



Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Rec Committee
Monday, March 4, 2019
7:00 p.m.

102 West Savidge Street (EOC Room)
Minutes

I. Call to Order

Roll Call: Curt Brower (Chair) Claire Groenevelt (Vice Chair), Darcy Dye, Lee Schuitema and Susan Petrus (Village Council Liaison).

Absent: George Barfield and Erik Poel.

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: 4 No: 0

- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, to approve the December 3, 2018 minutes and the February 4, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion approved.

Yes: 4 No: 0

- IV. Finance Report:** Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, to accept the Finance Report as presented. All in favor, motion carried

Yes: 4 No: 0

- V. Mill Point Park Repaving Project – Burns** reported that the original budget numbers for the Mill Point repaving project was only enough for a “mill and fill”, but after the Village Engineer, Ryan Arends, did some engineering estimates, he determined that this was a much larger project than “mill and fill” due to drainage issues, contour problems, catch basin issues and high-water levels, so the new estimate came back at more than double of the original. **Burns** said the vast majority of the repaving project would come out of the DDA budget, however, looking at the best expenditure of those funds, she would recommend postponing the parking lot project until the end of the 2019 boating season, and use this fiscal year’s budgeted funds for new street lights. **Burns** shared that that the lighting estimate also came in much higher because the estimates from the contractor were way off, so by reallocating the funds and combining them with the \$48,000 that had been set aside for using the first estimate, they would be able to do the a large portion, if not all, of the lighting project at one time for cost savings and rebates. **Burns** said she would be getting input from the DDA next week regarding both projects.

- VI. Epicurean Park – Burns** shared that Ms. VanKampen was looking at an outdoor gas firepit, seating, landscaping and new lighting. **Burns** said Ms. VanKampen did not necessarily want to take ownership of the park but would like to invest in it. **Dye** noted the noise level and diesel fumes from the traffic on Savidge Street would be an issue and suggested a sound barrier be designed to create an enjoyable area for eating and conversation. **Burns** agreed and said they had noticed that when she, Ms. VanKampen and her contractors had walked along Savidge Street last summer. **Burns** asked the **Board** if there was a general consensus to allow Ms. VanKampen to invest in the park. The **Board** agreed that Ms. VanKampen's investment in the park would benefit the downtown.
- VII. Tanglefoot/Mill Point Park Stakeholders meeting recap – Burns** reported that the first meeting had been very abbreviated but the next one would be a little longer with Progressive AE bringing designs and ideas. **Burns** said there would probably be one or two more stakeholders' meetings before they opened it up for public comment. **Schuitema** said right now, the ideas were all over the place and that they did nothing for the north side of Savidge Street. **Burns** said Progressive AE understood that they needed connectivity between the north and south sides of Savidge Street. The **Board** discussed ideas to help create connectivity. **Schuitema** asked if, once the force main was done, should they open Tanglefoot Park up for the remaining summer season. **Burns** said that was a possibility and she needed to ask Wally Stuhlmann if he was interested in managing the park for the rest of the summer, especially since it would be mostly all transient tenants, making the management portion a lot more time-consuming.
- VIII. Budget Discussion – Burns** went over the budget work sheets with the **Board** to discuss any large purchases or capital improvements they might be interested in for the next fiscal year. **Burns** said Hinga had added funds to Tanglefoot so Stuhlmann could train a new Park Manager and for muskrat control that had not been budgeted for last fiscal year. **Burns** said they also added funds for insect/spider control in the restrooms at all of the parks if the **Board** approved. **Dye** requested \$4,000 for tree and native plant signage. **Burns** said yes, they could add that, and that labeling trees might be a good grant opportunity. The **Board** also discussed small maintenance and improvements such as agility equipment for the dog park, fake grass, new standardized trash cans and improvements to the backstop on the little league field. **Dye** said she knew of an expert, depending on cost, that could possibly come and take a look at Central Park to give feedback on how to redesign areas so that it was up to Doss's standards and for ways to change the visual image of the park so that long term they would be planting things and designing outdoor spaces that would beef up the whole park. **Burns** said that it was a challenging space for growing because of all the trees. **Brower** said he knew of a dog park in Grand Rapids that was all wood chips, so that was an option. The **Board** discussed other options for the dog park. **Dye** asked if there was money in the budget for the Adopt-A-Garden planting. **Burns** said that there was.
- IX. Art in the Park Update – Burns** shared that Stafford-Butler was working on getting the building owners of Travel Leaders and Plantenga's to sign contracts for the murals and the committee was looking for a third building candidate.

X. **Parks Update – Burns** reported that, since the local vendor had dropped the ball, Aaron Sligh made the memorial plaques for Whistle Stop Park and they would be installed as soon as weather permitted.

XI. **Miscellaneous – Burns** reported that she had received a request for an inflatable bounce house and water slide at Mill Point Park, but after consulting with Delamater and looking at the liability associated with improperly installed bounce houses and the amount of water required to make a water slide any fun, she denied the request. **Burns** said this request led to question whether they should have a policy in place for such requests. The **Board** discussed the liability with possible property damage, costs involved with water use and cleanup, and agreed a written policy was important and should be put in place for future requests. The **Board** also discussed the difference between an official organization, such as Heritage Festival who would be covered by liability insurance, and a private birthday party that would not be covered.

Burns shared that she had received an email from Bob Helder asking about the future of the Pickleball Committee and that she informed him that there was no longer a Pickleball Committee since they had been given a chance to work things out and they could not work together.

Burns reported that due to the amount of electricity use at Tanglefoot Park last year, they were bumped into a different rate tier, which caused the off-season cost to go from \$18.57 per month to \$155.30 per month making it less expensive to have the electric disconnected for the winter and reconnected in the spring.

XII. **Tree Board Meeting**

1. **4D Inventory - Burns** reported that Wally Delamater, DPW Director, wanted to create a tree inventory and implement a 4D (Dead, Dying, Diseased and Decayed) program to prioritize trees for maintenance.

2. **2019/2020 Forestry Budget – Burns** shared that Poel had presented Village Council with a \$2500 check at the January meeting.

3. **Miscellaneous –** Nothing at this time

XIII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk