

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2010

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting was called to order by Chair Meg Canepa at 6:02 p.m.

Members present: Meg Canepa, Susan Meinecke, Jim Miller and Lisa Harbeck

Members Absent: Gigi Hafemann, Fran Betz and Joseph Hildebrand

Staff present: John Safstrom, Parks and Recreation Director, Darrell Hofland, Village Administrator and Sheryl Prohuska, Administrative Secretary

Others: Keegan and Will Hollrith, 1898 Cypress Drive – Cody Reetz Memorial

Members welcomed Trustee Lisa Harbeck to the Parks and Recreation Board.

MINUTES

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to approve the March 17, 2010 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes, as presented. Approved unanimously.

HEAR PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD

None.

ACCEPT DONATION – MEMORIAL BENCH

Keegan and Will Hollrith were present to answer questions regarding the donation of a memorial bench in memory of Cody Reetz. Drawings and specifications were available for review. Fund-raising for the construction costs associated with this bench are being raised by the Eighth Grade Class at John Long Middle School.

Keegan Hollrith, a student at John Long Middle School and friend of Cody Reetz, provided additional details about the bench including color and the proposed location. Keegan asked if Board members preferred that the bench be anchored into the ground. Director Safstrom replied that most of the benches within the parks are free-standing. Director Safstrom informed the members that the group is using guidelines from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding type of materials and structural stability for the bench selection.

Will Hollrith stated the bench is constructed out of solid steel. The materials are tough, long-lasting, and the best you can buy for outdoor elements. Mr. Hollrith stated that Rychtik Welding & Manufacturing is involved with the project and have been very helpful.

Director Safstrom stated that until construction of the skate park is complete, the bench will be located in Wildwood Park.

Chair Canepa stated this is a very nice tribute to Cody's memory. Jim Miller asked that Keegan Hollrith thank his fellow classmates for their fund-raising efforts.

Motion by Meg Canepa, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to recommend the Village Board accept the donation of a custom bench from the 2010 Eight Grade Class at John Long Middle School. Approved unanimously.

SKATE PARK UPDATE

Director Safstrom reported on the Cody Reetz Memorial Skate Park group's fund-raising event that was held on March 28, 2010, at Ozaukee Skateland. The Skate-A-Thon raised over \$3,000.

More events are being planned for the summer that will include a golf outing, Brewer tailgate, moped raffle and a skate board demonstration.

Director Safstrom stated that a Webinar presentation by skate park vendors is being planned. The group will then choose a park design and begin a letter-writing campaign seeking donations.

2011 – 2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Board members reviewed a list of capital improvement projects for the next 5 years. Changes to existing requests were discussed.

Village Administrator Darrell Hofland reported on progress of housing developments in the Shady Hollow, Black Hawk Valley and Falls Crossing subdivisions. Home building interest has leveled off in the Shady Hollow and Black Hawk Valley subdivisions; however, the Falls Crossing subdivision has only 6 (out of 60) lots available. The Falls Crossing subdivision is the only subdivision that does not have pedestrian sidewalk access to a Village park. Due to the rapid development in this subdivision, Mr. Hofland is recommending to move up the neighborhood park development for the Falls Crossing subdivision from 2012 to 2011, and to move the 2011 Black Hawk Valley park development back to 2012.

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Lisa Harbeck, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the 2011 – 2015 Capital Improvement Program with the following changes: Move the future Southside Park Phase I development from 2012 to 2011, and move the Black Hawk Valley park development project from 2011 to 2012. Approved unanimously.

BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS

Board members had no questions regarding the Department's monthly benchmark measurements. Director Safstrom reported the Benchmarks are in the process of being revised. Future benchmarks will provide more comprehensive information such as customer satisfaction.

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

There were no comments on the monthly report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Miller questioned when Centennial Park will be ready for use. Director Safstrom reported the fountains will be turned on next week and repairs are being made to broken equipment on the fitness trail. Staff has been devoting their time to Veterans Memorial Park due to the upcoming Canoe Race. As adult softball typically begins the first week in May, Centennial Park will be ready by that time.

Jim Miller said he noticed that signage for the footage in the ball field's outfield keeps being taken down. Director Safstrom stated he will talk to the leagues that use the fields.

Trustee Harbeck reported that this past winter, the flags were not removed at River Island Park. Director Safstrom replied this apparently was an oversight, as the flags have been removed every year.

Trustee Harbeck reported that playground safety surface is needed at Mole Creek Park. Director Safstrom replied that staff is replacing the safety surface at three or four playgrounds this year. He will make sure the safety surface at Mole Creek Park is addressed.

Trustee Meinecke reported that resident Nancy Knetter inquired about a community garden and if this is something the Park Board would like to get involved in. Director Safstrom stated the Board would need to look for available land. Administrator Hofland stated that the Village should consider a temporary swapping of farm land which will allow the public access to land that could be used for this purpose. Staff will check with other communities that have a community garden for guidelines. This item will be placed on the May agenda.

Meg Canepa commented that the recent story that featured Grafton and the Longoria family was well done.

ADJOURN

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