



Minutes

**Village of Spring Lake
Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Dial-in number: 312-757-3121
Access code: 887-354-181
Spring Lake, MI 49456**

I. Call to Order

Roll Call: Curt Brower (Chair), Claire Groenevelt (Vice Chair), George Barfield (7:19), Darcy Dye, Eric Poel, Lee Schuitema and Susan Petrus (Village Council Liaison).

Absent: None

Also Present: Chris Burns (Village Manager), Maryann Fonkert (Deputy Clerk)

II. Approval of the Agenda: Motion by **Schuitema**, second from **Dye**, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

III. Approval of the Minutes: Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Brower**, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2020 regular meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 5 No: 0

IV. Finance Reports: **Burns** updated the Board on the Finance Report. **Dye** asked for clarification on Tanglefoot professional services, water/sewer and operating supplies that were over budget. **Burns** said that the Professional Services were paid to Progressive AE and would be paid back by the DDA, the water/sewer amount was the Ready to Serve charges, the same as a homeowner would pay, and the operating supplies were lawn care supplies and some might be related to a tree removal but she could have Hinga print out a report.

V. Miscellaneous Parks Updates:

- Covid-19 Re-opening of parks – **Burns** reported that the Governor's latest Executive Order now allowed the Parks to be opened.
- Pickleball – **Burns** shared that Cindi McKinney was in attendance to propose new procedures for conducting pickleball games. Cindy McKinney shared her proposal which included no longer requiring reservations, all players bring their own chairs, no more "High Fives", practice social distancing and other safe play recommendations. Ms. McKinney also went over the proposed changes in rules for play without reservations and said she had also created wording for new signs.

The **Board** discussed this proposal. **Schuitema** suggested they give these changes a try. **Poel** said he was willing to support these changes if they could add something that said no other requests for changes could be brought to the Board for at least a year. **Dye** asked that, due to the Covid 19 circumstances, the paddle racks be removed and expressed concern that, with other parks and the aquatic center being closed, Central

Park could be extremely busy. **Dye** also asked why the Village was responsible for putting up the signs. **Burns** said it was possible that the park would be very busy and that the Village paying for the signage was the responsible thing to do, however, they could start with less expensive signage to make sure these changes were going to be acceptable. **Barfield** asked if all the Pickleball groups had been included in creating this proposal. **Burns** said that McKinney's group and Bob Helder's group, Lakeshore Pickleball, had revised the rules. **Petrus** asked if there were existing reservations because those with reservations would be aggressively pursuing that. **Burns** said there were existing reservations and those players would be contacted with the changes should the Board approve them. **Dye** asked if the courts could be shut down if they became too much of a problem and was the DPW equipped to safely clean the restrooms. **Burns** said that the nets could be removed if they needed too and DPW was equipped with PPE.

Motion by **Groenevelt**, second from **Brower**, to approve new Rules and Procedures as requested for Pickleball at Central Park for a minimum of 1 year, the paddle racks be removed, and staff had the ability to close the courts should they become problematic. Motion carried.

Yes: 5

No: 1 (Barfield)

VI. **Miscellaneous –**

- **Schuitema** reported that there had been a lot of traffic at Tanglefoot Park and more trash receptacles were needed.
- **Burns** shared that Kyle Powers needed an Eagle Scout project if anyone had any ideas. **Brower** said he usually had ideas, but he would like guidance for this one. **Burns** suggested additions to the dog park, that was originally an Eagle Scout project, such as agility equipment. **Barfield** suggested a couple new exercise stations along Lakeside Trail. **Brower** said he would share these ideas with Kyle.

Tree Board Meeting

- VII. **Arborist Report, Pine Trees at Central Park – Burns** reported that the Arborist recommended that the two pine trees on the east be removed due to a fungus, most likely needlecast, and it would be up to the Tree Board to decide whether they wanted to have the remaining two trees removed. **Schuitema** said that the report stated that all the trees had a fungus, but the two on the east were more infected and the two trees to the west and could last 5 to 10 more years. **Dye** said from an economical point, it made sense to remove all the trees at once but from an ecological point, she might argue that differently because she has a blue spruce in her yard that was diagnosed seven years ago and as long as it continued to produce green tips in the spring, they have opted to leave that tree up. **Dye** shared that those particular trees provide a nesting place, shelter and food for about 350 different butterfly and moth species and they were good trees for birding in the spring because of the caterpillars that those particular trees shelter and nourish. **Dye** said those trees also have the potential to absorb about 2000 gallons of runoff water from the parking lot per year which you don't get from smaller trees with smaller trunks. **Dye** suggested they take out the two worst eastern trees and plant new ones so they could grow and be established before other two are cut down.

Motion by **Brower**, second from **Dye**, to remove the two trees on the east side and leave the remaining two as long as they are healthy. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6

No: 0

- VIII. **Miscellaneous –** Nothing more to add.

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IX. Board Member Comments – No additional comments from the Board.

Motion by **Barfield**, second from **Poel**, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Curt Brower, Chair

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk