



**Village of Spring Lake  
Parks & Rec Committee  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015  
7.00pm Central Park – West Pavilion  
Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

**Roll Call:** Bob McCulloch, Curt Brower, Lee Schuitema, Erik Poel, Michele Yasenak and Megan Doss (Village Liaison)

**Absent:** Claire Groenevelt and Bill Core

**Also present:** Chris Burns (Village Manager), Roger Belknap (DPW Director) and Maryann Fonkert (Deputy Clerk)

**II. Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by **Brower**, seconded by **Schuitema**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yes: 5      No: 0

**III. Approval of the Minutes:** Motion by **Brower**, seconded by **Poel**, to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2015 meeting.

Yes: 5      No: 0

**IV. Tree Board Meeting**

**1. Village Tree Maintenance -**

- Central Park Trees

**Manager Burns** introduced Mr. Gary Verplank to the Board explaining that Mr. Verplank had started an endowment fund for trees in the Village. **Burns** also explained the new Forestry Budget and how expenses were now being tracked.

**Belknap** explained that they had been very conservative in trimming the trees in the park in the past to try to preserve the canopy but the Arborist assessment of the park called for quite a lot of trimming. **Belknap** said that this work would be contracted out due to the height of the trees because the Village did not have equipment to do the job properly. The Board toured the park trees.

- Arborist tree assessments:  
**Belknap** explained that there were 13 trees on the list to be removed last year, in addition to the 50 plus ash trees but the Arborist assessment for this year had fewer trees. **Belknap** also explained the assessment process and hoped to have the assessment reports to Council in October.
- Maintenance contract for downtown area:  
**Belknap** reported that stump grinding had been done and 4 trees had been removed and trees would be replanted to replace the 4.
- M-104 trimming program:  
**Belknap** informed the Board that a crew would be trimming along M-104 on September 10 and that MDOT would be reimbursing the Village for the cost.

**Brower** reported that the contractors had been very careful to preserve the roots of the tree at the Middle School but they had put some nicks in the tree that had not been sealed up to protect it from Oak Wilt. **Brower** thought the Board should contact the school and monitor this issue and the health of the tree. The Board agreed; **Belknap** said the arborist did look at the tree again on Aug.19.

## 2. Tree Nursery -

- Development  
**Belknap** reported that the property on State Road, belonging to Spring Lake County Club, was being developed for the new Village Tree Nursery and was 35% to 40% complete. **Belknap** said they were looking at a rolling 6 year cycle on the nursery trees.
- **Replanting Update**  
When asked about the trees from the existing nursery, **Belknap** said they would not be moved to the new nursery because they were ready to be planted in the Village. DPW staff created a planting plan and will be relocating them in the fall with Landscape Design Services, Inc.

## 3. Tree Planting Grant Update (Consumers Energy) -

**Belknap** reported that the Grant had been submitted to Consumers Energy for \$100 dollars per tree with a maximum \$2,500 (25 trees)

## 4. Other Grant Initiatives (MDNR Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program)

**Belknap** reported that he had just found out about this Grant opportunity for the Tri-City area together to track and inventory trees. **Belknap** said the grant would match 50% up to \$30,000.

Motion by **Schuitema**, seconded by **Yasenak**, to apply for the Urban & Community Forestry Grant provided the other Tri-City Communities were in agreement to apply with the Village.

Yes: 5                      No: 0

5. **Belknap** reported that Ottawa County recently released an app to track and map trees.
6. **Belknap** also reported that he had received a request from Village Cove Marina asking the Village to remove the cottonwood trees along the west property line in the wet lands because the cotton puffs ended up all over their property.

The **Board** agreed that they would consider removing the trees if Village Cove was willing to pay for it.

**V. New Business**

**1. Central Park Capital Campaign Update -**

**Burns** reported that so far the Pickle Ball Club was the largest donor to the Capital Campaign. **Yasenak** reported that the Heritage Festival Committee would be donating \$8,000 to the Capital Campaign putting the total collected at just under \$130,000.

**2. Boy Scout Project Proposal (Connor Ward)**

Connor Ward presented his Eagle Scout project of a new 24' flag pole for Central Park. Ward explained that he would like to take out the old flag pole and relocate a new pole near the picnic shelter. Ward said he would start his project at the end of September and be done by Veterans Day. Ward listed the supplies he would need and how he would raise the funds of approximately \$400 that he would need. **Belknap** said the current pole was taller and they did not put a flag on it because they needed a bucket truck to do so.

Motion by **Yasenak**, seconded by **Schuitema**, to approve Connor Ward's Eagle Scout project of removing the old pole and installing a new flag pole for Central Park.

Yes: 5                      No: 0

**3. Central Park & Dog Park (Diane Schindlbeck)**

Diane Schindlbeck attended the meeting and reported to the Board that she was working on raising money for the water fountain for the

small dog area and also signage to designate the large dog area (over 20 pounds) and the small dog area (under 20 pounds). Schindlbeck said that they would also like to see the bump in the large dog area smoothed. **Yasenak** said that her dog loved the bump to run on and that several people she talked to at the park said their dogs loved it also. **Schuitema** said he had heard the same thing from different individuals.

#### 4. Marina Bay Connector Path -

**Belknap** reported that the Marina Bay Connector path was complete.

#### 5. Tanglefoot Park -

- Sanitary sewer lateral replacement - **Belknap** reported that the sanitary sewer lateral was replaced and all was working correctly.
- Water service backflow devices - **Belknap** advised the Board that per the Ordinance backflow prevention devices were required.
- Concrete patio replacements - **Belknap** said that Park Manager Stuhlmann received quotes for the replacement of 5 patios.

Motion by **Yasenak**, seconded by **Brower** to approve the replacement of five (5) patios.

Yes: 5

No: 0

- Kayak/canoe launch site proposal - **Belknap** reported that the kayak racks had been moved over to Tanglefoot Park and that now kayakers would like the launch closer to where the racks are located. The **Board** discussed this and decided that kayaks were light enough to carry to the current launch.

#### 6. Mill Point

- Sink Hole/seawall construction update - **Belknap** reported that Riverworks Construction was awarded the bid to repair the sink hole at Mill Point Park.

#### 7. Lakeside Beach

- Sidewalk repair update - **Belknap** said the sidewalk construction would begin on Monday, September 14th.
- Bathroom Building Roof Update - **Belknap** said bids would be collected over winter months for spring construction.

#### 8. Other Miscellaneous Business to Come Before the Board

**VI. Adjournment**

Motion by **Brower**, seconded by **Yasenak**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

---

Bob McCulloch, Chairman

---

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk