

Present: President George; President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko; Members: Abboud, Kecskemeti, Mooney, O’Gorman, and Peddie

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim Village Manager/Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski
Village Attorney, Ryan
Public Safety Director, Torongeau

President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved.

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a special Council strategy session meeting held January 8, 2022.
2. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held January 18, 2022.
3. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, January 31, 2022.
4. Review and consider Parks & Recreation’s recommendation for the 2022 Beverly Park pavilion rental fee schedule.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER GROVES ORCHESTRA’S REQUEST TO HOLD FORTE 5K AT BEVERLY PARK AND ON VILLAGE STREETS ON SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

Groves High School has requested to hold their annual Forte 5K Run and Walk at Beverly Park and on Village streets on Sunday, May 22, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to benefit the Groves Orchestra. They have also requested to use the Beverly Park pavilion during this time and asked that the pavilion rental fees be waived.

There are not any Village sponsored events scheduled at Beverly Park for the requested date/time. A map of the route was provided.

At the January 20, 2022 Joint Parks & Recreation/Village Council meeting, the Board recommended that the Village Council approve the request from Groves High School to hold their annual Forte 5K Run on Sunday, May 22, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This event will begin and end at the Beverly Park pavilion and they will utilize Village streets and sidewalks for the run. The Board recommended that the rental fees for use of the pavilion be waived for this event.

Laurent Gillard, was present on behalf of Groves High School Orchestra to speak about the event. He stated that is has been a successful event in the past and appreciates the Council’s consideration.

Motion by Peddie, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves Groves High School’s request to hold their annual Forte 5K Run on Sunday, May 22, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Beverly Park and as outlined on the submitted map. Be it further resolved that the Beverly Park pavilion rental fees are waived for this event. Further, a certificate of liability insurance naming the Village of Beverly Hills as an additional insured must be submitted to the Village Clerk’s Office prior to the event.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER AGREEMENT FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES WITH SIX RIVERS LAND CONSERVANCY FOR FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF 30815 WENDBROOK LANE

George provided some background about the property commonly known as 30815 Wendbrook Lane. He stated that it was owned by a developer who was seeking to do a land division on the property, but a resident of Beverly Hills purchased the property at the end of last year. George met with Six Rivers Land Conservancy to learn about options for the Village to acquire the property. There is an option to apply for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant to potentially purchase the property from the resident. The idea, through discussions, was that the Village, if awarded the grant, would pay for 75% and the resident would donate the remaining 25%. There is an April 1, 2022 deadline for the MNRTF grant application. The item before the Council today is to decide whether execute an agreement with Six Rivers Land Conservancy to apply for the grant on the Village’s behalf, given their experience and the fast approaching deadline.

Chris Bunch, Executive Director, and Brian Marzolf, Land Protection Manager, were present on behalf of Six Rivers Land Conservancy.

Bunch gave an overview of the organization and stated that Six Rivers helps communities acquire park land.

Marzolf stated that the subject property is a good fit for the MNRTF application because it creates access to the Rouge River and Beverly Hills has not received a DNR grant in a long time, so those two factors score high. He stated that he has experience and is comfortable with the application process. He stated that Six Rivers would provide a draft application by the end of February and there would be a public comment opportunity in March. There would also be an opportunity to make improvements to the grant application in the fall.

George asked about other projects Six Rivers has worked on. Marzolf spoke to some of the recent projects that Six Rivers has applied and received funding for throughout Michigan.

Keckskemeti asked about the MNRTF Board's priorities. Bunch noted that locations in southeast Michigan are one of the Board's stated priorities, in addition to river access.

O'Gorman asked about the risk associated with the value assessment. Bunch stated he does not see the appraisal value becoming an issue.

O'Gorman asked about the stipulations of the grant. Bunch noted that all of the grant information is available on the DNR website.

George asked what if something goes wrong with the seller. Marzolf stated that Six Rivers would obtain a letter of intent from the property owner.

Bunch noted that if the Village purchases a property with trust fund dollars, then it must remain a public park.

Peddie asked about the existing house on the property. There was discussion about what to do with the house, such as tear it down or turn it into a community center, but that decision can be made at a later date.

Abboud asked whether the Village or Six Rivers would be purchasing the land. He also asked about the amount that that MNRTF has to spend on grant requests and how many other entities exist that are similar to Six Rivers Land Conservancy.

Bunch stated that either the Village or Six Rivers could purchase the land, but that it would likely be the Village directly. He stated that there are 8-10 similar entities in the area, but most are volunteer based. He said there are three big land conservancies throughout the state. He noted that the Board has latitude to make decisions about funding.

Mooney asked about the timeline, appraisal, environmental review, and condition of the existing house. He stated his concerns regarding the owner putting deed restrictions on the property.

Bunch noted that the property would be a passive use park with limited improvements. It would not be intended for major recreation such as tennis courts, but smaller improvements such as a kayak launch would be acceptable.

George talked about his meeting with the property owners and their indication that they would not put deed restrictions on the property. He stated the current owners are trying to do a good thing for the community.

Abboud stated he appreciates George bringing this opportunity to Council's attention. Abboud does not want the property to be a nature preserve. He thinks the development of high-end homes would generate more tax dollars for public services.

Mooney stated that he does not want this property to be another nature preserve.

O’Gorman stated a park on the west side of the Village would be beneficial to the community.

There was further discussion about the property becoming a park with passive recreation opportunities; not a nature preserve.

Peddie stated that the subject property is a great piece of property.

Mike White, Beverly Hills, subject property owner, was in attendance and stated that the ideas that came up during this meeting were more than what he and his family had initially thought of. He agreed with Council’s ideas for the property. He thinks that the Trust Fund regulations would be more restrictive than anything he and his wife would come up with.

Martha White, Beverly Hills, subject property owner, stated that she wants people to enjoy the property and would like it to be accessible to all. She would like to see some sort of shelter and educational component at the proposed park.

Hrydziuszko thanked the White family. She said she has heard a lot of positive feedback from the community on this topic. She thanked the Whites on behalf of the entire community for this opportunity to leave something wonderful for the future.

Abboud stated that the owners’ comments during the meeting gave him more confidence with moving forward with this project.

Kecskemeti expressed her gratitude to the Whites and the neighbors who never lost faith. She thinks that 8 acres preserved for a park would be better for the community than a new home development in this area.

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by O’Gorman, be it resolved the Beverly Hills Village Council approves an agreement (as presented) between the Village of Beverly Hills and Six Rivers Land Conservancy for grant writing services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant application to be submitted by the April 1, 2022 deadline. Funds for this service are available in Account 101-248-831.00 (Professional Services).

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

RECEIVE AND FILE CASH AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY DATE ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

The Council received the Cash and Investment Summary which includes all cash accounts and CD’s as of December 31, 2021, for all funds.

Also presented was the Revenue and Expenditure Report which includes revenue and expenditures for the General Fund, Major Road Fund, Local Street Fund, Public Safety Department, Park Improvement Fund, Library Fund, ARPA Fund and Water/Sewer Operation Fund for the 6 months ended December 31, 2021. The Revenue and Expenditure Report does not include prepaid and

accrual adjustments that are reflected in the year end audited financial statements. Actual compared to budget financial results are monitored and budget amendments will be presented for approval, as necessary.

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, the Beverly Hills Village Council receives and files the Cash and Investment Summary date ending December 31, 2021.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, commented on how a group of residents met about preserving a property to become a park. She said there are amazing neighbors in Beverly Hills. She stated that she would walk to the proposed park on Wendbrook from the east side of the Village and also stated that she would donate money to help with the development of the park.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Evergreen Construction/Road Closures: After a few delays, the work and road closures on Evergreen began on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. HRC is working with the contractor to evaluate the need for any additional signage.

Buckthorn Removal: GEI Consultants began removing invasive buckthorn at Beverly Park along the Allerton Drive fence line this week. They will continue to work at Beverly Park and Riverside Park for the next 3 weeks, weather permitting. Comeau has also been on site chipping the debris.

Pavilion Rentals: The Village will begin accepting reservations for the Beverly Park pavilion for residents on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 in person at the Village Office. Non-residents can begin reserving the pavilion on April 6th. The pavilion is available from May-October, excluding major holidays or during Village sponsored events.

Joint Council/Planning Commission Meeting: The joint Council/Planning Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

Snow Emergency: Due to the impending winter snowstorm, a Snow Emergency will go into effect at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. Please remove parked vehicles from the street. The Village Office will have a late start on February 2nd due to the expected winter storm.

George asked for the sense of Council regarding moving the February 2nd special meeting date because of the winter storm. The sense of Council was to postpone the meeting to a later date.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

O’Gorman encouraged residents to build snowmen instead of driving on the roads during the upcoming winter storm.

Peddie stated that the Planning Commission cancelled their January meeting. She commented on how gracious the Whites were for donating land. She thought it was very generous.

Abboud commented on SEMCOG’s Water Infrastructure Task Force. He commented on the short-term rental legislation that passed in the House. He stated that he registered for MML’s Capitol

Conference. He noted that the finance/infrastructure/ARPA subcommittee met and plans to meet again. He commented that he had different thoughts coming into the meeting about the Wendbrook property, but he has had a change of heart.

Mooney stated that he takes back his anger toward George for the short notice of the MNRTF grant application. He said he was fearful that it would be another Hidden Rivers. He said the Whites are kind and understanding and thinks the park is going to be a cool thing.

Hrydziuszko commented on the upcoming “snow-pocalypse” and asked people to be careful shoveling snow. She commented on a program in Clawson for people who need help clearing snow and thinks it could be mimicked in Beverly Hills. She gave a huge thanks to residents who activated when they saw an opportunity on Wendbrook. She is looking forward to further community engagement.

George commented on the timeline and how things all lined up last week with his meeting with Six Rivers and the Wendbrook property owners. He said he was appreciative of everyone who made it possible to get to this point. He said he reached out to a former Planning Commissioner who offered to lend time to help with the Park #5 design. He asked everyone to be careful during the snow storm.

CLOSED SESSION

The following Resolution was offered by Mooney and supported by Peddie for the Village of Beverly Hills Council to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(C) to consider a possible amendment to the current existing collective bargaining agreement with the Public Safety Lieutenants and Sergeants Association.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7-0)

The regular meeting recessed at 9:36 p.m. and Council entered Closed Session at 9:45 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk