



Village of Spring Lake  
Parks & Rec Committee  
Monday, May 7, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
102 West Savidge Street (EOC Room)  
Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

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

**Absent:** None

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

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

Yes: 6      No: 0

- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Barfield**, to approve the Minutes from the March 26, 2018 regular meeting with one-word adjustment. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6      No: 0

- IV. Finance Report:** **Burns** reported that they were getting close to the end of the fiscal year and everything was in order and they were tracking right where they needed to be. **Burns** shared that starting in the next fiscal year Whistle Stop Park expenses would be broken out in the same way the other parks were for tracking purposes. **Burns** also reported that a check had been received for \$11,000 from the Victoria Verplank Memorial Fund.

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

Yes: 6      No: 0

**VI. Park Updates**

- **Tanglefoot:** **Burns** – **Burns** reported that Wally was back and all was quiet at the park so far. **Burns** said the docks were all rented out but one of them had shifted and would need to be adjusted when the water table goes down, but it was ok for now. **Burns** also reported there was a muskrat problem and Best Pest Removal had been hired to take care of them, but was told that as long as the water table was so high, the muskrats would be an ongoing issue.
- **Mill Point:** - **Burns** reported that the parking lot never looked worse but could not be repaved until next year after the sewer force main was complete. **Burns** said that maintenance to the band shell would be starting in July.

- **Whistle Stop Playground:** **Burns** reported that Whistle Stop was corded off to fix a bubble in the Pour-N-Play mat and then will be sealed. **Burns** said that over the weekend, volunteers from Covenant Life Church scrubbed all the equipment and **Dye** had been busy with the native plantings and cleaning the plant beds. **Dye** said that she was having a sparrow condo built. **Barfield** shared with the Board that, over the weekend, he had seen his neighbor, who was also a donor for the park, with their two-year-old grandson wearing an engineer cap and uniform and was very excited to go to Whistle Stop. **Dye** said that the donor family that **Barfield** was talking about would like to become part of the team maintaining the park. **Dye** said that she had added a children's tool kit to keep in her car so when children ask what she was doing and if can they help, she would have tools for them. **Dye** also updated the **Board** on the plantings that had been transferred from the old Braak's Bakery site and on future plantings. **Burns** said that Bill's Sport shop reported that his surveillance camera picked up someone from Whistle Stop putting trash in his dumpster. **Burns** said she had asked to see the film so she could possibly identify who may have done this because this was not the first time Bill's had complained.
- **Central Park:** **Burns** reported that the sign over Rotary Drive came down in the high winds the week before, but would not be replaced at this time since the name would be changed when the Doss family felt the park was ready.

**Burns** reported that Bob Helder's pickleball group would like to purchase a set of bleachers for the west end of the pickleball courts. **Burns** asked if the Board had any issues with this donation. The **Board** agreed this would be a nice donation as long as it was a donation and did not belong to the pickleball group. **Barfield** commented that the tree removal company did an amazing job and that you couldn't even tell that the trees had been there.

**Burns** shared that Mrs. Langland, widow of Police Chief Langland, was upset that the Langland Field banners were no longer put up at the Rotary Dr. entrance. **Burns** said that she explained to Mrs. Langland that the field would always be Langland Field and that the sign on the field would be replaced as needed but banners only last about 3 years and that banners were changed with events in the Village. **Burns** said the next banners to be purchased would be for the 2019 sesquicentennial.

- **Lakeside Beach:** **Burns** reported that she had received a request from volunteers to clean up at the beach but, because the water table was so high, there was not much beach and it would take one person about five minutes to clean it up.
- **Lakeside Trail:** **Burns** shared that lighting bids were due back at the end of May and would be on the June Council agenda. **Burns** also shared that since the Village Adventure was so successful that a "Bike Week" (as in peddle bike) was being considered for the end of August and they were hoping that the lighting would be done by then so a ribbon cutting could be included in this event.

## VII. Miscellaneous

**Burns** reported that **Dye's** volunteers were working hard at all the street ends. **Dye** said they were working on mulch and that weeding the cement planters was next with hopes of getting a few planted before Memorial Day.

## VIII. Tree Board Meeting

1. **Arbor Day Tree Planting – Burns** reported that the Arbor Day Tree Planting went great and that a Crimson King Maple was planted along the trail. **Schuitema** said there was an article about it on the Tribune’s front page.
2. **Tree Removal Requests: Burns** updated the Board on the trees listed below that were scheduled to be removed. **Burns** said that the tree at 321 E. Savidge was not in the right of way but branches were hanging over and was becoming dangerous so she had been working with the homeowner to have the tree removed.
  - 320 Mark
  - 206 N. Buchanan
  - 321 E. Savidge
  - Intermediate School Oak Tree – **Burns** reported that the third Arborist recommended that the tree be removed because it would not recover from the damage that was done to it during the construction.

The **Board** discussed how the removal of the tree could be softened for the residents and how the wood could be used to continue its memory.

Motion by **Barfield**, second from **Groenevelt**, to recommend that the Oak Tree at the intermediate school be removed. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6      No: 0

3. **Tree Nursery - Burns** reported that they had a large boulder that would be carved on one side and a bronze plaque on the other, in dedication to the donations from the Victoria Verplank Memorial Fund. **Burns** said that as soon as the boulder was done they would have a celebration with the Verplank family.
4. **Statement of Citizens –** Kathryn Maki, 708 Summer St, asked the **Board** to consider putting Port-a-Potty’s in the parks during the off-season when the restrooms were closed for the winter because the parks are still used by a lot of residents. The **Board** appreciated Ms. Maki’s suggestion and thought it was a good idea.

**Barfield** suggested labeling tree varieties along the trail. **Dye** suggested also labeling the Michigan Native plants. **Burns** said the Budget was set for this next fiscal year but that would be great for the next fiscal year.

## IX. Adjournment

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

---

Curt Brower Chair

---

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk