

## VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

### PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**AUGUST 20, 2014**

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

Members present: Meg Canepa, Trustee Dean Proefrock, Jim Miller, Joe Hildebrand, Trustee Lisa Harbeck (6:02 p.m.), Mark Slaminski (6:04 p.m.)

Staff/Officials present: Director of Parks and Recreation John Safstrom, Senior Coordinator/Recreation Supervisor Karin Sevener, and Administrative Secretary Charlie Donohue

#### **MINUTES**

Motion by J. Miller, seconded by Trustee Proefrock, to approve the May 21, 2014 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes as presented.  
Motion carried.

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

None.

#### **REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR SKATE PARK AT UPPER LEVEL OF LIME KILN PARK**

Director Safstrom stated a significant amount of time has passed since the last discussion of this project. He explained there are several steps that need to be completed prior to installation of any of the used skate park equipment, that was accepted from the City of Cedarburg, at the upper level of Lime Kiln Park (adjacent to the horseshoe pits). Seventy-five percent of the existing asphalt parking lot will be removed and replaced with a concrete pad for the skating equipment. The remaining 25 percent will remain an asphalt parking lot with a permanent barrier to separate the two areas. Anticipated cost for this phase of the project is estimated at \$15,000 - \$20,000. Village staff will contribute in-kind services (material removal, site preparation and concrete work); however, the Village has not committed any funds to this project. It is anticipated that the Cody Reetz Memorial Skate Park Fund will be contributing to this project; however, at this time the amount of their financial support is unclear.

The Board inquired as to the status of this group and whether the group has the funds to cover the costs of this project. Director Safstrom stated latest attempts to contact the group have been unsuccessful.

Trustee Proefrock stated there is not a sidewalk in place that leads to this future skate park. This would require skaters to use the road, which would raise safety concerns. He also asked if there are any fees associated with maintaining the equipment. Director

Safstrom stated the skaters could use the walking path that leads to this area and the equipment is virtually maintenance free.

Director Safstrom stated the Parks and Recreation Department received a call inquiring into the status of the installation of the equipment in the Village. This person suggested the equipment could be moved to the Port Washington Skate Park to improve their existing facility and allow skaters to utilize the equipment.

After much discussion, the Board directed Director Safstrom to invite the Cody Reetz Memorial Skate Park Committee to the next board meeting to further discuss this project.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Trustee Proefrock, to table the recommendation of the Village Board to approve the installation of skate park equipment at the upper level of Lime Kiln Park, until further information is provided. Motion carried.

### **CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST – PARAMOUNT BLUES FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 5 – 6**

Director Safstrom stated this event will be similar to years past with the event ending by 10:00 p.m. each night. The organizers are respectful users of the park and have always left the park clean and orderly.

J. Miller inquired about noise complaints in years past. Director Safstrom stated the music will end between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m.

Chair Canepa inquired who is responsible for the cost of security for the event. Director Safstrom stated the organizers hire private security for the event to watch the equipment and tents.

Motion by J. Miller, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to allow the Grafton Blues Association to utilize Lime Kiln Park on Friday and Saturday, September 5 and 6, 2014, for the Paramount Blues Festival with a music-ending time of 10:00 p.m. Motion carried.

### **POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Director Safstrom stated the Community Garden Program is in its third year of operation and has experienced minimal success. Less than five gardeners have been involved in the program each year. The lack of success is thought to be due to poor soil conditions, availability of water on site, and location. Director Safstrom explained in the beginning stages of this project, many sites were looked at prior to deciding on the current location. The current location has experienced parking issues, gardeners must walk through a muddy entrance, and often there is a problem with people dumping waste on the property. The current location is difficult to contain and patrol.

Director Safstrom suggested relocating the Community Garden Program to a location along the Ozaukee Interurban Trail adjacent to the Municipal Services Facility and/or Family Aquatic Center. The opportunity for easy access to water and a more accessible location could be key to increased use of the program. The garden would contain ten plots and a fence. Ideally, the garden would be relocated this fall, which would allow time for the soil to be prepped and ready for spring.

Chair Canepa inquired as to the property ownership of the potential location. Director Safstrom stated he would further investigate the property's ownership, discuss the possible location change with the Department of Public Works, and report to the board at the next meeting.

Trustee Harbeck stated the new location would make the gardens more visible and possibly more popular.

### **SUMMARY OF BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS**

Senior Coordinator/Recreation Supervisor Sevener gave an overview of the benchmark measurements. She explained a few programs were cancelled; however, the department added programs as well. Participation has increased with these new programs.

Director Safstrom stated that the department will be reviewing its overall program offerings in an effort to remain a viable option for resident's recreation needs.

J. Hildebrand asked if other local recreation departments are experiencing the same issues. Director Safstrom did not have confirmation that other area recreation departments are experiencing lower participation in their programs. He further stated that he has spoken with other departments regarding the possibility of working together in offering programs to the area. He added the department's archery and soccer programs continue to be strong programs.

J. Hildebrand suggested the department offer programs in the evening hours as well as more classes in the month of August. Director Safstrom stated that the department will be looking into making changes that will better fit area families' needs.

Senior Coordinator/Recreation Supervisor Sevener stated the newest programs have been the most successful, which include Zumba, Pickleball, and Movie Night in the Park.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

J. Hildebrand inquired as to the tennis courts that were to be replaced during the construction of the Municipal Services Facility. Director Safstrom stated initially there were funds set aside for the replacement of the tennis courts; however, when the project stalled, the funds were no longer available.

Chair Canepa asked if documentation exists that states the funds were meant for the replacement of the tennis courts. Director Safstrom stated he would look into the cost of installing new courts, as well as, funding options to discuss at the next board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Harbeck inquired as to the usage of the newly installed concrete pad at Veterans Memorial Park, as well as why the bands using the pad are facing the shelter. Director Safstrom stated Grafton Area Live Arts (GALA) would be able to answer these questions.

Chair Canepa stated the basketball court is used frequently at Veterans Memorial Park; however, there are pieces missing from the court. Director Safstrom stated that repair is a very time consuming process. J. Hildebrand suggested removing the court and paving the area.

Senior Coordinator/Recreation Supervisor Sevener informed the board of the new Fistball program. She gave an overview of the game to the board members and explained a free clinic will be held Wednesday, August 27, at Centennial Park. The program will be held Wednesday evenings in September and the beginning of October for children ages ten to 18. Grafton Parks and Recreation will be the first to offer this program in the area.

Chair Canepa asked if there have been any additions or changes at the Multipurpose Senior Center. Senior Coordinator/Recreation Supervisor Sevener stated the published newsletter has been very well received. She also stated that she has a couple interested in becoming Senior Representatives for the Board.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Trustee Proefrock, to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Motion carried.