

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 18, 2012

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

Members present: Meg Canepa, David Liss, David Antoine, Joe Hildebrand, Jim Miller, Bob Nowak and Celia Albers

Absent: None

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

Others: Marla A. Zahn, 1436 13th Avenue

MINUTES

Motion by Joe Hildebrand, seconded by Trustee Liss, to approve the June 18, 2012 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

Chair Canepa welcomed newest member, Bob Nowak, to the Parks and Recreation Board.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

See "Educational community garden request on Village-owned property on 14th Avenue" below.

GRAFTON LIONS PARK - REQUEST TO AMEND "NO DOGS" ORDINANCE

At the May 23, 2012 Parks and Recreation Board meeting, the Board discussed amending Section 6.08.110.D of the Grafton Code which states "(n)o dog or cat shall be permitted in any cemetery, park, beaches or any swimming areas open to the public in the Village." This discussion was held to explore allowing dogs in Grafton Lions Park. At that time, the Board directed Director Safstrom to contact Police Chief Wenten to obtain his opinion on this issue.

Director Safstrom stated that after speaking with Chief Wenten and observing patrons using the park, he is recommending that the Code not be amended. Grafton residents currently have access to Muttland Meadows which is a controlled environment with fences and posted rules. Chief Wenten's concerns are with conflicts between dogs that may result in injury to either the animals or owners, and also lack of responsible clean-up by dog owners.

Trustee Liss concurred by referring to the problem Grafton Area Live Arts (GALA) is having with patrons bringing their pets to concerts held at Veterans Memorial Park.

They have asked visitors to not bring their pets, yet they still do. Trustee Antoine stated he will request the Police Department monitor community events for this type of situation, as dogs are not allowed in parks.

It was the general consensus of the Board to not amend the “no dogs” ordinance in the Village Code.

EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY GARDEN REQUEST ON VILLAGE-OWNED PROPERTY ON 14TH AVENUE

Resident Marla A. Zahn appeared before the Board to request to officially establish a community garden on Village-owned property at the end of 14th Avenue, south of WIS 60 (Grafton Mill area).

At the present time, Ms. Zahn is gardening in this area, and Village Engineer Dave Murphy will be requesting that all plantings be removed from this area.

Director Safstrom reported that Ms. Zahn's proposal to establish a cooperative educational program will be discussed tonight, but not the decision for a site location. The 14th Avenue site that Ms. Zahn is currently using as a private garden is an item that would be discussed by the Department of Public Works Committee. Village Engineer Dave Murphy has stated this area is planned as an access route for a future canoe launch site.

Director Safstrom stated he has suggested that Ms. Zahn use the current community garden site on River Bend Road and not the current site she is using on 14th Avenue.

Ms. Zahn discussed her education and knowledge regarding organic gardening. She stated she is interested in running a co-op program that educates people on how to grow plants organically. Children and elderly residents living in the area are those she is interested in reaching out to. She expressed concern that children do not have access to the River Bend area and elderly people may not be able to dig in the spring. She also stated the 14th Avenue site can easily be watered with a water hose.

Chair Canepa stated the Board does not have the authorization to make a decision on the removal of her garden. Ms. Canepa said the Board would be interested in learning more about her educational program, such as fees and a proposed location.

Director Safstrom asked Ms. Zahn if she would be interested in offering an organic education program anywhere other than the 14th Avenue site. Ms. Zahn replied that she is not interested in using land that has been farmed, as it lacks proper nitrogen. She felt the River Bend site would not be suitable as an organic gardening site.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Ceil Albers, to table the request from Marla Zahn to establish a second community garden on 14th Avenue. Approved unanimously.

SKATE PARK

Director Safstrom reported the City of Cedarburg has discussed and recommended to permanently remove all equipment from their skate park. The City has also offered to repair and donate their equipment to the Village of Grafton. Director Safstrom stated the City is dismantling their skate park due to conflicts with the park being located near a residential area. Director Safstrom stated the proposed location for a skate park in the upper level of Lime Kiln Park is not located near any homes, and he does not anticipate the same problems that the City of Cedarburg has experienced.

Director Safstrom has discussed this proposal with the Cody Reetz Skate Park Committee, and they view it as a positive step in realizing their goal of a skate park in Grafton. Cedarburg also offered to work jointly on any future improvements to the skate park in Grafton.

Director Safstrom stated that all involved in the skate park process agree that this is a positive first step. It may help the group promote the project and also raise additional funds. Upon Village Board acceptance, coordination of a site plan for the skate park with the Director of Planning and Development will occur.

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Trustee Antoine, to recommend the Village Board accept the donation of skate park equipment from the City of Cedarburg. Approved unanimously.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Director Safstrom reported that he met with pool staff to discuss the possibility of having a Mom and Tot swim time during swim lessons. Pool staff thinks this would be a great distraction. Presently, the zero-depth area is used for a fair amount of teaching. Staff feels that as soon as group lessons are done for the season, hours could be extended to accommodate this request.

Director Safstrom stated that in an effort to increase attendance between the City of Port Washington and the Village of Grafton's community pools, the two communities are discussing plans to alternate open and closed evening swim times. When the City of Port Washington pool is closed, the Grafton Family Aquatic Center would be open and vice versa.

Director Safstrom stated he is continuing to explore solutions to the bee problem in the sand playground area at the Family Aquatic Center. He reported the City of Port

Washington experienced the same problem and their final solution was a poured-in-place rubber surface. Jim Miller stated this may be an opportunity to restore the wading pool in that area.

OTHER BUSINESS

Celia Albers reported the Senior Friendship Club successfully hosted their annual summer picnic.

Director Safstrom reported he has initiated discussion with the Grafton School District regarding their summer school programming. Currently, the Department and the School District are offering several similar programs. Director Safstrom is optimistic that this joint effort will benefit the Department, School District, and the needs of the community.

ADJOURN

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Trustee Liss, to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.
Approved unanimously.