

MINUTES

Village of Brockport Parks Committee October 9, 2018
7pm – Village Hall – 127 Main Street, Brockport, NY

Present: C.T. Oakes, J. LaPierre, J. Blosehauer, L. Cochran (chairing), C. Wong, A. Crane, A. Guptill (Sec), L. Spalla, H. Heyen

Absent: L. Ketchum, B. Blosehauer

Call to order 7:01 pm (L. Cochran)

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of 9/11/18 by CT Oakes, seconded by A. Guptill, passed by voice vote.

Old Business:

- Notes from L. Ketchum:
 - (1) She is sorry to miss the meeting. She delivered our note of appreciation to Pam Ketchum along with a bouquet of dahlias from Erie Way Flowers. Pam appreciated the gesture.
 - (2) The work done in Evergreen Park by the volunteers from the local LDS church was awesome as are the new swings. [C.T. Oakes and Lynda Cochran both note increased usage of Evergreen Park as well].
 - (3) Stopped by Barry Street and saw Mary Trimble who remains unconvinced about the necessity of locating the new swings where they are. Still looking to schedule the meeting with Ben Frasier of Parkitects to start to map out possibilities for additional equipment. (update: met with Ben on Oct 25)
 - (4) No visible work at Havenwood as of 9/22. She wonders when the new swings might be installed and whether the heavy equipment can access the site of the swings without moving the other play equipment. Annie will ask Harry about that. (no work as of 10/26)
 - (5) L. Ketchum will compile surveys of parks to give to Harry.
 - (6) See picture and blurb about Saturday of Service that appeared in the Westside News.
- L. Ketchum sent photos to Julie Lenhard of Wegmans, showing the new ornamental plants around the appreciation plaque. Lenhard said that it was beautiful and they are happy to partner with us.
- Cort Fowler tree planting update: Rotary project done at Seymour Library, not Monika's
- Soon L. Ketchum will make arrangements with park reps to meet to place age stickers on play equipment reflecting the safety audits. Update: Corbett done by Hanny & C.T.
- Lilac bush trimming in Corbett Park is a low priority, DPW busy with many projects
- Evergreen Park – L. Ketchum met with volunteers who sanded/painted stairs & weeded/mulched Sep 15, sent thank-you to Carol McNees (DPW) who led this effort

- Grant application authorized by Village Board July 16 – fingers crossed thru December

Liaisons Reports, Budget Report:

No reports from liaisons A. Crane & J. LaPierre.

No new budget report: ostensibly \$8500 still.

New Business:

- TENNIS COURT UPGRADES:

L. Cochran had looked into some tennis court grants she had heard about. The College at Brockport tennis coach was not familiar with an applicable grant program. L. Cochran has an email out to Herb Fink; has not heard back.

L. Spalla was recently chatting with Dave Thomas of Clarkson who told him of a grant they got for two new courts, brokered through a state lawmaker. Dave planned to ask for \$20,000 and was advised to ask for at least \$50,000. They got it. Superintendent was involved. There was a lot of paperwork.

H. Heyen notes that this indicates that we could be more aggressive in grant seeking.

J. LaPierre notes that we get lists of available grants, but there hasn't been anything on the list appropriate for us.

- SIGN UPDATES:

L. Spalla reports that the BOCES contact who had offered to have students make our wooden signs has not responded to multiple emails or calls. Advises that we should proceed as if that is not going to happen.

The group looked again at the mock-up of the rules signs (metal) that we made last year. J. LaPierre recommends that we make a generic rules sign that we can get multiples of the same sign and then have smaller custom signs with park name and address for each park. That will be a lot more affordable.

Action item: A. Guptill will adapt the mock-up and work with L. Ketchum to move forward on ordering these signs.

- CITO (Cache In Trash Out) OPPORTUNITY:

C.T. Oakes explains that there are typically two dates in the summer. The committee would suggest the project (ideally in one in one park) and be prepared to provide trash bags, rakes, or other similar supplies. C.T. will relay the request to the Monroe County

geocachers. They put it on the schedule and people show up (or not); it is not always a predictable number of participants. Maybe just 10, maybe a lot. C.T. would place additional geocaches to entice more to come.

Action item: L. Cochran suggest we focus our April meeting on identifying a project, especially one that would not be a good fit for Saturday of Service.

- NEW SWINGS:

New swings are in at Evergreen and Barry, but not Havenwood.

H. Heyen and C.T. Oakes both note that there does not seem to be a lot of usage at Havenwood. Perhaps the new swings would make a difference. On the other hand, perhaps there are not very many households with children on Havenwood and Cloverwood.

H. Heyen notes that it would be good to investigate with a survey.

L. Cochran suggests that committee consider some adult fitness equipment for parks to better serve that area, since there seem to be a lot of retirees and other adults in that part of the village.

L. Spalla has noted the popularity of walking paths with some exercise stations that he has seen in Arizona.

- YEAR END REPORT:

L. Ketchum is working on the text of the report and scheduling a date to present to the Village Board; will let us know so that we can make suggestions for the report and perhaps attend the village board meeting.

- FALL SURVEYS:

L. Cochran collected fall surveys. L. Ketchum will compile as a report for Harry Donahue. Some discussion now.

L. Spalla: Barry is in good shape; needs a little sprucing and repair to pickleball court.

C. Wong: Monika's has a few little broken things on the playground, especially the ones for the younger kids. Some leaning fences. Nothing hugely urgent. One suggested improvement is to add some kind of barrier between the parking and play areas.

J. Blosenhauer: Harvester is in good shape. Some loose retaining wall blocks. Havenwood looks fine. A bench recently repaired.

C.T. Oakes: For the future, a well functioning accessible kayak dock near Harvester would be great. The new rowing-club dock at the college is nice, but if there were a

good accessible dock put in for kayaks, it would be a grant-getter. There is a wonderful one in Braddock's Bay and in Henrietta.

L. Cochran: Evergreen looks great.

A. Guptill: South Ave looks great.

- CORBETT PARK AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

H. Heyen: We have that state grant in that we put in for a second time to make many improvements to Corbett Park.

C.T. Oakes and H. Heyen worked together to do the survey including many photos. The main thought is that there has to be a three or a 5-year plan. If we get the grant for Corbett, great. However, if not we need to make a plan and prioritize because Corbett is in horrible shape and in many ways unsafe. It is frustrating to have lined up volunteers to manage the lilacs but not be able to move forward when we need just a few hours of one DPW worker for supervising. The lilacs are creating a tripping hazard on the sidewalks.

C.T. Oakes notes that the pond at Corbett is troublesome both because of the overgrowth which creates hidden places that people lurk in and litter in and because the view from four of the five benches is just unsightly overgrowth. There is no good reason to sit there. The two remaining fitness pieces are crooked.

H. Heyen proposes a committee to develop a proposal for the village board. Maybe we need a new summer employee to maintain the parks. We can use our park funds and/or request more. We need more maintenance. A lot of the work has been done to assess the condition, but we now need to articulate a proposal and safety concerns first. For example, there needs to be some concrete decisions about the pond – clean it? Improve the water flow? Open the sight lines? It seems like park users really need bathroom facilities – how can we ensure well maintained port-a-johns are there for the season?

C.T Oakes notes that port-a-johns should be handicap accessible. In addition, the picnic pavilion and grills at Corbett Park are popular. That increases the need for bathroom facilities.

H. Heyen proposes to form a committee to develop a plan, working over the winter.

L Cochran asks, are you proposing a subcommittee to make a plan for Corbett?

H. Heyen replies, not just Corbett; all the parks, but Corbett is probably the neediest. I think there should be a committee to work on this.

A. Guptill asked if it would be a strategic planning committee?

L. Cochran replies a committee to figure out how to achieve action in a more formalized way.

Several committee members express agreement with the proposal.

A. Guptill asked how this is different from the committee as a whole. Shouldn't the whole committee be identifying priorities, timetables, and resources in a plan-ful way?

H. Heyen sees a need to get things moving before the committee resumes its work in April.

L. Cochran suggest that the proposal seems to center on appointing people to drive it forward. I think we would do well to develop a proposed structure for the committee.

L. Spalla agrees with the need to define next steps.

H. Heyen is eager to see things move forward. Wants there to be a proposal for the village board to consider, so they have something in front of them, especially if we don't get the grant.

C. Wong notes that there was a recently completed five-year plan. She asks, How did things get done in that era past and why does it seem different now?

H. Heyen discussed some of the activity of a prior committee chair and noted that simply handing a "to do list" to DPW does not work. They are understaffed. We should look more at the service groups. She wants a group to develop ideas around the priorities for how to make things happen. We have over \$30,000 and the board might invest more.

L. Cochran asked for clarification: so the proposal is to form a subcommittee to develop priorities and assess resources and how they can get done? [yes]

H. Heyen explained, it's a framework. The idea is to develop a proposal for the village board; maybe ask for more money on our park budget. We have to think about more things around security – cameras, more police presence, clearing overgrowth. We know all the costs for Corbett because they are in the grant proposal that we developed.

L. Cochran suggests that we not vote on it now, in part to ensure that L. Ketchum can participate in the discussion. However, let's keep this idea in mind and make a deliberate decision about it in the near term.

Action item: Connect by email about the idea of fielding a subcommittee to put a proposal together for the village board.

- CHANGING MEETINGS TO WEDNESDAYS

No one present had any barriers to Wednesdays, so planned meeting dates for 2019 will be April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, and October 9.

Action item: Ensure that the new meeting dates are shown on the village website and that the conference room is reserved for us.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.