it difficult that there was not funds to keep the park cleaner. **Groenevelt** said that it was impossible, that the docks could be cleaned one hour and then two hours later the ducks and geese would have it a mess again. Mrs. Inman said that she felt there should be a way for them to clean the docks off. **Groenevelt** pointed out that those were primitive docks, not full service, and there was nothing in the contract that provided for that and it was just impossible to keep them cleaned the way they wanted. **Burns** said the **Board** would discuss this issue over the winter to determine what they could do in the spring.

## **IX. Tree Board Meeting**

1. **Oak Tree at Intermediate School** – **Burns** reported that the tree had been fed with root treatment but they would not know for some time if it helped and that the Arborist had said they were throwing good money after bad. **Schuitema** said he had looked at the tree that evening and that there were a lot of dead branches. **Burns** said she had talked to a carver about ideas for the wood from the tree when it had to come down. **Doss** said they could also collect the acorns to start new trees.

2. **Tree Nursery Signage** – **Burns** said that she and **Doss** had decided on a big boulder with a sign thanking Vicki Verplank and her Family for their generosity.

### **3. Miscellaneous**

- **Consumers Energy Tree Grant** – **Burns** said this grant had gone in and that she was hoping to get the whole \$2,500 this year instead of the \$1,000 received last year.

**Burns** said the following addresses were all regarding trees that she had received correspondence on.

- **406 W. Savidge** – McDonald's tree that had been removed.
- **313 E Savidge**
- **231 E Savidge**

- **120 N Lake** – Elizabeth Wheeler’s tree stump that had been trimmed.
- **St. Mary’s Church** – 2 trees on Williams that need evaluation.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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Curt Brower, Chair

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Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk