



**Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Rec Committee
Monday, October 1, 2018
7:00 p.m.
102 West Savidge Street (EOC Room)
Minutes**

I. Call to Order

Roll Call: Claire Groenevelt (Vice Chair), George Barfield, Darcy Dye, Erik Poel, Lee Schuitema and Susan Petrus (Village Council Liaison).

Absent: Curt Brower (Chair)

Also Present: Chris Burns (Village Manager)

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

Yes: 5 No: 0

- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Approval of the minutes of the August 6, 2018 was postponed until the November 5, 2018 meeting to correct an error for Chair signature.

- IV. Finance Report:** **Burns** reported they were about 25% of the way through the fiscal year and finances were right on track.

- V. Eagle Scout Project.** – **Burns** reported that the Eagle Scout was not able to be present.

- VI. Pickleball Committee** – **Burns** reported that she had a great meeting with Bob Helder, Deb Mascaren, and Cindy McKinney regarding them taking responsibility of their own factions of their Pickleball and their need for better communication. **Burns** suggested forming a Pickleball Committee that would include them and a neighbor. **Barfield** said he had gotten that call. **Burns** said they had also invited Bob Yonkers, but he had declined to attend the meeting. **Burns** explained that the Committee would work as ambassadors for each of their groups, to work out scheduling and handle complaints instead of that going to Village Hall. **Poel** asked why this was being done when they already had the rules and, if after a year they still couldn't figure it out, what was the Committee going to do. **Burns** explained that they suggested some tweaks to some of the scheduling and that this was a very time-consuming issue so if they could govern themselves it was worth a shot. **Burns** asked **Barfield** how he felt about serving on this committee. **Barfield** said he was willing to serve. **Dye** asked about sharing this information with Jim Marshall who also played Pickleball. **Barfield** said that was a possibility and asked if they

wanted another committee member. **Barfield** noted that that he had not attended a meeting yet. **Burns** said that the committee had not been officially formed yet because the Parks Board would have to approve it as a subcommittee after Helder, Mascaren and McKinney work on proposed changes over the winter to bring to the Parks Board in the spring. The **Board** discussed the benefits of forming this committee.

Motion by **Barfield**, second from **Groenevelt** to approve the formation of a subcommittee of the Parks and Rec Board as arbitrators, mediators and coordinators of Pickleball rules and use of the courts, appointing Bob Helder, Deb Mascarin, and Cindy McKinney as representatives of their groups and George Barfield as the Parks Board liaison and chair, with Chris Burns as the tie breaker should the need arise.

Yes: 4 No: 1 (Poel)

VII. Tanglefoot Park Concrete Pads – Burns explained that Stuhlmann had wanted to have the rest of the pads poured at the park, so she had met with him and they discussed the Exchange Street reconstruction project and how it would impact the seasonal tenants parked along Exchange St. **Burns** also shared that Kim Van Kampen had come forward and asked Council to consider converting Tanglefoot into a children’s park and making it a waterfront gateway into the downtown and that she potentially had someone to fund that conversion from a campground to a children’s park. **Burns** said there would be a lot to consider and that this should be contemplated by Council, DDA and the Parks & Rec Board together. **Burns** said she had recommended to Council to hold off on the concrete pads, and have joint meetings over the winter to discuss the possibility of a new use for Tanglefoot. **Burns** asked the Board what their thoughts were on holding off on pouring the concrete pads.

Barfield said it didn’t sound like it made sense to pour them this fall. **Schuitema** said green concrete could be damaged by using large equipment near it. **Poel** felt they should hold off on improvements for now, unless it was a safety issue. **Dye** said she couldn’t imagine being a camper during reconstruction and maybe not using the park at all next summer should be discussed. **Dye** also said she was concerned when one person came and bought that many pieces of property and began reshaping the entire downtown area. **Dye** said that Tanglefoot Park was primarily seniors and if it was changed to children, then where were the venues for that senior population which was very much a part of our community. **Dye** said all that development, with the way our ordinances were written, could be done without any input, and that was troubling. She thought that although the excitement, which was genuine, and the facelift to the downtown was wonderful, the discussion of the long term use and the implications of that on the populous that have come for years to use certain parts of the Village needed to be part of the discussion. **Burns** said that’s why, before anything happened with Tanglefoot, joint meetings between the Boards, Community Engagements and discussions with tenants of the park would be necessary. **Petrus** pointed out that the park was owned by the Village, so they would definitely want to be involved in the discussion. **Schuitema** said he considered Tanglefoot, a Village inside a Village and some tenants consider that

their home and the park generated revenue. **Schuitema** said that anything that was put on that parcel will cost money and require maintenance. **Burns** said that **Dye** had a very valid point regarding tenants next summer, and maybe instead of having campers there, paying Stuhlmann, keeping the bathrooms open and losing money, they should contemplate closing the park for the 2019 season and have campers come back for the 2020 season, keeping their seniority. **Burns** said the sooner they let residents know the better, so they could make other arrangements. **Poel** suggested they take a poll to see how many campers wanted to tough it out with construction before they made a decision to close the park for the season. **Burns** said she would have Hinga run a cost-benefit analysis to see how many campers they would need to at least cover costs and she will get that back to the Board in November. **Burns** did say they were not taking any transients at all because they would likely not be able to get an RV in and out during construction.

VIII. Lakeside Trail Update

- **Lighting** – **Burns** reported that the lighting installation would start in 2 days working from east to west, doing one block at a time, and would take approximately 2 ½ weeks depending on weather.
- **Safety** – **Burns** shared a request from a resident that the Village sell tee shirts and/or vest for people that walk the trail because he felt that it was dangerous because bikers did not warn walkers of their approach. The **Board** discussed this and none of them had found this to be an issue, so they were not interested in selling tee shirts or vests. **Dye** suggested reminding people of some general trail protocol, such as using doggy bags.

IX. **Lakeside Beach Sidewalk Update** – **Burns** reported that the damaged sidewalk had been removed, and additional sand was added so there was not as much of a gap, but, at this point, they were not going to budget for replacement until the high-water table receded and they figure out a better engineering method for dealing with high water table.

X. **Mass Gathering Ordinance (road races, festivals, events, etc.)** – **Burns** shared that the Oktoberfest 5K race brought to their attention the need to look at a Mass Gathering Ordinance that addressed how road races were handled, who was responsible for the cost associated, such as amplifiers, parking, signage, and protection. **Burns** said that Stanford-Butler was pulling together sample ordinances from other communities to see what they do.

XI. Miscellaneous Parks Updates

- **Central Park** – **Burns** reported that Weis Chiropractic had offered to host a fall cleanup on November 4th from 1:00 - 4 p.m. **Burns** said they will have pizza and prizes to give away.
- **Mill Point Park** – **Burns** said that repairs on the bandshell would be done in the spring.
- **Whistle Stop Playground** – **Burns** said that signage had not been done yet, so Stanford-Butler was picking that back up and working with Aaron Slight to get that done. **Dye** said she was working with Megan Doss to

finance the planting of more wild flowers at Whistle Stop. **Barfield** mentioned that there was an issue with the giant hybrid, super monster plants that Darcy had given the Village because they greatly reduce the visibility. **Dye** said the height issue of plants has been brought to her attention, so she would be dealing with that in a slightly different way next year. **Dye** said she had talked to different growers and they couldn't believe the height of the plants. **Dye** assured **Barfield** that the plants would be coming out of the pots soon.

Burns updated the Board on the Exchange Street reconstruction timeline and the Epicurean Village project.

XII. Tree Board Meeting

- 1. Tree Removal – Burns** shared the final list of trees to be removed and that they were waiting on the bids. **Burns** said they did get the Consumers Energy Grant and money from the Verplank Memorial would likely be again received.
- 2. Tree Nursery – Burns** said that a lot of the trees at the tree nursery were of the age where they needed to be removed and smaller trees planted. **Burns** said that the SLCC staff was the reason for the beautiful trees in the nursery by making sure the irrigation was working properly and at the proper rates and they had grounds keepers to help take care of the trees. **Burns** also reported there would be a big tree nursery dedication and planting by Rotary on October 25, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. and that Rotary had asked if they could be on hand to plant the new trees. **Burns** said that the Verplank family had been invited to do the reveal of the rock that had been carved in Vicki's honor.
- 3. Miscellaneous – Burns** shared a couple of communications regarding tree issue letters sent to residents.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by **Poel**, second from **Barfield**, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Claire Groenevelt, Vice Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk