

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2012

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Meg Canepa

Members present: Meg Canepa, Sue Meinecke, Joe Hildebrand, Gigi Hafemann and Fran Betz

Absent: Dave Antoine and Jim Miller

Staff / Officials present: Director of Parks and Recreation John Safstrom and Administrative Secretary Sheryl Prohuska

Others: Peter Raymond and Bradley Mitchell, Grafton Blues Association

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Gigi Hafemann, to approve the February 22, 2012 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes.

Approved unanimously.

MEMORIAL BASKETBALL PROJECT AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Director Safstrom reported that students from Grafton High School are proposing to renovate the basketball court at Veterans Memorial Park in memory of Grafton High School Student Athlete, Josh Davis-Joiner. Josh was a volunteer for the Parks and Recreation Department's Boy's Basketball program and utilized Veterans Memorial Park's basketball court regularly to hone his basketball skills.

A proposal to upgrade the court surface, install new basketball hoops, bleachers, landscaping, walk path and signage was reviewed. The project also calls for the court to bear the Grafton High School colors.

Discussion was held regarding the colors proposed for the court surface. Gigi Hafemann questioned if a darker color would hold up best to fading. Director Safstrom responded that good, quality materials are used today and felt that would not be a concern. Director Safstrom felt the tan surface color might be less prominent for a park setting.

Director Safstrom reported the group would also like to install a small memorial near the basketball court in the form of a plaque or stone.

Trustee Meinecke questioned if the group will be working with a landscape company. Director Safstrom will follow up regarding this portion of the project.

Director Safstrom stated the project would be an excellent addition to the park, as the current basketball hoops are aging and beyond repair. He stated the Village would provide two employees at three hours each to assist in the removal of the existing basketball hoops and prepare the site for Brick Paver Walk Path.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Chair Canepa, to recommend the Village Board accept the donation of the Josh Davis-Joiner Memorial Project for Veterans Memorial Park, with the tan court color, design and signage approved by staff.

Discussion continued regarding the color of the court surface. Joe Hildebrand stated he preferred the dark orange color. Gigi Hafemann agreed. Trustee Meinecke stated she liked the orange color but was considering Director Safstrom's opinion. Chair Canepa felt the dark orange color would be appropriate because it reflected Grafton's traditional school colors.

Discussion continued on the final details of the project. Trustee Meinecke offered an amended motion.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Chair Canepa, to recommend the Village Board accept the donation of the Josh Davis-Joiner Memorial Project for Veterans Memorial Park, and to allow the project to move forward with the project's details being brought back to the Parks and Recreation Board committee for review and final approval. Approved unanimously.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FEE POLICY

Director Safstrom reported the Program Activities Fees Policy was approved at the November 2011 Parks and Recreation Board meeting to include indirect costs associated with support staff time and benefits. Fee increases to youth recreation programming was reviewed and approved at the January 2012 meeting.

In an effort to more evenly distribute increases to several aquatic and adult programs over a 5-year period, Director Safstrom has requested Board members review Level 2 Aquatic Programs, Level 3 Adult Recreation and Level 3 Aquatic Programs.

Director Safstrom stated that instead of creating another Level of programming, he is recommending that several aquatic and adult programs be moved down to the Level 2 category so that fee increases would be more gradual. He stated this means most programs would incur a \$3.00 increase that would be implemented each year for the next 5 years.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Gigi Hafemann, to recommend the Village Board approve the proposed program fee increases as presented. Approved unanimously.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

Board members reviewed a Special Event Application submitted by the Grafton Blues Association requesting the use of Veterans Memorial Park on June 2, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Live music will be played from 12:00 noon to 10:30 p.m. Alcohol will be sold. This event is free to the public.

Director Safstrom reported that the Department has been working with the Police Department to implement a special use permit for all future community and special events. He explained that when an event involves a special circumstance, it will now be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board for approval. He stated this request was placed on the agenda because the Grafton Blues Association is requesting the fees be waived.

Blues Association Representative, Peter Raymond, appeared before the Board to request the park usage fee (\$125 - \$50 returned) be waived for this event. Mr. Raymond read the following statement: "We are requesting the park fee be waived because we were originally going to hold the event in an area that would not require a fee, but we moved the event to accommodate two Grafton businesses. We are hosting a free community event, and request that the fee be waived."

Mr. Raymond explained the event, which is called Lucky Street Festival, was held last year on 13th Avenue in front of the Milwaukee Ale House and the Black Swan banquet hall. There is a conflict this year at that location because both venues are hosting wedding receptions. The group does not want to create a parking conflict.

Director Safstrom wanted to clarify that fees have been waived in the past for the group's use of Lime Kiln Park in lieu of a donation from the Rods N Relics Club and the Grafton Area Jaycees, both of which Mr. Raymond has been a member.

Director Safstrom is recommending fees not be waived for this event. Director Safstrom explained his recommendation is not meant to reflect negatively toward the group, because the Blues Association is a stellar group and has been a good user of the park system. Director Safstrom explained the number of events in the community continues to grow, and the Department is trying to become more conscious of generating revenue to assist in labor costs associated with cleaning of the facility and garbage removal. Director Safstrom stated the Department has a fair amount of permits where fees are being waived.

Director Safstrom asked Mr. Raymond if the group is considering using the 13th Avenue location for 2013. Mr. Raymond replied they have not made plans for 2013, but would like to hold it in the street because of the Lucky Street Festival name. Mr. Raymond stated they are asking to use Veterans Memorial Park as an alternate location because it also is located on 13th Avenue in close proximity to Lucky Street (13th Avenue).

Chair Canepa questioned if the Village owns the parking lot adjacent to and across from the Milwaukee Ale House. Director Safstrom replied yes but added that parking consideration is given first to businesses. Trustee Meinecke asked Mr. Raymond if their

group has approached the Milwaukee Ale House or the Black Swan to help defray festival expenses. Mr. Raymond replied no.

Gigi Hafemann stated she is concerned about setting a precedent for future groups and events if fees are waived. She stated there are labor costs involved that should be taken into consideration.

Director Safstrom stated use of Veterans Park for this festival will incur labor costs for staff to clean and remove garbage if there is a private rental the next day. Mr. Raymond reported they will have a small dumpster at the event.

Joe Hildebrand stated the restroom facilities need to be cleaned if there is a private rental the next day.

Chair Canepa stated she would be in favor of waiving the fee if the group can guarantee they would clean the bathrooms, remove garbage and replace the liners in the garbage receptacles.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to waive the fees for use of Veterans Memorial Park on June 2, 2012, provided the bathrooms are cleaned, garbage is removed and liners replaced in all garbage receptacles. Motion approved 3-2. (J. Hildebrand, G. Hafemann – nay).

BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS

Board members had no comments regarding the Department's monthly benchmarks report.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE FUND/PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FUND REPORT

Board members had no comments regarding the Department's monthly report.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Family Aquatic Center proposal

Board members reviewed an email from Keelyn Lyon, Executive Director of the Feith Family YMCA Center, regarding their interest in partnering with the Village in the management of the Family Aquatic Center.

Director Safstrom stated that any action should be in a recommendation to the Village Board.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Joe Hildebrand, to recommend that the Village Board and/or the Village Administrator inform the Feith Family YMCA Center that the Village is not interested in a potential partnership regarding the Family Aquatic Center. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Safstrom stated he will continue to pursue a joint purchase for a shared pool amenity between the Grafton, Port Washington and Cedarburg communities.

Mr. Raymond asked if the memorial basketball project planned at Veterans Park will pose any conflicts with the June 2 Lucky Street Festival. Director Safstrom responded the work will entail an overlay on the existing court which will generate minimal disruption.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fran Betz reported the Senior Friendship Club recently hosted a St. Patrick's Day Party with entertainment and many door prizes.

Director Safstrom stated that letters are being sent from Village Clerk Teri Dylak to Board members whose terms expires in May to learn of their interest in continuing to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board.

ADJOURN

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to adjourn at 6:41 p.m. Approved unanimously.