

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2012

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, Dave Antoine, Jim Miller and Fran Betz

Absent: Gigi Hafemann and Joe Hildebrand

Staff / Officials present: Director of Parks and Recreation John Safstrom, Village Administrator Darrell Hofland, Utility Director Thomas Krueger, and Administrative Secretary Sheryl Prohuska

Others: Dave Mauer and Bob Mercer, Representatives from Grafton Lions Club, and Village residents Bill and Sue Haas

MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Jim Miller, to approve the December 14, 2011 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Grafton Lions Club member, Dave Mauer, gave a pictorial presentation on both the pavilion and playground equipment projects in Grafton Lions Park. The Grafton Lions Club contributed funding and volunteer services for the two projects. Mr. Mauer reported the Club raised \$75,000 for pavilion construction and another \$50,000 toward the purchase of playground equipment. He stated that approximately thirty Club members donated their talents and time over the last 9 to 10 months. He stated the pavilion is close to completion. Koenig Construction will finalize work on sinks, toilets and drinking fountains. The Lions Club will finish work on the ceiling lights, metal benches and planting of trees. He stated the Lions Club will also install a club emblem on the east side of the building as well as a plaque acknowledging the funding efforts and in-kind services that were donated toward the project.

Mr. Mauer stated that once the Village installs a park sign near the entrance to the park, they plan on installing a 500 pound lion statue beside it. They also want to have a grand opening at the park in May.

Discussion was held on asking the Village to install lighting in the parking lot. Director Safstrom stated the Village has been very energy conscious by reducing lighting in the parks, as well as closing park bathrooms during the winter months. Director Safstrom stated funding for lighting will be discussed during the budget process.

Mr. Mauer thanked Village staff for clearing out brush along the creek bank. He stated it enhances the beauty of the creek, eliminates trash and provides greater visibility for monitoring activities within the park.

Mr. Mauer stated the Grafton Lions Club is very proud of this park project and thanked Village staff for the ability to work with them during the last 8 years. Trustee Antoine thanked Mr. Mauer for spearheading this project and said Mr. Mauer was responsible for getting the rest of Club onboard with the project.

Director Safstrom reported he received a call from Village resident Mike Behlen, 1502 Audubon Avenue, expressing concern regarding the clearing of brush along Cedar Creek. Mr. Behlen said many residents in the Audubon Avenue and First Avenue neighborhoods were also very concerned. Director Safstrom gave a pictorial presentation of what the creek looked like before and after the brush had been removed. He explained that prior to clearing out the brush, along with several dead and fallen trees, the area looked rough and not very picturesque. He indicated staff did not clear-cut the area, but left many healthy, standing trees. He indicated that before the work was done, the creek was not visible from the pavilion. Now residents utilizing the pavilion can also enjoy the view of the creek during the summer months. Director Safstrom stated that while the work was in progress, several residents walking in the park commented on how nice it looked. Director Safstrom stated that buckthorn which had encroached upon the walking path was also removed.

Trustee Antoine stated he also had spoken to Mr. Behlen regarding his concerns and invited him to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Behlen was not present at tonight's meeting.

It was the general consensus of the Board that they were pleased with the results of the work done along Cedar Creek and indicated this is the direction they would like to continue to pursue.

Mr. Mercer stated that from a safety concern, the work needed to be done.

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board, Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Mauer, Mr. Mercer, and the Grafton Lions Club for their financial involvement and time commitment with the pavilion and play equipment projects.

ACCEPT DONATION

Director Safstrom reported that Maria Conway is requesting the Parks and Recreation Board accept a donation of approximately \$200 to be used to purchase and plant a tree in memory of a long-time Village resident and family friend.

Trustee Antoine stated Grafton Lions Park is in need of trees, and the east bank of the river in Veterans Memorial Park would also be a good choice.

Director Safstrom stated the Village has guidelines regarding the type of trees that are purchased, and one will be chosen within this policy.

Motion by Trustee Antoine, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to recommend the Village Board accept a donation of \$200 from Maria Conway to be used for

the purchase and planting of a tree on Village park land. Approved unanimously.

LITTLE LIBRARIES

Director Safstrom reported that the Public Arts Board is requesting that the Parks and Recreation Board review possible park locations where Little Libraries could be placed. Little Libraries is a project in which boxes are placed in various areas of the Village with books inside. The public can pick up a book from any box and the idea is to replace it with another book.

Village Administrator Darrell Hofland stated the Public Arts Board and the Historic Preservation Committee have been in discussions to join together as a group and become involved with this project. Administrator Hofland stated the groups would work with the Parks and Recreation Department to encourage private or public interest in coordinating the project. He stated this could be a good Eagle Scout or service club project. Mr. Hofland stated the boxes can be fairly simple or a little more ornate. He stated that with many parks located on good pedestrian corridors, it would be ideal to place these boxes near or along a public parkway.

Chair Canepa asked where the boxes come from. Administrator Hofland replied they can be found on the Internet, but that a group could create a very simple design and take this on as a project.

Chair Canepa asked if other communities have these. Trustee Meinecke replied that the City of Madison has quite a few of them.

Director Safstrom recommended that the specific location of the Little Libraries boxes be placed adjacent to the street or sidewalk near a park but not be located within the park itself. This would provide good public visibility and also promote the program to walkers. Director Safstrom stated if the Board is in favor of the placement and location of these boxes, groups can then be contacted to learn of their interest in being part of the Little Libraries program.

Motion by Chair Canepa, seconded by Trustee Antoine, to allow Little Libraries boxes to be erected near various parks including but not limited to Lime Kiln Park, Veterans Memorial Park, and Centennial Park. Approved unanimously.

SPECIAL EVENT "COOL BLUE WINTER FROLICS"

Director Safstrom reported that resident Ted Warwick, the organizer of Cool Blue Winter Frolics, would like to offer the second annual Cool Blue Winter Frolics event on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Director Safstrom stated no special requests are being made of the Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department or Department of Public Works. The organizer is not requesting any street closures.

Director Safstrom stated he is bringing this request to the Parks and Recreation Board because in the future, all special event requests will be brought to the Board as well as the

Public Safety Committee. He stated both Boards will review a special event permit and will be informed of what has been asked of the Village as far as staff and police services.

Bill Haas, 1226 Water Terrace, inquired if this would include people that want to rent the Robert P. Zaun Pavilion. Director Safstrom replied this would only involve special events that are open to the community.

Director Safstrom stated Mr. Warwick hopes to utilize the Milwaukee River at Veterans Memorial Park for chair races, cross country skiing and ice skating events. Ice sculpting will be held in the Mill Square plaza (by Alterra Coffee), and disc golf will be held at Lime Kiln Park. In the event that there is no ice on the river, all events will be moved to Lime Kiln Park.

Motion by Trustee Meinecke, seconded by Jim Miller, to allow organizers of the Cool Blue Winter Frolics to utilize Veterans Memorial Park and Lime Kiln Park as sites for the second annual event. Approved unanimously.

BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Director Safstrom stated the YMCA recently informed him they will have a proposal for operating the Family Aquatic Center by the end of January. If received in time, this item will be placed on the February agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Safstrom stated the Department's 2011 Annual Report will be placed on the February agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion by Jim Miller, seconded by Trustee Meinecke, to adjourn at 6:34 p.m.
Approved unanimously.