

Minutes
**Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, September 8, 2020
7:00 p.m.**



I. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Curt Brower (Chair), Claire Groenevelt 7:02 (Vice Chair), Darcy Dye, Erik Poel, Lee Schuitema and Susan Petrus (Village Council Liaison).

Absent: George Barfield

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

- II. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Brower**, to approve the agenda as amended, moving the Tree Board meeting up to the first item on the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

Tree Board Meeting

- III. Tree Grant (Lee Mueller) – Burns** explained that the deadline for the Tree Grant was the end of September so if everyone was in agreement to submit it. **Burns** said this was the same grant as last year but after receiving feedback, Lee Mueller assisted by updating the recommended wording.

Motion by **Schuitema**, second by **Groenevelt**, to submit a 2021 Urban & Community Forestry Tree Grant. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

- IV. Fall Tree Planting/Trimming/Removal Plan – Burns** explained that in June, Lee Mueller had evaluated the 4 pine trees at Central Park and, and per that evaluation, the Board had decided to remove 2 of those trees, but after looking at the trees a few days ago, and discussing their deteriorating condition with the Consumers Energy Arborist, it was suggested that 3 of the trees should be removed. **Dye** noted that leaving a single pine tree had the potential for a blow down. **Mueller** suggested that if there was a noticeable decline since his last inspection, the prudent decision might be to remove all 4 trees. **Schuitema** said that he was surprised to see how quickly the third tree had deteriorated so he felt that, under the circumstances, all 4 trees should come down and be replaced with new trees. The **Board** agreed.

Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Dye**, to remove all 4 pine trees in Central Park by the Dog Park. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

Burns reported that the DPW would like to get working on the fall tree planting schedule to relocate trees from the tree nursery so she and DeMario Johnson had driven around the week before and marked areas that could use some infill. **Burns** also said that Robert Lopez, with Lilley Cares, had proposed to plant several trees so she felt that Mr. Mueller

should evaluate places trees should be trimmed, removed and planted. Mr. Mueller suggested that they wait to see what happened with the grant, and trimming shouldn't be done until winter, or, since he was very busy with other jobs right now, he could bring in a colleague, at a lower billing rate, to do the evaluation, otherwise he would be able to come in October. The **Board** agreed that October would be preferable.

V. **Board Member Comments** – No additional comments from the Board.

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VI. **Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Brower**, to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020 regular meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

Commented [DJ1]: Changed to packet

VII. **Finance Reports:** **Burns** updated the Board on the Finance Report. **Dye** asked what the Consumers Energy License fee was for and how often was it paid. **Burns** explained that the license fee of \$500 was paid annually and was for the use of Consumers Energy property for the Dog Park.

VIII. **Asset Management Plan – Burns** explained that she had met with **Barfield** and Megan **Doss** to discuss the Asset Management Plan and **Doss** felt the plan was good but lacked an ongoing maintenance plan which was very important to her, so they discussed what that might look like and how it could be funded. **Doss** explained that she and other donors would like to give more but if those parks were not being maintained because there wasn't a maintenance plan, then the donors felt the Village were not being a good steward of their donations. **Doss** said she understood there were infrastructure issues but felt a millage to support and maintain parks should be considered. **Burns** shared a spread sheet with 2 different scenarios that could be shared with Council to start a conversation regarding a millage for a park's maintenance plan. **Schuitema** felt a maintenance plan would save money in the long run. **Dye** suggested that in-depth research needed to be done to determine a general long-term plan to maintain the parks would be helpful to substantiate the need for a millage. **Petrus** said she supported a recommendation from the Parks Board but did not want to see this independent of water/sewer to show clearly how much would be levied on residents. **Petrus** also wanted to know where the Lilley Cares proposal ended, and the Village became responsible. **Burns** said that anything from Lilley Cares should be considered a gift and not as part of the maintenance plan. The **Board** discussed the tremendous costs associated with repairs to Mill Point Park and the street end parks due to high water damage.

IX. **Native Landscape Education – Burns** explained that she had talked with Pam Blough and received a proposal to educate the DDA, DPW, and volunteers on what it meant to have native landscaping versus manicured landscaping and how to effectively have the right landscaping in the right locations. The **Board** agreed that education was needed.

Motion by **Dye**, second from **Brower**, to approve the proposal from Pam Blough to develop a plan to educate Village Boards, staff and the public on how to effectively and successfully manage public planting areas for an amount not to exceed \$2,000. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

X. **Miscellaneous Parks Updates:** This report was included in the agenda packet.

- Whistle Stop Playground
- Lakeside Trail

- Tanglefoot Park
- Central Park
- Dog Park – **Burns** updated the Board on the Lilley Cares Volunteer Weeks Dog Park team and what they would be doing along with Kyle Powers Eagle Scout project to get agility equipment, and the fundraiser for improvements and repairs.

XI. Public Comment

Robert Lopez shared some of the other Volunteer Week projects which included the fence removal behind Brooklyn Bagels, a butterfly garden, family movie night at Central Park to raise money for cystic fibrosis, dressing up the Clock Tower area and help out the tree behind Fuel.

XII. Board Member Comment

There were no additional Board Member comments.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk