



Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Rec Committee
Monday, April 1, 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), George Barfield 7:19, Darcy Dye, Erik Poel and Lee Schuitema.

Absent: Susan Petrus (Village Council Liaison).

Also Present: Marv Hinga (Village Clerk/Treasurer) and 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: 5 No: 0

III. Approval of the Minutes: Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, to approve the March 4, 2019 minutes. All in favor, motion approved.

Yes: 5 No: 0

IV. Finance Report: **Hinga** went over the Finance report with the Board.

V. Budget – Hinga went over the draft budget for 2019/2020 with the Board, explaining that this was proceeding on the assumption that Tanglefoot Park would be closed for all of 2019 and open for 2020. **Hinga** pointed out that DPW Director Delamater had requested \$20,000 to create a Tree Inventory and \$1,000 for pest control at park restrooms. **Dye** asked if funds had been added for ongoing plantings and signage. **Hinga** said he had not heard that request but made note of it and would look into what could be charged to DDA. **Dye** also shared that there had been a large amount of eco-vandalism with people digging up plantings and taking signs.

VI. Tanglefoot/Mill Point Park Master Plan Update – Schuitema said he did not like the plans for Tanglefoot and Mill Point Parks because they did nothing for north of Savidge St. The **Board** discussed the two design plans and felt a development of this scale would need to be created over time so as not to cause more of a burden on the residents. **Groenevelt** shared some of the thoughts from the first 2 plan meetings. **Dye** thought this development was moving too fast and was premature and that more work should be done on the Downtown Development first. **Dye** said she was not against change but that it should be done at a slower pace. **Brower** said he was not in favor of the designs and that there was not money needed to maintain this kind of development.

VII. Miscellaneous Parks Update

- **Lakeside Trail – Art in the Park – Hinga** shared that a “Call for Artists” had gone out and the application deadline was May 10th with a painting start date of June 3rd and project completion by October 4th.
- **Central Park – Village Adventure, Pickleball – Hinga** reported that the Village Adventure would be held on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th and that the Pickleball subcommittee was disbanded due to a lack of cooperation from committee members. Manager **Burns** asked that an email she had been copied on from Cindi McKinney to Bob Helder, Deb Mascarin, be shared with the Board and that in the email Ms. McKinney stated that Manager Burns was in agreement to proceed with gaining approval of the charter and play schedule from the Parks Board. Manager **Burns** said that this was not at all the way the conversation went and that she had informed Ms. McKinney that creating the subcommittee had been the pickleball players last chance to work out their differences and since they were not able to do that, this was a dead issue. **Barfield** suggested that, since this was a public park, reservations not be allowed. The **Board** discussed this suggestion and agreed that reservations outside of peak times would still be allowed and they would stick with the original approved rules.
- **Downtown Pocket Park – Epicurean Village – Hinga** reported that Manager Burns was in discussions with Ms. VanKampen regarding a 30-year lease for the Downtown Pocket Park in return for significant upgrades.
- **Marv’s Bark Park – Dye** reported that she had gathered information regarding suggestions for the dog park and also learned that wood chips were not recommended for dog parks because carpenter ant and termite eggs could/would be spread to other places by sticking to the dog’s paws.
- **Whistle Stop Playground – Landscaping (Darcy Dye) - Dye** reported that, because of road construction, she had pulled the volunteers from the Jackson/Exchange corner to work at Whistle Stop where they would plant the entire length of the north fence and continue to work on the prairie habitat. **Dye** also shared that after the mural was painted, they would create eccentric landscaping to complement the mural.
- **Tanglefoot Park – Muskrat Removal – Hinga** reported that 4 muskrats had been caught so far. **Schuitema** said it looked like another one was in a trap.

VIII. Miscellaneous –

- **Photo – Erik Poel donation from Consumers Energy Foundation – Poel** was presented with a You Make the Difference Award.
- **Request to Reserve Central Park – Hinga** reported that Rise Above Humanity had asked to reserve all of Central Park for the entire day of August 17, 2019. **Hinga** said they would be charging attendees and vendors. The **Board** discussed this and agreed that reserving the entire public park was not an option.

Motion by **Poel**, second from **Barfield**, to deny the request from Rise Above Humanity to reserve Central Park on August 17, 2019. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6

No: 0

IX. Tree Board Meeting

- 1. House Moving – 326 Rachaels Way – Dye** said that to move this house, all branches that overhang the curb on Savidge Street would have to be cut off. The **Board** discussed how this would affect the trees and the canopy and the fact that MDOT would have the final say on whether the house was moved or not. **Dye** said that no branches should be cut after April 1st on older trees, whether Maple or Sycamore, because this was a period when all kinds of insect and fungal infections are present. **Hinga** asked if the trees would need to be treated as they were cut? **Dye** said that some of the insect diseases in Michigan, such as the maple tree, if infected with the Asian Longhorn Beetle, the treatment was to cut down the tree and all of the maple trees in a one-mile radius. **Groenevelt** asked if they can paint the cut end as they went along? **Dye** said that West Michigan Tree Service no longer did that because they felt the trees' natural immune system would take care of that, but those trees had already been trimmed for utilities and sidewalks causing much of the crown to be destroyed which caused the root system to be damaged because the root system was as big as the crown, making the trees potential blowdowns. **Schuitema** said that one of the trees was already showing die-off at the crown so they would have to remove the whole tree. The **Board** discussed the trees on Division St. and options for replanting new trees and what Ms. VanKampen should be responsible for.

Motion by **Dye**, second from **Schuitema**, to recommend that the trees not be cut or trimmed after April 1st due to damage to the tree canopy and will open the trees to the possibility of disease, however, if MDOT permits the house moving, it is the expectation that Ms. VanKampen will pay for the removal and replacement of the trees damaged in the process. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6 No: 0

- 2. Arbor Day – April 26, 2019 – Hinga** shared that Manager Burns was looking for suggestions for where to plant the Arbor Day tree. **Poel** suggested that it be planted at the corner of Ann and Meridian. **Brower** asked if Arbor Day could be held later in the day on Friday or on Saturday so those that worked could attend.

3. Miscellaneous –

X. Adjournment

Motion by **Poel**, second from **Groenevelt** the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6 No: 0

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk