

JOINT PARKS & RECREATION/VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY
19, 2023 – PAGE 1

Present: Chairperson Borgon; Vice Chairperson Goodrich; Board Members: Bayless,
Bresnahan, Hausman, Ross, and Ruprich

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Campbell
Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski
Public Services Director, Johnston

Borgon called the joint Parks & Recreation Board/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.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Goodrich, second by Bayless, the Parks & Recreation Board amends the agenda to add item 5a. Discuss Buy-a-Brick Fundraiser.

Motion passed.

Motion by Hausman, second by Ruprich, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion passed.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF A PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING HELD
NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

Motion by Bresnahan, second by Bayless, the Parks & Recreation Board approves the minutes of a regular Parks & Recreation Board meeting held November 17, 2022 as submitted.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Tobaben, Orchard Way, said he was disappointed that the acquisition of the Wendbrook property was not on this meeting agenda. He stated that he did not think the Village should be acquiring more space before maintaining what it already has. He said he was concerned about the cost to acquire and develop the property. He said a parking lot and sidewalks would be needed at this space. He said the Village should invest the money in Beverly Park and Riverside Park.

Greg Kessler, Beverly Road, said that Beverly Hills is about 4 square miles and there is a substantial number of untaxed properties in the Village. He said Wendbrook would be another untaxed property. He said residents need clarity on the development of the property.

Pamela Rijnovean, Evergreen, expressed concern about the cost of the Wendbrook property. She said she has not heard residents say the Village needs another park. She said Beverly Park Pond

and Riverside Park need stabilization and maintenance. She said if houses were built on the Wendbrook property, then it would add to the tax roll. She also stated that there is a problem with a lack of transparency and does not think residents should have to search for information.

John Schmitt, Warwick, stated that the back of Beverly Park is utilized. He says he sees people exercising, playing disc golf, and walking at Beverly Park and would like to see it maintained. He asked if there has been a usage study conducted at Beverly Park.

Tony Lott, Riverside Drive, stated that the appointed, elected, and hired representatives present at the meeting are all fiduciaries of the Village. He referred to the Charter, Section 5.10, regarding financial interest in contracts and purchases. He believes it would be against the Charter to acquire the Wendbrook property. He requested better transparency and prudence. He said the Village should consider quality over quantity when it comes to parks.

Murray Christianson, Ronsdale, stated that the proposed park seems to be a good idea. He said it is an opportunity to get a beautiful piece of property in a time when park land is not being created. He did not think that a housing development would make a lot of money for the tax roll. He said the property is located on the Rouge River corridor. He said parks are assets and cities with parks are attractive to live in. He stated that there is a lack of space at nearby Groves High School for sports and recreation. He said the ground at Wendbrook is low and he would not want to build on it. He thinks the property should be preserved and does not want the Village to miss this opportunity.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM GROVES ORCHESTRA TO HOST FORTE 5K AT BEVERLY PARK ON SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

Administration received a request from Groves High School requesting to hold their annual Forte 5K Run and Walk at Beverly Park and on Village streets on Sunday, May 7, 2023 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM to benefit the Groves Orchestra. They have also requested to use the 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 May 7, 2023. A map of the route was provided.

Motion by Hausman, second by Goodrich, the Beverly Hills Parks & Recreation Board recommends that Village Council approve the request from Groves High School to hold their annual Forte 5K Run on Sunday, May 7, 2023 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. This event will begin and end at the Beverly Park pavilion and they will utilize Village streets and sidewalks for the run. It is recommended that fees for use of the pavilion be waived for this event provided that a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Village of Beverly Hills as an additional insured is submitted to the Clerk's Office prior to the event.

Motion passed.

UPDATE FROM PLAYGROUND SUBCOMMITTEE

Hausman provided an update from the playground subcommittee, who has been meeting over the last several months regarding the design and cost of the Beverly Park playground replacement. She said the subcommittee, which consists of members Bresnahan, Goodrich and Hausman, has spent over 120 hours on this project, which does not include Administration's time. She talked about the survey that residents completed last summer, which expressed a need for shade, climbing

elements, surfacing, and overall accessibility. The subcommittee members met with three vendors, took field trips to other playgrounds in the area, and reached out to other municipalities for feedback. She said one vendor, Landscape Structures, stood out and has experience doing more inclusive work. She noted that the Village joined Sourcewell, which is a purchasing cooperative. She said the Village has applied for grants to help cover the cost of the playground replacement and named other funding opportunities that are available.

Lance Shipman, Penchura representative for Landscape Structures, was in attendance and gave a presentation on the playground. He stated that Penchura is an employee-owned company, which leads to a high quality of product and design. He discussed the design process and structural 100-year warranty. He said their playgrounds use recycled content. He noted that they partner with Sourcewell, which the Village can use during the procurement process for a lower overall cost. Shipman stated that the factory is located in Minnesota and all are welcome to take a tour of the facility. He said the company has local experience in communities near Beverly Hills. He talked about revitalizing Beverly Park using the existing footprint without losing any trees. He showed the proposed design and talked about adding more play value. He talked about inclusivity, shade coverings, and having features for all ages. He noted the design allows for everyone to play together. He talked about musical and sensory features, a zip cruiser, and a friendship swing. He noted that equipment delivery is currently taking about six months. He talked about surfacing options including solid surfacing, wood fiber chips, and turf. He noted playground turf has cushioning installed underneath and is a bit different from sports turf. Shipman discussed estimated pricing. He said a standard playground costs \$500,000, but it would be around \$475,000 if the Villages goes through Sourcewell. He said the surface including upgraded turf would cost \$177,000. In total, the playground equipment, turf, removal, installation, and shipping would cost around \$670,000. He noted the turf has about a 10-year lifespan and includes a 10-year warranty.

O’Gorman arrived at 7:56 p.m.

Abboud asked about the shade material. Shipman stated that it is a weaved material that he recommends come down in the winter.

Abboud asked about a maintenance plan. Shipman said that a maintenance kit/plan would be provided.

The Board and Council discussed the cost of replacing chips and different surface options. They talked about the age of the current playground structure noting the codes have changed over the last twenty years. They discussed inclusivity and promoting inclusive parks and playgrounds.

Kecskemeti said that the canopies seem limited in the design and that parents need more shade while their children are at the playground. Goodrich noted that the new design includes 5 times more shade than the current playground. Kecskemeti suggested adding more shade over time.

Abboud expressed concern over funding. Shipman stated that equipment could be purchased and stored at their facility. He said there is the option to phase the project over a couple of years.

Mooney stated that he did not think \$670,000 was an outrageous amount for the playground. He said the playground is a big attraction. He noted it would expend a lot of the millage funds.

The Board and Council thanked Shipman for attending the meeting. They also thanked the subcommittee for all of their work.

DISCUSS BUY-A-BRICK FUNDRAISER

The Board discussed reinstating the Buy-A-Brick Program at Beverly Park after receiving a request recently from a resident to purchase a brick. The fundraising program was most recently open from fall of 2021 to January 31, 2022. Through this program, residents and local businesses can purchase engraved bricks to be installed at Beverly Park. In the past, individual orders were submitted to the Village and then Administration placed a large order with the vendor once many orders were compiled. Most recently, the Village purchased bricks from Brick Markers USA. Brick Markers provided a pricing renewal agreement.

The Board discussed the cost of bricks, labor, and how much to charge donors. They also discussed how long to reopen the program and agreed to accept orders through April 30th so bricks could be installed by fall.

Motion by Ross, second by Bayless, the Parks & Recreation Board's recommends the Village Council reinstates the Buy-a-Brick Fundraising Program at Beverly Park with the rate of \$150.00 for a 4x8" engraved brick and \$200.00 for an 8x8" engraved brick through April 30, 2023 and authorizes Village Administration to execute the agreement with Brick Markers USA for the purchase of engraved bricks.

Motion passed.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT BEVERLY PARK PAVILION

Johnston gave an overview. The Board was also provided with Johnston's memo dated November 4, 2022 regarding the replacement of the Beverly Park pavilion and restroom roofs. The proposal was presented to the Parks & Recreation Board at their November 17, 2022 meeting. Upon further discussion, the Board requested that Administration seek additional quotes for a metal roof. After receiving additional quotes, it was clear that installing a metal roof would cost over four times as much as shingles, or roughly \$90,000.

Administration recommended moving forward with the initial quote from BCM Roofing for this project in the amount of \$20,000. Funds are available in account 208-900-985.00 (Park Improvement Fund).

The Board and Council discussed whether they should go with the "Good," "Better," or "Best" option as outlined on the proposal. It was the general consensus that the Village should move forward with the "Better" option which includes everything in the Good System, plus a roof runner synthetic underlayment, Winterguard ice shield, a 50-year Surestart plus warranty, and a 25-year labor warranty. They also discussed that they would likely require more roof decking than what was outlined on the proposal at \$65.00 per sheet, so the overall request amount should be \$25,000.00

Motion by Goodrich, second by Ruprich, the Beverly Hills Parks & Recreation Board recommends that the Village Council approve the proposal from BCM Roofing to remove and replace the agreed upon "Better" roofing system at the Beverly Park pavilion and

restrooms in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. Funds for this expense are available in Account 208-900-985.00 (Park Improvement Fund).

Motion passed.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REQUEST TO PLANT TREES ON SLED HILL AT BEVERLY PARK

Administration received a request from resident Michael Dolan to plant tree saplings on the Beverly Park sled hill. Invasive buckthorn was removed from the north and south sides of the sled hill in 2022 creating space for native plants. Another round of buckthorn treatment is scheduled for January 2023. Mr. Dolan requested to plant the trees in spring 2023, which would not conflict with treatment.

Mr. Dolan was in attendance and proposed planting around 50-75 saplings, 12 feet apart, that measure about 12 inches tall. He said this method will be greater over time. He also said it made more sense logistically to plant smaller trees. The trees will help prevent erosion and buckthorn regrowth. He and his family offered to purchase and plant Eastern Red Cedar and White Pine trees. He noted that the cedars have a fast growing and shallow root system, which would be good for this location. His goal is to plant the trees in April and will encourage fellow students to help.

The Board and Council thanked Dolan for his great presentation. They complimented his research skills.

O’Gorman congratulated Dolan on being inducted into the National Honor Society.

There was no objection from the Board, so Administration will move forward with permitting the tree planting this spring as part of the reforestation efforts at Beverly Park.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PURCHASING CONCRETE CORNHOLE SET FOR BEVERLY PARK

The Parks and Recreation Board has discussed adding a concrete cornhole set at Beverly Park. It was suggested that the cornhole set be placed between the pavilion and the playground for residents to use at their leisure.

Adding and diversifying recreational facilities aligns with Goal #1 in the 5-Year Community Recreation Plan: Improve recreational facilities to encompass system wide recreation welcoming all residents to encourage healthy and active lifestyles. The cornhole set would be available to the public and fun for all ages.

The cornhole quotes received by the Board and Administration were all relatively similar in design and price. The lowest quote was prepared by Doty & Sons Concrete Products, Inc. The total amount for the concrete boards, bags, and shipping was \$1,329.00. There are options to add bike deterrent blocks for \$133.00/pair and to add the logo to the boards for an additional \$250.00. The quote and brochure were provided for the Board’s review.

Several Board and Council members commented that they have seen concrete cornhole sets at other parks.

The Board and Council talked about the proposed location. Near the horseshoes and behind the pavilion fireplace/grills were both possible options.

The Board and Council agreed the logos should go on the cornhole set.

Motion by Hausman, second by Bayless, the Beverly Hills Parks & Recreation Board recommends the Village Council approve the purchase of a concrete cornhole set with the Village and Parks & Recreation logos from Doty & Sons Concrete Products, Inc. for Beverly Park in an amount not to exceed \$1,600.00. Funds for this expense are available in account 208-900-984.00 (Park Equipment).

Motion passed.

DISCUSS PRIORITIES FOR BEVERLY PARK

The Board and Council identified the top priorities for Beverly Park this year which include the playground replacement, pavilion roof replacement, and ongoing buckthorn maintenance.

The Board and Council discussed the baseball fields, noting there is room for improvement. A subcommittee has been formed between members of the Beverly Hills Little League, Parks & Recreation Board, and Administration, which is moving in a positive direction. There was discussion about sponsorship opportunities.

Abboud suggested purchasing a gator or golf cart for the park rangers. The Board indicated that that was on their radar, but there were questions about cost and on where to store it.

Goodrich suggested having a Beverly Pond clean up this spring.

George commented on ongoing maintenance and working with the Department of Public Services for a list of priorities.

There was discussion about having a better line of communication between Comeau, Administration, and the Parks & Recreation Board.

George suggested having standing subcommittees for events and gardening. He suggested establishing a Friends of Beverly Park group.

The Board and Council discussed moving the portable toilets or putting them in an enclosure.

There was discussion about having a combination lock or a smart lock installed on the pavilion storage room.

The Board and Council discussed restoring the understory and reintroducing native species in the wooded area. There was emphasis on the value of wildlife. They discussed having a balance of manicured areas and natural areas.

Hrydziuszko suggested having a “no mow zone” in Beverly Park, especially after new trees or flowers are planted.

The Board and Council discussed replacing the fence along Beverly Road. It was noted that the current style is no longer made, but that there is a need for a commercial grade fence since several panels are damaged.

DISCUSS PRIORITIES FOR RIVERSIDE PARK

Borgon stated that the island at Riverside Park has a lot of fallen debris and it does not look good.

Hrydziusko recommended a controlled burn on the island to remove the rest of the invasive species. She suggested seeking a grant for this. Rutkowski noted that the OC Cisma/Oakland County Parks will have grant opportunities opening up in the spring for this purpose.

The Board and Council agreed that the priority for this year is to clean up the island at Riverside Park.

There was discussion about potentially reviewing the design that was submitted several years ago by resident and former Planning Commission member George Ostrowski.

There was discussion about applying for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development grants to fund these development projects.

O’Gorman suggested prioritizing Beverly Green over Riverside Park this year.

Bayless commented on the repair and beautification of the Riverside Bridge. Abboud noted that SEMCOG has grant opportunities for bridges.

DISCUSS PRIORITIES FOR BEVERLY GREEN

Administration noted that there will be a sign placed at Beverly Green with a QR Code that links to the website so residents can view the design plans and provide feedback. Development of Beverly Green has been on hold as the Village waits for the construction of the Beverly and Greenfield Road roundabout to begin.

There was discussion about the importance of screening around the park. The Board and Council will consider the residents in the area and their desire to block the view of the road and noise.

Hrydziusko stated that parking spots were added on the conceptual plans to prevent people from using residents’ private driveways.

O’Gorman would like to have an open forum at Beverly Green and have more engagement with residents.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, said a list of grants that are currently being applied for should be made available to the public.

Chuck White, Pickwick, commented on transparency and suggested that a special meeting be held specifically for the Wendbrook property acquisition. He said the Board is betting on a lot of grants and a recession may be coming.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Rutkowski stated that the WiFi has been installed at Beverly Park and Administration is working on its security features. She distributed magnetic name tags to the Board members to help with visibility during Parks & Recreation events.

Campbell thanked everyone for attending.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mooney thanked the Board for having the Council at the joint meeting.

White thanked the Board for all their work, especially seeking grants.

O’Gorman thanked the Board members for their work. He said he would like to see a dog park in Beverly Hills. He said that people have different opinions on the micro-maintenance of Beverly Park. He suggested Comeau help with the weeding at Beverly Park. He said a Friends of the Park group should get going. He said there should be a sign at Beverly Park so the Village can make announcements instead of using banners. He suggested installing a paper white sign that is front-lit.

Abboud thanked everyone for their ideas and thanked the Board and Administration for turning ideas into reality. He suggested installing inclement weather coverings and picnic tables with umbrellas. He said there should be consistent signage for all of the parks. He suggested having an art fair, installing way finding signs, and poles with banners. He also suggested purchasing a golf cart for staff use at Beverly Park.

Keckskemeti said she appreciates the Board and what they do. She said everyone has their own opinions on what the parks need. She said the challenge is to balance natural and manicured elements. She thinks Beverly Park is lovely.

O’Gorman applauded the Board for knocking it out of the park over the last year and creating more events. He said Council requested a lot last year and the Board delivered.

George stated that the millage funding is accruing money that can go toward the playground replacement. He said the brick fundraiser is a great idea. He thanked the Board for all of their hard work. He thanked Rutkowski for her work as Interim Manager without having a Public Services Director and not being fully staffed during 2022. He said this year the Village Administration is fully staffed, so he is looking forward to what is ahead. He said the concerts and movie nights have been great events. He agreed that there needs to be a healthy balance between natural and manicured landscaping at the parks. He noted that the Wendbrook property was not on the meeting agenda because it is not under the Parks & Recreation Board’s purview. He said we are not lacking on time for discussions around the acquisition.

Hrydziuszko thanked residents for attending the meeting and encouraged them to attend more. She said last year there was a lot of planning and this year there will be a lot of implementation. She noted that it takes time to steer the ship. She is looking forward to this year. She thanked the Board for their work.

BOARD COMMENTS

Bayless thanked residents for attending and thanked those who stayed for the entire meeting. He said he did not think transparency was a problem with this Board and noted that all of the meetings are open. He thanked the Playground Subcommittee for all their hard work. He said that parks and playgrounds are community assets. He applauded Mr. Dolan for the tree planting idea. He encouraged residents to volunteer for upcoming parks events. He said he will continue to look into the dog park idea. He also said that exploring more programming opportunities is on his agenda for this year. He thanked Council for their support.

Hausman thanked Council for being at the meeting. She said BPS offered to sponsor refreshments at Winter Family Fun Day. She reminded everyone that the call for sculptors for the Sculptures in the Parks program is open until February 28, 2023.

Ross said that he is ready to have a discussion on Riverside Pond whenever Council is ready.

Ruprich thanked the Council, Board, and residents. She said this is a good group to work with.

Bresnahan thanked Council for their support.

Goodrich thanked Council and Administration. He said he is happy to be moving forward with the pavilion roof replacement.

Borgon thanked Council. She thanked residents for attending and said she appreciates the feedback. She thanked Administration for moving things forward. She said she is happy to see a team in place now so that all the work does not all fall on one person.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 p.m.

John George
Council President

Molly Borgon
Parks & Recreation Board
Chairperson

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk