



Village of Spring Lake  
Parks & Rec Committee  
Tree Board Meeting  
Monday, July 1, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
102 West Savidge Street (EOC Room)  
Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

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

**Absent:** Curt Brower and George Barfield.

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

- II. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by **Poel**, second from **Schuitema**, to approve the agenda as amended with the removal of item 5 A. Pickleball Signage Discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 4 No: 0

- III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Poel**, second from **Dye**, to move the approval of the June 3, 2019 regular meeting minutes to the August 5, 2019 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 4 No: 0

- IV. Finance Report:** **Burns** reported that they were at the tail end of the fiscal year and were in fine shape as far as budget number went.

Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Dye**, to accept the Finance Report. All in favor, motion carried

Yes: 4 No: 0

**V. Miscellaneous Parks Updates**

A. **Central Park** – No update at this time.

B. **Mill Point Boat Launch** – **Burns** said that Hinga and Delamater had added signage because the water was over the road and they had the boat dock pulled a little further upland, but you would still get wet when launching. **Burns** said one seasonal boat launch pass had been refunded.

C. **Mill Point Park Damage** (SLHF) – **Burns** shared photos of damage done to the park by the Heritage Festival Committee during the festival. **Burns** said they were tracking the expense of repairs and planned to invoice the Heritage Festival Committee for the repairs.

D. **Alden Street End** – **Burns** reported that the street end had basically collapsed into the lake and, for safety's sake, was removed and the street end closed.

- E. **N. Jackson Street End** – **Burns** said that N. Jackson was also closed for similar reasons and an engineer was going to look it over.
  - F. **S. Cutler Kayak Launch** – **Burns** said the kayak launch was completely under water.
  - G. **Lakeside Beach** – **Burns** reported that there were no life guards on duty at this time because there was no place to put the life guard stand and that **Dye** had asked about the water quality for swimming, so she was going to find out about that. **Petrus** asked about posting “No Life Guard on Duty” signs. **Dye** said that there were a lot of people swimming over the weekend. **Burns** said she would get signs.
  - H. **Marv’s Bark Park** (repair update) – **Burns** reported that a number of repairs had been made to the dog park, but a couple of the requests were not feasible, such as planting grass because it gets dug up and worn away and bark was suggested but that was not desirable due to carpenter ants and other insects.
  - I. **Whistle Stop Playground** (Little Library) - **Burns** shared that a request had been received to put a little library at Whistle Stop Playground so if the Parks Board had no issues with it, they would find a place for it. The **Board** agreed that the Little Library would be a nice addition to the playground area. **Dye** reported that there had been destruction to some of the flowers at Whistle Stop Playground by park goers including ripping flowers out along the fence because the person said that was where she parked her bike. **Burns** updated the Board on the mural progress. **Burns** shared that the DDA and 12 businesses in the Village had purchased spots on 8 West that would highlight Art in The Park and business’s in the Village and would be aired in July. **Burns** said she had met with the Verplank’s to discuss a sculpture to honor Gary and Vicki Verplank and that the family was very receptive to the idea so they would proceed with the plans for a sculpture.
- VI. Central Park Inventory** – **Dye** explained that she had met with Amy Hileman to walk Central Park and determine park needs that would create a more inviting park.
- VII. Tanglefoot/Mill Point Community Engagement Results** – **Burns** reported that they had received a lot of great feedback from the Community Engagement and that, over all, the support was to use Tanglefoot park for a different use.
- VIII. Lakeside Trail Encroachment** – **Burns** reported that Council wanted the Tree Boards thoughts on trimming the trees that hung over the encroachment. Mr. Armour was present and explained his latest proposal regarding the encroachment. **Burns** said that if the Tree Board did not have any issues with the new proposal, the trees would be added to the list that needed to be trimmed in the fall. Mr. Armour asked if he could be present at the time of the trimming to discuss it with them. **Burns** said that he would be allowed to be there. The **Board** agreed to allow the trees to be trimmed. **Dye** asked the Board to think long term on when trees take priority over personal, private interests.
- IX. Miscellaneous** – The Board discussed what type of survey would meet the needs of the Village for the joint Parks and Rec. Plan update, a survey monkey or a scientific survey.

## Tree Board Meeting

- X. **S. Cutler Tree Removal – Burns** shared photos of 2 trees behind Plantenga's Cleaners that were blocking the view of the new mural. The **Board** discussed trimming the trees. **Dye** said that when trees start to look like these looked, it meant that they were dying, but **Dye** said, she was having a hard time with just cutting the trees willy nilly so you could see a mural better. **Schuitema** said those were scrub trees and that they plant trees 2 for 1 so he thought they would be ahead if the trees were removed. **Dye** said that she and Schuitema would not see replacement trees reach that size in their lifetime. **Schuitema** said he knew that but didn't think these trees were specifically planted, they just popped up there.

Motion by **Poel**, second from **Schuitema**, to remove trees in the ally behind Plantenga's Cleaners.

Yes: 3      No: 0      Abstain: 1 (Dye)

- XI. **Lakeside Trail Tree Trimming – Burns** updated the Board on a few trees that needed to be removed.
- XII. **Miscellaneous – Burns** updated the Board on the Exchange St. project, and an upcoming Public Hearing from the DNR regarding buoy placement.
- XIII. **Adjournment**

Motion by **Poel**, second from **Dye**, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5                      No: 0

---

Claire Groenevelt, Vice Chair

---

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk