

**Minutes**  
**Village of Spring Lake**  
**Parks & Recreation Board Meeting**  
**Monday, April 5, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Spring Lake, MI 49456**



Pursuant to SB 1108, the Village of Spring Lake will conduct its business virtually to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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

**Roll Call:** Claire Groenevelt (Vice Chair), Darcy Dye, Dan O'Keefe, Lee Schuitema and Susan Petrus (Village Council Liaison).

**Absent:** Curt Brower

**Also Present:** Chris Burns (Village Manager), Maryann Fonkert (Deputy Clerk) and Angela Stanford- Butler (DDA Director)

**II. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Schuitema**, 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 minutes of the February 1, 2021 regular meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 4                      No: 0

**IV. Resignation of Board Member:** **Burns** reported that Board member Erik Poel resigned his seat, effective immediately, and that 2 applicants had responded to the ad that had been posted.

**V. Tanglefoot Park – Burns** reported that GDK was the successful bidder for this project and shared preliminary drawings with the **Board** and went over the proposed budget and where the funds would be coming from. **Dye** asked why the Tribune had published the conceptual drawings from Progressive AE when the Village was not able to use those drawings. **Burns** said she had not given the Tribune permission to publish those drawings, so she didn't know. **Stanford-Butler** said the Tribune had reached out to her and those were the only drawings they had so she gave them to the Tribune with the understanding that they were conceptual. **Dye** asked if the Village would be liable with Progressive AE for using those drawings for marketing. **Burns** said that the Village owned the drawings and had permission to use them as they like. **Petrus** said that it appeared that the preliminary drawing of the structure was fully enclosed. **Burns** said that was what was proposed and if the budget allowed, then they would enclose it. **Dye** asked if the time frame allowed them to wait until the price of materials come down to go forward with this project. **Burns** said that there were no guaranties that prices would come down anytime in the near future and they also had obligations to doners and grants funds so they could not wait. **Schuitema** commented that having the building enclosed with doors would be very helpful.

**VI. Mill Point Park – Burns** reported that she had walked Mill Point Park with DPW Director Delamater, and since it was now dry, the plan was to have the park open by May 1<sup>st</sup>. **Burns** said she had checked the boat launch fees of nearby municipalities and recommended they raise the

launch fees for Mill Point Park. **O’Keefe** said there were a lot of boat launches around and it did not seem that Mill Point was used all that much so keeping the fees lower would encourage more use. **Burns** said the average revenue generated per year was about \$6,000, but whether those launch users were local or out of towners was not tracked. **Schuitema** said that he had observed quite a bit of the launch users at Mill Point were from out-of-town because they want to avoid the traffic of going into Grand Haven and they spend money in the Village by going to Wesco and the restaurants in that area. **Dye** asked if Burns knew what would be impacted with the loss of the \$10,000 that the Township used to give the Village parks. **Burns** said that the \$10,000 mostly went towards improvements and maintenance of Lakeside Beach and Central Park, but it was put into the General Fund to be used as needed. **Burns** said that her thought was that if the Township residents were not helping with any of our parks or pay taxes in the Village, then it didn’t seem right to give them a break on launch fees. **Dye** said that eventually the boat launch would figure into Tanglefoot Park traffic as well, so she suggested they revisit the fee schedule when Tanglefoot was up and running so they had a better idea of the use of that park because it actually may be that they charge more than the proposed rates at some point, given the uptick in traffic that Tanglefoot may bring. **Burns** said that they do revisit the fee schedule every year, and it was ultimately up to Council to make that decision, but she was sure they would listen to a recommendation from the Parks Board. **Dye** said she was in favor of giving Village residence preference and for Township residents to no longer be given the break they had been given in the past. **O’Keefe** said he was all for that too, but looking at the fee structure, \$10 off for a Village resident was not much of a break and suggested Village residents receive a 50% discount from what the nonresidents pay. **Dye** asked if they needed to figure out a target amount to reach the target of the bare bone’s maintenance costs. **Burns** said they could do that, but they have to keep in mind that parks are a service to the residents and never generate enough to pay for themselves and if they raised the fees enough to cover maintenance cost, no one would be able to afford them. **Dye** said she was suggesting that they have some sort of target amount that they hope to generate each year based on these fees. **Burns** said that was a very good question and that would be up to Council and this Board. The **Board** discussed the fee schedules for daily passes, seasonal passes for Village & senior residents, non-residents, senior non-residents and fines for non-purchase of a launch pass. **Burns** summarized the rate discussion at \$10 daily, \$40 Village seasonal, \$30 Village seniors, \$70 non-resident seasonal, \$60 non-resident seniors and \$100 for non-purchase of a launch pass.

**Petrus** acknowledged and thanked the DPW for all their hard work cleaning up Mill Point Park. **Delamater** gave an overview of what the DPW staff accomplished.

- VII.** Motion by **O’Keefe**, second from **Dye**, to recommend to Council to raise the amounts of the Launch Ramp fees to \$10 daily, \$40 Village seasonal, \$30 Village seniors, \$70 non-resident seasonal, \$60 non-resident seniors and \$100 for non-purchase of a launch pass. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 4                      No: 0

- VIII.** **Grand River Greenway (209 S Park) – Burns** updated the Board on the Martinus lawsuit, explaining that the Martinus’ had not met the deadline of the consent order, so the Village went back before the Judge for a show cause hearing and the Judge gave the Martinus’ an extension, however, they indicated they were in Florida and needed more time, but the Judge refused that request. **Burns** said the Martinus’ have admitted that there were about 400 sandbags buried between the trail and the water covered with dirt and they still had a 3-row tier of cinder blocks along the north side of the trail where they brought in fill to put behind it and all without permission from the Village or EGLE. **Burns** said the Martinus’ have filed a Federal lawsuit against the Village, but they have not received a date for that,

IX. and the Martinus' had lost their attorneys.

X. **Miscellaneous Parks Updates:**

- **Fees for renting park shelters** – **Burns** explained that she had been looking into charging a fee for the use of the park shelters and one of the reasons was to help offset the loss of support from the Township, but also, when people do use the pavilions, they're using hand soap, toilet paper and it has to be cleaned and because there was no cost, there have been times when people have reserved a pavilion and someone else has wanted it but were turned down and then the person that reserved didn't show up. **Burns** said she had checked, and the Township charged \$45 for Rycenga Park and they used Ottawa County for all of their online reservations, so she had asked Johnson to look into that. The **Board** discussed fee for the pavilions at Central Park.

Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from Dye, to recommend to Council to set the fees for Central Park shelters at \$25/\$50 and \$35/\$60. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 4                      No: 0

- **Lakeside Beach:** **Burns** updated the **Board** on repairs and maintenance to Lakeside Beach and said that the Township would not be providing a lifeguard.
- **Buchanan St. End:** **O'Keefe** mentioned that the neighbor on N. Buchanan had been doing maintenance to his sea wall and ripped up the landscaping and might have killed a small tree. **Burns** said they had asked the Village to place rocks by their seawall, but they should not be tearing up landscaping.

XI. **Budget Update:** **Burns** said due to COVID with a couple of staff members, they were behind on the Budget process but as soon as she gets it, she will email it to the Board.

**Tree Board Meeting**

XII. **Tree Inventory** – **Delamater** gave an overview of what they can track with the new tree inventory software. **Burns** explained that the arborist recommended the Village spend more time on tree health at this time rather than tree planting.

XIII. **Tree Complaints** – **Burns** reviewed the tree complaints with the **Board** explaining that one was on private property so there was nothing the Village could do on that one and Delamater would be handling the other one.

XIV. **Public Comment** - There was no public comment.

XV. **Board Member Comments** – **Dye** thanked **Delamater** for getting the tree inventory software up and running.

XVI. **Adjournment**

Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Groenevelt**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

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Claire Groenevelt, Vice Chair

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Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk