

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

Absent: Drummond

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

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 Abboud, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held November 21, 2023.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, December 4, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (6-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS 2024 COMMUNITY EXCHANGE

Campbell gave an overview. The Michigan Association of Mayors (MAM) and the Michigan Municipal League (MML) assist member communities that wish to take part in the annual Community Exchange program. The Community Exchange Program allows a group of elected officials and/or employees to get together to host another community and then visit them in return. Municipalities can benefit from the sharing and gathering of ideas, solutions, initiatives, and processes. Upon completing the program participation form, the MML will match the Village of Beverly Hills with another community based on our indicated preferences. Preferences may include population, distance, region, form of government, services offered, etc. Participation in the program is free for member communities. Forms are due February 1, 2024.

Possible activities include:

- A driving tour of the community.
- Visits to specific facilities. They might include city hall, new or innovative city services (a community center, senior center, public housing, waste treatment plant, industrial park, etc.), local industries, historical or scenic sites, a problem discovered, or a problem solved.
- A long lunch, a visit to an official's home, dinner in a restaurant, or banquets have all been used to provide time for informal discussions.

Abboud said he thinks this is a great program and would like to attend.

Motion by Hrydziuszko, second by Abboud, the Beverly Hills Village Council authorizes Administration to submit the necessary form to participate in the Michigan Association of Mayors 2024 Community Exchange.

Motion passed.

SET DATE FOR 2024 STRATEGY SESSION

Campbell provided an overview. Each year the Council and Administration have a Special Strategy Session in January to prioritize goals for the new year. A copy of January's meeting schedule was provided for reference.

The Council agreed to hold the special strategy session on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025.

Mooney stated that the meeting would be finished by noon.

CONSIDER ESTABLISHING AND APPOINTING A BEVERLY PARK 2050 SUBCOMMITTEE

George provided an overview. Beverly Park serves as the hub of activity in Beverly Hills. More than 91% of respondents to the 2023 *Village of Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan Survey* indicate that they visit Beverly Park on a monthly basis. The pavilion at Beverly Park has been booked for an average of 160+ events over the past two years. The Beverly Park baseball fields are booked six days a week for the spring and fall months, and multiple, large-scale community events – such as concerts, Java and Jazz, Winter Family Fun Day, and the Halloween Hoot – are held here each year.

The *Village of Beverly Hills Community Recreation Plan* is updated every five years to accomplish the following:

- inventory and evaluate the parks and recreation assets of the community
- solicit resident feedback about what enhancements they would like to see added to the community's parks and recreation assets
- plan for actions on those issues for the coming five years

The *Community Recreation Plan* considers all VBH park assets, and many of the recommendations are long-term initiatives with no guidance on how to achieve the stated objectives. For Beverly Park, these Recommendations include "Restore Woodland" and "Collaborate with other

organizations to plan, fund, and implement potential baseball field enhancements,” however no elaboration is provided.

The purpose of the Beverly Park 2050 Visioning Project is intended to be specific to Beverly Park and hopes to aid the following, subject to the discretion of the working committee and to approval by Council:

- Catalog the desired improvements to Beverly Park
- Aid in prioritizing the list of desired improvements
- Breaking complex projects into manageable pieces to aid in grant applications and completion of larger projects in phases where appropriate

The Beverly Park 2050 Visioning Project is intended to encourage us to think about what we want Beverly Park to be in 2050 and plan for the steps necessary to achieve that vision. It will allow the community to be thoughtful about how to spend the Parks Millage funds, how to seek grant dollars to maximize the millage assets and will serve as a guide to support the continuation of the Parks Millage when it expires in 2030.

The goal for this project is to provide direction to Parks and Recreations Boards, Village Councils and Administration, while not being iron-clad or lacking the ability of future current availability of projects to alter the ordering of priorities.

George went over the proposed format of the project and a suggested timeline. Three members of Village Council and three members of the Village of Beverly Hills Parks & Recreation Board will compose the Beverly Park 2050 Visioning Project Committee. The Committee will work together to lead community input and visioning sessions to help understand resident desires and Council and Parks & Recreation Board planning objectives regarding development, improvements, and maintenance of Beverly Park. Suggested categories of planning might include, subject to Committee discretion:

- Sports and Recreation Amenities / Facilities
- Woodland Management
- Aesthetics
- Other – to be determined by Committee

He hopes that the final report will be completed by September 2024. It is assumed that costs might be incurred throughout the process for items such as presentation materials or a mailed survey. Expenses over the Manager’s spending authority, such as professional consulting or planning engagements, should be brought to Council for approval.

O’Gorman clarified that the subcommittee would create a list of improvements for the next few decades.

Mooney said that more stakeholders should be involved. He thinks it should be a citizen led committee and focus on 2030 instead of 2050. He suggested hiring a professional park planner.

Abboud agreed that residents should be involved. He suggested that the subcommittee be comprised of residents, 1 Council liaison, 1 Parks & Recreation liaison, and 1 member of Administration.

Hrydziuszko agreed that community involvement is important. She said the Parks & Recreation Board has spent a lot of time researching many possibilities and does not want to waste people's time or duplicate work that has already been done. She said the subcommittee should be made up of people who have already been working on it.

Mooney said the subcommittee should not be limited to Beverly Park but should include the entire parks system.

Kecskemeti said that she would also like to see more concrete plans for other parks. She agreed with bringing in professional services. She asked whether the Parks & Recreation Board has the capacity to take this on right now.

Mooney stated that this is above and beyond what the Parks & Recreation Board is called to do.

George said he does not want to undermine the Parks & Recreation Board's capabilities. He said he would be on board with hiring a professional planner.

Hrydziuszko agreed that investing in a planner would be a good idea and would provide another perspective.

Kecskemeti said she would be happy to participate in the subcommittee. She said the expectations of the Parks & Recreation Board have evolved over time and the Village does not have a professional on staff who is solely focused on parks.

The Council agreed that getting resident input was an important aspect of this endeavor.

O'Gorman commended the Parks & Recreation Board on all the work that they do.

George acknowledged that this would be extra work for everyone but thinks it is a worthy cause. He said he would like to participate on the subcommittee.

Hrydziuszko said she is happy to do the work.

Mooney said he is happy to participate as well, but thinks someone with younger children should serve on the subcommittee.

Motion by O'Gorman, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved that the Village of Beverly Hills Council authorize the formation of an ad-hoc committee for the purposes of producing a long-term plan for the betterment of Beverly Park. The Committee will consist of Council members George, Hrydziuszko, and Kecskemeti, and three members of the Parks and Recreation Board they choose. The committee will seek community input, work together to develop a plan for the long-term benefit and improvement of Beverly Park, and deliver a final report for council review and approval by September 17, 2024.

Roll Call Vote:

Abboud – yes

George – yes

Hrydziuszko – yes

Kecskemeti – yes
Mooney – no
O’Gorman – yes
Motion passed (5-1)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Tobaben, Orchard Way Court, regarding Beverly Park, he said he is interested in as much resident input as possible. He thanked the Council for moving the Beverly Park item forward. He said having plans are good, but there needs to be set priorities.

Rogier Durand, Stafford, said his property abuts 13 Mile Road and he has seen little foot traffic in the area. He thinks the sidewalk connector program is an expensive project.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Lions Club Annual Candy Cane Collection - The Beverly Hills Lions Club is hosting its annual Candy Cane Collection in Beverly Hills from November 22 to December 24. They will be soliciting donations at Market Fresh and at the Corners Shopping Plaza. Funds raised will go to charities that support the vision and hearing impaired.

Last Day for Yard Waste Collection - The last day for yard waste collection is December 11th for all residents east of Evergreen and December 12th for all residents west of Evergreen. Yard waste collection will resume in April.

Baldwin Public Library Winter Reading Challenge - Baldwin Public Library is holding a Winter Reading Challenge from December 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024. Readers of all ages can track their progress for the challenge to earn badges and win prizes. More information can be found at baldwinlib.org or call 248-647-1700.

The Village Newsletter - The December 2023 edition of the Village Newsletter will be sent out to homes during the first full week of December. The newsletter is also available on the Village website:
https://www.villagebeverlyhills.com/document_center/Newsletter/2023%20Q4%20Villager%20Newsletter.pdf

Village Calendars - The annual Village calendar will be mailed to each residence by the end of December. Administration will make an announcement when extra copies are available for pick up at the Village Office.

Campbell wished his daughter a Happy 1st Birthday and thanked the Council for their support over the last year.

O’Gorman inquired about the timing of the play structure and speed hump installations, which Campbell said would be in spring.

Mooney asked about infrastructure updates including sidewalks and sidewalk clearing, basement flooding, road work repairs, Riverside Pond, and the dam. He also inquired about the quarterly Code Enforcement reports. Additionally, he asked about expenses for the Wendbrook property and about Phase 1 Environmental and water testing. He asked about the status of installing digital

signs and whether there was an update about Birmingham’s election results regarding a millage for Next.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kecskemeti said she welcomes engagement from residents. She commented on the sidewalk surveys that were completed and said that sidewalks are a community-wide benefit.

Abboud provided updates on SEMCOG’s executive committee meeting. He said MML’s EOA is making updates to the Level 4 application materials. He said Next will be having the Big Night Out Fundraiser again in 2024.

Hrydziuszko commented on Comeau’s contract and charges and said it is something Administration should review in order to keep costs reasonable. She thanked Administration for their work and said she appreciates how many different things they juggle.

George said that all are trying to work toward the betterment of the park but have different approaches. He said there is a massive load on the Administrative staff and there is a lot of work to do. He said he gets frustrated with putting a false sense of urgency on some things. He suggested that Council email questions to the manager in advance so he can prepare the answers in advance. He asked Kecskemeti for clarification on the State Revolving Fund Load. He stated that Rutkowski and Hrydziuszko will be attending the public MNRTF Board meeting on December 13. He said water should be tested at the point where it enters Beverly Hills. He asked that the sign committee bring a recommendation back to Council soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk