

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 17, 2013

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

Members present: Meg Canepa, Trustee David Liss, Trustee David Antoine, Jim Miller and Joe Hildebrand

Excused: Celia Albers

Absent: Bob Nowak

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

Others: John Katzban, 1987 Cedar Drive

MINUTES

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Joe Hildebrand, to approve the February 13, 2013 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

John Katzban appeared before the Board to voice his concerns about the Paramount Blues Festival (see Agenda Item "Special Event Requests").

2014 – 2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Board members reviewed a summary of the 2014 – 2018 Capital Improvement Program requests and their funding sources for the next five years. Director Safstrom stated requests have not changed significantly. Director Safstrom stated he moved the safety surface playground projects to 2014 as he thought it was important to complete them. Upgrades to the Grafton Family Aquatic Center have been moved to 2015, however, \$30,000 in upgrades to the Aquatic Center will occur in 2013.

Chair Canepa inquired if the sandbox has been removed in Dellwood Park. Director Safstrom will check if this has been done.

Trustee Antoine inquired as to the \$50,000 in donations allocated for 2015. Director Safstrom replied that projects are placed in the plan anticipating potential donations or grants.

Trustee Antoine inquired if the bench located near the pond in Grafton Lions Park had been moved due to flood warnings for the area. Director Safstrom will check on the status of the bench.

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Trustee Liss, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Parks and Recreation 2014 – 2018 Capital Improvement Program requests as submitted. Approved unanimously.

PARK USE REQUEST

Tom Stanton, Mel's Pig Roast, Inc., appeared before the Board to discuss his organization possibly inheriting the Mike Boesch Memorial Softball Tournament dates. Director Safstrom stated the Boesch Tournament is going in a different fund-raising direction, and the Boesch group is in favor of Mel's Pig Roast continuing the tournament.

Mr. Stanton discussed the group's philosophy of returning all fund-raising earnings back to the community. Groups that receive proceeds include special needs organizations, human services, as well as scholarships in memory of a student who has passed away. Mr. Stanton stated the group is 100 percent volunteer-based and that no one gets paid. Continuing the tournament event would help the organization's bottom line and enable them to give more money throughout the year.

Mr. Stanton would like to assume the Boesch Tournament's dates of July 12 – 14 to hold the Mel's Pig Roast softball tournament. Mel's Pig Roast, Inc., is requesting all fees be waived for use of the park on this weekend.

Director Safstrom reported that the Board had previously established a policy for giving charitable organizations a 25 percent discount off the park rental fee. The Mike Boesch Memorial Softball Tournament operated under these guidelines.

Trustee Antoine stated he is well aware of the organization's generosity. Jim Miller stated he is in favor of waiving the entire fee. Chair Canepa asked Mr. Stanton if he had any idea of how much funding would be returned to the community. Mr. Stanton replied the Mike Boesch Memorial Tournament was able to raise and donate close to \$25,000 to \$30,000 each year to ALS (also known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"). Mr. Stanton stated his organization would also like to donate a portion of the proceeds to ALS.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Trustee Antoine, to waive the fees for use of the Centennial Park pavilion and ball fields for the Mel's Pig Roast Softball Tournament on July 12 – 14, 2013. Approved unanimously.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUESTS – GIRO d'GRAFTON AND PARAMOUNT BLUES FESTIVAL

Board members reviewed a Special Event Application from Celebrate Grafton to hold the Giro d'Grafton in the downtown on June 22, 2013. The Paramount Plaza will be utilized and Village streets will be closed along the race route.

Also reviewed was a request from the Grafton Blues Association for use of Lime Kiln Park for the Paramount Blues Festival. This event will be held on September 6 and 7. Director Safstrom reported there have not been any problems associated with these two events in the past.

Village resident, John Katzpan, expressed his concerns about the late time the music is allowed to go into the evening. Chair Canepa stated she felt 11:00 p.m. was too late. Mr. Katzpan said the music went to 11:45 p.m. one evening. Mr. Katzpan stated he does not object to the festival itself, however, when the music begins at 12:00 noon and continues for another 10 hours, he is asking for a little more consideration for neighbors that live near the park.

Director Safstrom stated when Celebrate Grafton holds an event, their philosophy is to be a good neighbor. He stated their events typically end by 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. Mr. Katzpan stated the problem is not only with the time, but also with the high decibels of the music. He stated the problem magnified when the stage was placed in front of the kilns. He asked if the stage could be pointed in a different direction from residential areas or if it could be moved to the lower level. Director Safstrom responded there is no electricity in the lower level of the park. Director Safstrom stated that with past experience, no matter what direction the stage is pointed, the sound will carry.

Chair Canepa questioned if alcohol sales end when the music stops. Trustee Liss responded beer sales usually end when the music stops because everyone typically leaves then.

Mr. Katzban reiterated that he would like something done about the loudness of the music.

Director Safstrom suggested that the Board give the Grafton Blues Association an opportunity to respond to these concerns. He said the request to change the location of the stage will be a concern for them. Chair Canepa agreed and stated this item should be tabled until next month's meeting.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Trustee Antoine, to allow Celebrate Grafton to utilize the Paramount Plaza on Saturday, June 22, 2013 for the Giro d'Grafton event. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Jim Miller, to table allowing the Grafton Blues Association to utilize Lime Kiln Park on Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7, 2013, for the Paramount Blues Festival. Approved unanimously.

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

Jim Miller stated he would like to compliment Director Safstrom and his staff. Mr. Miller noticed a lot of kids trying to utilize the basketball court in Veterans Memorial Park which was full of snow, and the kids were attempting to clear it. Director Safstrom sent

his crew to the park and got the court cleared off. This allowed the kids to use the court which in turn got a lot of use during spring break when school was out.

Trustee Antoine stated Senior Coordinator Karin Sevener and the Senior Friendship Club hosted a great St. Patrick's Day party.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Antoine stated the Public Arts Board has considered the possible application of a Coastal Management Grant and visited the Milwaukee School of Engineering to research ideas for using those funds for the dam area adjacent to Bridge Street.

Director Safstrom discussed new programming for the upcoming summer. Adult computer classes will be offered in conjunction with the School District. The Department is also working with a professional British Soccer organization and will be offering two soccer programs for children. The Department has partnered with two PGA professionals and will offer both adult and children's golf lessons at a higher level. The Department has also expanded the football program and will offer a Junior Gladiators flag football program for boys in grades 1 – 4.

Recreation Supervisor Karin Sevener stated a men's Over 50 Basketball program will be offered in the fall.

Board members stated the Summer Recreation Booklet was very well done. Director Safstrom replied the booklet is the responsibility of Administrative Secretary Sheryl Prohuska.

OTHER BUSINESS

Trustees Liss and Antoine stated they have a conflict with the date for next month's Board meeting. Director Safstrom will move the meeting up a week earlier to May 15.

Joe Hildebrand stated that Recreation Supervisor Karin Sevener should contact students in the National Honor Society to assist her with upcoming programs. Chair Canepa will also assist in getting volunteers.

ADJOURN

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Trustee Antoine, to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Approved unanimously.