

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2011

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

Members present: Meg Canepa, Sue Meinecke, Gigi Hafemann, Joseph Hildebrand, Jim Miller, Lisa Harbeck, and Fran Betz.

Staff / Officials present: Director of Parks and Recreation John Safstrom and Senior Coordinator/Recreation Supervisor Karin Sevener.

Others: Christine Heady, 1044 6th Avenue, David and Carol Reindl, 468 Overland Trail, Ken Nelson, 548 Woodridge Drive, and Laura Jarvis, 446 Overland Trail.

MINUTES

Motion by Gigi Hafemann, seconded by Fran Betz, to approve the March 16, 2011 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes, as presented.
Approved unanimously.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Christine Heady, a volunteer with the Riveredge Nature Center, is working on placing signs at both Lime Kiln Park and Veterans Memorial Park.

Joseph Hildebrand questioned the purpose of the signs. Director Safstrom responded that the signs would tell fisherman to throw back any Sturgeon they catch.

Chair Canepa suggested placing a sign on the east side of Veterans Memorial Park near the canoe launch.

The Parks and Recreation Board directed Ms. Heady to work with Director Safstrom on the placement of signage.

Meg Canepa asked how many signs will be placed in the park. Director Safstrom responded one to two signs per park. The signs are approximately 36 inches high.

Carol Reindl lives next door to the site of the Community Garden Project. Ms. Reindl stated that in the seven years she has lived at this property, she has had to call the Police for several incidents regarding vandalism and theft of personal property and she does not want a Community Garden placed at Mole Creek Park for fear of more incidents. Ms. Reindl questioned if the Community Garden was for Village residents only and if background checks were to be conducted on the participants. Ms. Reindl questioned if there is a better area outside of this neighborhood.

Trustee Harbeck suggested the open area near Village Hall.

Carol Reindl questioned if the Village would incur any expenses with this project. Director Safstrom replied that expenses incurred would be tilling the soil, and providing weekly watering.

Director Safstrom replied that there are currently nine people interested in purchasing a garden plot. We have not contributed anything financially to this project, at this time.

Chair Canepa questioned if we could pursue a different location. Joseph Hildebrand also thinks we should pursue a different location.

Laura Jarvis also lives near Mole Creek Park and has experienced vandalism and does not want a Community Garden placed here.

Trustee Meinecke suggested postponing the Community Garden for a year as a cost cutting measure.

It was the general consensus of the Parks and Recreation Board to postpone the Community Garden program and request that the Village Board review their approval of the Mole Creek site at the May 2 Village Board meeting.

FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER EVALUATION AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Director Safstrom requested the Board begin thinking about the future of the Family Aquatic Center in terms of the recommendations made in the 2009 pool study.

Trustee Harbeck questioned if any of the recommendations of the two year old study have been implemented. Director Safstrom responded that several of the recommendations were taken care of in-house.

Jim Miller questioned if the leak at the pool has been found. Director Safstrom replied that the leak will be found before the pool opens this season.

Trustee Meinecke thinks that we can make this pool last a few more years.

Trustee Harbeck questioned exactly where the land purchased for the future new pool is located. Trustee Meinecke responded that the land is located on Green Bay Road two blocks south of the Family Aquatic Center.

Ken Nelson, Village resident, expressed his concern over losing the pool because it is an asset to the community. He questioned how a new pool would be funded. Director Safstrom responded that would be an issue decided at the Village Board level during the budget process.

Joseph Hildebrand questioned the possibility of receiving business sponsorships or naming rights to help fund the pool.

Resident Carol Reindl stated that her family would be willing to pay more for use of the pool as they enjoy it.

Ken Nelson questioned if the Village could sell the new property and use the funds to repair the current pool. Jim Miller responded that the Village recently purchased the property. Trustee Meinecke responded that the property was purchased with the intent to build within five years. Joseph Hildebrand added that the Municipal Services Facility is slated for future expansion over the current Family Aquatic Center site.

2012 – 2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Director Safstrom explained the new requests to be added to the Capital Improvement Program.

- Repave/expand Lime Kiln Park parking lot (\$30,000 in 2016) is being requested to better accommodate customers and expand current capacity from 36 to 60 cars.
- Remodel Veterans Memorial Park pavilion (\$50,000 in 2015). This often-used pavilion is in desperate need of upgrades.

Director Safstrom requested the removal of a Needs Assessment Study regarding impact fees, be removed as the current study will be valid through 2016. Director Safstrom also removed Cheyenne Park (Phase 2) because a farm is still there. He also removed Shady Hollow Park as there is not any new construction in that subdivision at this time.

Gigi Hafemann asked where the expanded parking in Lime Kiln Park would be located. Director Safstrom replied that it would be an extension of the current parking lot.

Joseph Hildebrand suggested adding parking to County Trunk O between the road and the building.

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Joseph Hildebrand, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program, as amended. Approved unanimously.

BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS

Director Safstrom reported the Department has implemented some new measurements in monthly benchmark statistics. Some enhancements include the use of Survey Monkey to gather information regarding satisfaction with park pavilion rentals and quality of ball diamond maintenance.

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

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Safstrom stated that the new registration software has been purchased.

Trustee Harbeck asked if online registration was available yet. Director Safstrom replied that the software is being used; however, the online feature has not yet been activated.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Safstrom stated there is a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, April 25, at 6:00 p.m., at Village Hall where 2011 and 2012 cost saving measures will be discussed.

Director Safstrom reviewed the list of potential changes. Reduce part-time seasonal costs, reduce park utility costs, eliminate part-time hours Office Assistant at the Senior Center, Increase fees for Senior recreation programs, eliminate in-door weekend swim programming, reduce part-time hours for senior recreation programming, sell pocket parks and reduce part-time seasonal hours, close the Multi-purpose Senior Center, close the Family Aquatic Center, and share equipment with the school district.

Chair Canepa questioned the closing of the Multipurpose Senior Center. Director Safstrom stated that the staff was directed to “think outside of the box” when compiling possible cost saving measures. The closing of the Multi-purpose Senior Center is not being recommend but was placed on the list as an option. .

Jim Miller indicated that he is not be in favor of shutting down the pool as it is a great community asset.

Trustee Meinecke stated that the Village needs to come up with over \$200,000 in cuts.

Trustee Harbeck agreed that the pool should remain open for now. However if the pool is in need of many repairs then the closure of the pool should be revisited.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Trustee Harbeck, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Approved unanimously.