

## VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

### PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

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 (excused at 6:26 p.m.), Joe Hildebrand, Bob Nowak and Celia Albers

Excused: Jim Miller and David Antoine

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

Others: Tom and Amy Smoody, 1508 17th Avenue; Randy Ladwig, 1514 17th Avenue

Trustee Liss requested a correction be made to the December 19, 2012 minutes to reflect that Celia Albers was in attendance and to change the spelling of her first name from Ceil to Celia.

#### **MINUTES**

Motion by Trustee Liss, seconded by Joe Hildebrand, to approve the December 19, 2012 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes with the above amended changes. Approved unanimously.

#### **PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD**

Please see agenda item Special Event Application – Grillin' In Grafton.

#### **SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION - GRILLIN' IN GRAFTON**

Board members reviewed a Special Event Application submitted from Celebrate Grafton for the 2013 Grillin' In Grafton event.

Director Safstrom explained that Celebrate Grafton is the festival committee that sponsors the Giro d'Grafton bike race, Holiday, Grillin' In Grafton and Pumpkin Fest events. Director Safstrom explained that Celebrate Grafton is requesting to combine the Holiday and Grillin' In Grafton events due to difficulties in fundraising for each event. He stated the 4th of July Holiday event is presently a 1-day celebration. Trustee Liss concurred that the crowds typically begin showing up around 7:00 p.m. for the annual fireworks display.

Director Safstrom reported he mailed letters to neighbors that live near Centennial Park to allow them the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have regarding the relocation of the fireworks to Centennial Park. He also stated the Grafton Fire Chief has verbally approved this request and the Police Department is also aware of the proposed change. The fireworks company that is contracted for this event has expressed approval of the relocated venue and stated it was a better location than Lime Kiln Park.

Resident Amy Smoody, 1508 17th Avenue, stated she did not receive a letter. Director Safstrom apologized and stated the address list he used was from a previous mailing for a Centennial Park issue. Director Safstrom stated he received a couple of telephone calls from residents in favor of combining the events in Centennial Park and has not received any negative feedback.

Director Safstrom stated he has been in contact with St. Joseph Church to discuss any concerns they may have regarding the public encroaching upon their parking lot. He stated the parking lot will be barricaded for the day and parishioners will be issued parking passes to gain entry for evening services.

Amy Smoody stated the northern edge of their property abuts up to the park. She stated there were problems with their driveway being blocked by cars belonging to patrons attending the Grillin' In Grafton event last year. She asked if barricades could be placed by their driveway. Director Safstrom responded anything that a neighbor would need; the committee will make it happen. He stated the Village could also post no parking signs to give the Police Department the authority to enforce and issue citations. Secondly, Mrs. Smoody expressed concern that if their windows should sustain damage from noise vibration, who should she send the bill to. Director Safstrom replied the contracted fireworks vendor is insured but that Mrs. Smoody should contact Celebrate Grafton with any issues. Thirdly, Mrs. Smoody stated she farms approximately ½ acre of land and is concerned about fall-out from the fireworks landing on her crops. She stated the ingredients used, particularly those used to enhance the color of fireworks, may be harmful to her crops and is concerned about whether she will need to cover her plants. Mrs. Smoody asked if the Board knew the location of where the fireworks will be launched from. Director Safstrom replied he attempted to find out that information prior to tonight's meeting, but has not received an exact location from the fireworks vendor at this time. He stated the vendor must abide by state guidelines and felt certain it would be either from an open space area near St. Joseph Church or a location within the park farthest away from homes. Mrs. Smoody stated she would like to be informed of the location before contacting an agency to help answer her questions. Director Safstrom stated he will get the contact information of the fireworks vendor for Mrs. Smoody. Director Safstrom requested that Mrs. Smoody call him directly if she cannot get the answers she is looking for.

Resident Randy Ladwig, 1514 17th Avenue, also stated he did not receive a letter. Director Safstrom stated he will make sure Mr. Ladwig is on the contact list for all future updates.

Director Safstrom stated this item will be going to the Village Board for discussion and approval on Monday, February 18. He will try to get Mrs. Smoody's concerns answered in time for that meeting. If the Village Board does not feel comfortable with the approval process, approval can be tabled for a future meeting.

Trustee Liss expressed concerns about parking. Many patrons use the public parking lots in the downtown area for tailgating prior to the fireworks. In many instances, alcohol is being consumed. If parking is offered in the school district parking lot, alcoholic

beverages would need to be restricted. Director Safstrom replied the Police Department is aware of this issue as it relates to school district parking lots.

Board Member Joe Hildebrand said that he lives near Centennial Park and is looking forward to having the fireworks moved to that location.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Celia Albers, to recommend the Village Board approve Celebrate Grafton's request to hold the Grillin' In Grafton event in Centennial Park on June 28 and 29, 2013, with fireworks to be held on Saturday, June 29, contingent upon knowing the location of where the fireworks will be launched from as well as alleviating concerns regarding possible damage resulting from vibration and fall-out. Approved unanimously.

### **SKATE PARK EQUIPMENT UPDATE**

Director Safstrom reported the skate park equipment is currently in outdoor storage in Cedarburg and will be painted sometime this spring in preparation for its move to Grafton.

### **SUMMARY OF BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS**

Board members reviewed a summary of Departmental benchmarks for the Parks and Recreation Department through December 31, 2012. Six areas were reviewed: administration, consignment tickets, recreation, adult senior services, aquatics, and parks and playgrounds.

Director Safstrom stated the Department's annual report will be available at the March meeting which incorporates many of the benchmark measurements.

### **BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS**

Board members reviewed the Department's monthly benchmarks.

### **PARK AND OPEN SPACE FUND/PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FUND REPORTS**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

### **ADJOURN**

Motion by Bob Nowak, seconded by Chair Canepa, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Approved unanimously.