



Minutes

**Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Dial-in number: (312) 757-3121
Access code: 242 023 861
Spring Lake, MI 49456**

I. Call to Order

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Chris Burns (Village Manager), Maryann Fonkert (Deputy Clerk), Wally Delamater (DPW Director) and Pete Eliopulos (General Services Superintendent)

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

Yes: 7 No: 0

III. Approval of the Minutes: Motion by **Brower**, second from **Groenevelt**, to approve the March 2, 2020 regular meeting minutes with clerical corrections. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 7 No: 0

IV. Finance Reports & 2020/2021 Budget: **Burns** reported that, due to the Executive Order, minimal parks maintenance had been done over the last 6 weeks so the revenue and expenditure reports were a little off at this time, but as Delamater was allowed to get DPW running at full capacity, they would be working to catch up.

Burns shared that this would be the first time that they would be going through the budget process from start to finish with a shared DPW so Eliopulos had been tasked with creating a "Wish List" for the parks of items that really needed to be done and maintenance that had been deferred. **Burns** explained that the cost of the wish list items totaled more than what had been budgeted, so when the was brought to Council, Council agreed that these projects and maintenance items needed to be done and made a decision to pull funds from Fund Balance to pay for the items and balance the budget. **Burns** said that Mill Point Park would be closed this summer and that the money that had been earmarked for the parking lot for the last 2 years had been removed from the budget since high water prevented reconstruction and repaving in the next year, but there were some maintenance items at Mill Point Park that would be done in preparation for opening in the spring of 2021. **Burns** went through the list of maintenance and repair items for each park with the Board. The **Board** appreciated the list of much needed maintenance and repairs that Eliopulos had put together. **Delamater** explained new lawn maintenance practices, such as aerating, and fertilizing were being done to help create better turf and tree health. **Eliopulos** reported that they were working on the irrigation systems and replacing soil in flower planters.

V. Miscellaneous Parks Updates –

- Vandalism – **Delamater** reported that the vandals had been caught. **Burns** added that the vandals were two 15-year old boys who had also stolen a kayak, which they ditched along the bike path. They were being charged with vandalism and unlawful entry at Epicurean Village. **Burns** said she was not sure if there would be any financial restitution but hopefully community service, at the very least.
- Flooding – **Burns** updated the Board on flooding over the road at N. Lake and Beach Ave. and that they were still working with MDOT in case flooding from Mill Point and the Grand River Greenway spilled over onto M-104 and noted that residents were able to have sandbags delivered to them from the fire department.
- Capital Improvement Plan – **Burns** reported that she had met with Tiffany Smith from MSA to go over the Parks Draft Capital Improvement Plan and she would share it with the Board and DPW once it was finished.

VI. Miscellaneous – Tanglefoot Update – **Burns** reported that the Tanglefoot Focus group had met through a Zoom meeting and, due to costs, have changed direction from a very expensive enclosed building with high maintenance to investing in the outdoor space and a partially enclosed three-season pavilion. **Burns** said that they should be getting new drawings back from Progressive AE within the next 30 days.

Tree Board Meeting

VII. Grant Applications – **Burns** reported that the grant application for a tree inventory had been rejected, but Kevin Sayers had sent a letter noting the shortcomings in the application so if the Board would like to try again to secure that grant money, Lee Mueller had offered to take another shot at writing the grant application and the money left on his contract would cover costs for him to do that. **Barfield** thought it made sense to try again. **Dye** said she had attended a Tree City webinar on the benefits of having a Tree Inventory and how they could use that information and offered to share her notes with Mr. Mueller. **Burns** said that would be helpful. The **Board** agreed they would like to try again.

VIII. Miscellaneous –

- **Central Park Tree Maintenance -** **Burns** shared that Tiffany Smith, consultant for the Capital Improvement Plan, suggested that Mr. Mueller perform an in-depth tree evaluation at Central Park to create a tree maintenance plan to ensure adequate sunlight for lawn growth. The **Board** agreed.
- **Pine Tree Removal Bid –** **Burns** reported that Delamater had obtained a bid to remove 4 pine trees between the hockey rink and dog park. **Burns** said that the 2 trees on the east end were diseased and the other 2 were probably not far behind so she was looking for direction from the Board whether they wanted to remove the 2 diseased trees or remove all 4. **Barfield, Brower** and **Groenevelt** said they thought all 4 trees should be removed. **Dye** said the 2 on the east should definitely be removed but she would be inclined to leave the 2 somewhat healthy trees on the west. **Burns** suggested they have Mr. Mueller evaluate the 4 trees and give his recommendation. The **Board** agreed.

IX. Board Member Comments – The **Board** thanked Curt and Shelly Brower for dressing up as the Easter Bunny and Chicken and touring the Village as a special Easter treat for the children. It was enjoyed by the whole community.

Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Barfield**, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk