Minutes

Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, November 7, 2022
Barber School
102 W. Exchange St.
Spring Lake, MI 49456
7:00 p.m.

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

Swearing in of New Board Member- Schwing read the Oath of Office to Luke DeSmet who accepted and took his place on the Board

Roll Call: Darcy Dye (Chair), Luke DeSmet, Claire Groenevelt, Kristen Horine, Nancy Meyers & Lee Schuitema

Absent: N/A

Also Present: Christine Burns (Manager), Wally Delamater (DPW Director) and Jordan Schwing (Deputy Clerk)

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

Yes: 6  No: 0

III. Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Groenevelt, second from Meyers, to approve the minutes from the July 5, 2022 & August 1, 2022, regular meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6  No: 0

IV. Finance Reports – Burns reviewed the finance reports with the Board.

V. Nomination of a Vice-Chair- The Board weighed the benefits of nominating a vice-chair presently against waiting until the January 2023 meeting when a new chair will also be required.

Motion by Groenevelt, second from Meyers, to postpone the appointment of vice-chair until the January 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Yes: 4  No: 2 (Dye & Schuitema)

VI. Board & Committee Appointments – Chair Dye reported that since herself and Schuitema will not be reapplying for the Board when their term ends December 2022, two positions on the Board will be available. The Board discussed the applicants, Megan Doss and Didier Couvelaire.

Doss and Couvelaire spoke briefly on their experience and the contributions they hoped to make while serving on the Board.

Motion by Groenevelt, second from Meyers, to recommend the appointment of Megan Doss and Didier Couvelaire to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Yes: 6  No: 0

VII. Swing Placement at Central Park – Burns spoke on changing the placement of the Swings closer to the existing playground, as opposed to the original placement nearer the skating rink.
Burns spoke on alternate ground covering for under the swing and the path opposed to the pour-in-place ground covering utilized at Whistlestop Playground.

The Board discussed the swing placement and possible ground covering alternatives for the pathway leading to the swing set.

Motion by Schuitema, second from Groenevelt, to approve relocating the swing set closer to the existing playground and the path that would make it more accessible.

Yes: 6  No: 0

VIII. Miscellaneous Parks Updates – Delamater notified the Board that all the park bathrooms, with the exception of Tanglefoot, have been shut down and winterized. The Board was informed that Tanglefoot being winterized would be completed by the original plumber.

Delamater discussed the removal and storage of the modular docks for winter.

Delamater explained the surveillance cameras installed at Tanglefoot Park and their usage in preserving the quality of the park and the safety of its occupants.

Delamater discussed the five Parks and Recreation employees and their responsibility for the maintenance of the Village and Township’s trails and parks.

Burns spoke on the reservations for Tanglefoot park, and the interest expressed by individuals to reverse winterization so that the full facility could be utilized for winter reservations. The Board considered this possibility but ultimately decided not to pursue reversing the winterization.

Burns addressed the communications she had with the company responsible for pouring the surfacing at Whistlestop playground and the efforts the Village has taken to ensure that the warranty remained valid. Burns explained that she called to address the state of the surfacing, weeks shy of the 5-year Warranty, that the company refused to stand behind the product. To this effect, Burns notified the Board that come spring the surfacing is going to require serious attention.

Meyers questioned if the Grant for the transient slips/docks (?) prevent an increase in quantity of transient slips. Burns confirmed that this was true and explained the requirements of the Grant. The Board discussed the possibility of overnight transient slips and the potential revenue those could generate.

Dye asked if the Village would be contacting the original Tanglefoot landscaper for remediation of the landscaping that failed on the west side of the building. Burns explained that anything that does not return in the Spring will be replaced under the 1-year warranty. Dye spoke on acquiring plants that are more suitable for the ground type when making Spring replacements. Burns confirmed that this was taken into account and that in the future the lack of construction may yield different results.

Dye questioned the status of the Kayak Rental Kiosk. Burns acknowledged that they were not useable and the company providing them did not return to remove them for winter. Delamater will move them to the parking lot for plowing purposes.

Communications – N/A

Tree Board Meeting

Delamater reviewed with the Board has been run for 75 hours over the that over the two weeks that the Leaf truck has been active.

Fall Planting Report (Wally Delamater)- Delamater hypothesized that of the 82 trees that need planting, that about 77 will be planted before spring. Delamater asserted that 61 trees are already in the ground and detailed the species that were utilized. Burns discussed the process by which the placement of trees is determined and how tree requests are processed.
Delamater discussed that of the 40 trees in the nursery, the forester determined that 33 of them were ready to be planted, which resulted in 80 trees being planted instead of the original 40.

IX. Tree Trimming & Removal – Delamater discussed the tree trimmings that will take place. Delamater also noted that per the contract with Get-R-Cut tree maintenance, including tree removal, stump grinding and pruning, is scheduled to be completed by January 31st.

Burns questioned if the tree near the library that fell over was on the list for removal. Delamater clarified that the tree was not and that it fell because it was stuck by the Dollar General Semi-truck. The Board discussed an insurance claim to cover removal and replanting.

X. Public Comment – N/A

XI. Board Member Comments – N/A

XII. Adjournment

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

Yes: 6 No: 0

________________________             __________________________
Darcy Dye, Chair     Jordan Schwing, Deputy Clerk