

VILLAGE OF LAKE IN THE HILLS
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
May 1, 2008

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, Lake in the Hills. Those present were Chair Koch, Vice Chair Tredore, Members Don Keacher, Ron Sloan, Jill Cross, Dave Roberts, and Diane Murphy. Also present were Superintendent of Public Properties Scott Parchutz, Superintendent of Recreation Andrew Gemmell, and Recreation Supervisor Trevor Bosack. Absent from the meeting were Director Wakeman and Trustee Mulcahy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Parks & Recreation Board Meeting of April 3, 2008, was made by Vice Chair Tredore and seconded by Member Sloan. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Stewardship Update

Vice Chair Tredore commented that the grass at Avalon Park is the best she has seen since the park went in. Member Cross stated that the station that holds the doggie bags at Barbara Key Park was empty. She also noted that there were a few broken picnic tables; a bench had caution tape around it, and that the steps between the apparatus are wobbly. She questioned when the sand would be raked and filled on the volleyball courts since it was full of brush and branches. She also noticed that the casing of the light was broken in the shelter. She also questioned why the panel on the back of the vending machine was open. Member Roberts stated that there is mud near the concrete entryway of the dog park; he questioned why the park benches were being secured, he noticed a large limb that needs to be trimmed on a pine tree, and asked that fill is needed along the fence line of the park. Member Sloan mentioned that Ken Carpenter Park was nicely mowed but questioned the area that is holding water. Superintendent Parchutz stated that the area has a high water table and that once the weather got nicer and the area dried up it would look just as good as the rest of the park. He questioned whether the shelter is done at Leroy Guy Park and that the parking area looks horrendous. Superintendent Parchutz stated that it is scheduled to be redone.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks Tour

This year's tour is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2008; at 8:00 a.m. Items for review are the bike path from Ryder Park to Barbara Key Park, the Harvest Gate/Heaven's Gate bike path, and the Sunset Park OSLAD Grant. Member Sloan stated that he may not be able to attend the tour. Members had nothing to add so the agenda will stay as is.

Architect Review of Cheswick Place Process

Superintendent Gemmell requested that the Board discuss the Cheswick Park design process and provide feedback so that staff and Hitchcock Design can improve on the next park project. He asked the Board to complete the evaluation form that was provided. Chair Koch was concerned that Hitchcock Design did not properly educate the residents about the type of developmental items that should go into the park. She also mentioned planning parks in phases and making sure that enough is being budgeted for the parks.

Member Roberts stated that the residents wanted the park to look like a natural environment. There were a number of park layouts that had different components in them for the residents to choose. He told Chair Koch that she would have been pleased had she seen the presentation because there were enough options and components available for the residents to choose from. He said that the residents divided up into groups and asked questions. He stated that they kept asking if we were really going to listen to them. We asked them what they wanted and they chose the components that would give them the environment that they were looking for. Member Sloan agreed with Member Roberts and stated that we should make sure that items are prioritized and that enough funding is being budgeted for the development of the park. He said that staff should keep doing this because it had worked so well.

Andy Howard, Hitchcock Design Group, told the Board that he appreciates their comments. He stated that HDG would work to improve on communication. He suggested a kick-off meeting on future projects to gather ideas, come back with feedback and a budget, and making play value recommendations. He said that the budget needs to be represented at the first meeting. It's easier to set the budget if we know what key items are being requested. He also mentioned that a landscape budget is just as important as a playground budget.

STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Gemmell presented the Director's monthly report highlighting Cheswick Place Park updates, winning the OSLAD Grant, tree donations for Sunset Park, the Rotary's donation of barriers and an arch for our events and finish lines, and the Community Award from NISRA for our recent membership to the agency. He then presented the Recreation Division's monthly report highlighting the summer brochure, Run thru the Hills, Spring Break Camp, and Mom & Son Date Night.

Superintendent Parchutz presented his monthly report highlighting Plote Field, hiring of seasonal staff, the removal of the Bordeaux bike path, turf restoration at the Dog Park, and Avalon Park.

Recreation Supervisor, Trevor Bosack presented his monthly report highlighting the Men's softball league, Senior Spaghetti Dinner, and Pitch, Hit, & Run.

TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT

None.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Roberts welcomed Jill to the Board. Member Sloan told Member Roberts that it was good to see him back. Vice Chair Tredore welcomed Dave back and stated that we are a new Board and we need to remember that some of our older parks need new equipment also.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Sloan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Roberts seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patricia Loesch
Recording Secretary

