

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ELBURN PARKS COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 21, 2018

Members Present: Dave Dickinson, Chairman Dan Kolzow, Dawn Kuefler, Patrick Leach, Brian McCarty, Rob Reilley, Amy Szumny

Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Village Administrator John Nevenhoven; Public Works Superintendent Phil VanBogaert; Village President Jeff Walter

Others Present: Blackberry Creek HOA Vice President Chet Cybulski

1. Call to Order – Chairman Kolzow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Kolzow led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call – A roll call vote ensued.
4. Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2018 – A motion to approve the minutes was made by Reilley and seconded by Leach. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. Public Comment – Blackberry Creek HOA Vice President Chet Cybulski was present to discuss the proposed community gardens in Blackberry Creek. He stated the HOA objects to this because there are other areas in Elburn that would be more suitable (such as Elburn Station) to meet a need on the south side of the tracks. Mr. Cybulski said Blackberry Creek has high quality homes and this use would be an eyesore in the community. The desire is to keep Blackberry Creek looking nice to encourage new homebuyers. The HOA is in support of the Village of Elburn as they recently made a \$12K donation for development of a park. Feels the community gardens will decrease property values in the area and some Blackberry Creek residents are considering a lawsuit if this goes forward. The Park Commissioners advised a survey conducted by a Blackberry Creek resident resulted in over 100 Blackberry Creek residents in favor of a community garden. Mr. Cybulski was asked if the HOA surveyed all Blackberry Creek residents or only those in attendance at their meeting. Chairman Kolzow thanked Cybulski for the feedback and stated most likely, a community garden south of the tracks will not happen this year.
6. Update on Park Planners/Grant Writers – Nevenhoven said this has been approved by the Village Board and will be added to the next fiscal year (May 1, 2018) budget. The first meeting will be a brainstorming session with all parties to come up with ideas for parks.
7. Discuss Ideas for Elburn Station – There was consensus there are enough softball fields in the Village. A pavilion similar to Lions Park with a multi-functional shelter with shade trees, restroom facilities, etc. was suggested. In addition to athletic fields, paths and parking should be considered. During the recent rains, the large proposed park in the southwest portion of the development did not seem too flooded. Cybulski stated drainage from Elburn Station flows into Blackberry Creek to the pond near the school—the path was flooded. Regarding baseball fields in Blackberry Creek, the Village owns the fields near the water tower and the school district owns the ones closer to the school.

8. Commissioner Project Updates

- a. Future Pavilions (standardize type and style) – McCarty shared several examples with Nevenhoven and Shodeen rep Bob Skidmore. Maintenance is a concern if the pavilions are wooden. There was consensus to adopt a metal style pavilion similar to Prairie Park to keep it uniform. As soon as funding is available, two pavilions will be built in Elburn Station.
- b. Signs (standardize type and style) – The Blackberry Crossing sign (7' wide) style is preferred. It is composite and should hold up better than wood. The fire department requested park addresses are included on signs. McCarty will look into pricing.
- c. Scout Projects – No update. The Leos from the Elburn Lions Club asked if there are any projects they can help with. There are plenty including the community playground installation, etc.
- d. Blackberry 5K Bolt Sponsorship – Reilley reported registration is open and there will be a fun run and a 5K. For Parks Commission sponsorship, a motion to sponsor the last mile marker of the race for \$150 was made by Reilley and seconded by Szumny. A roll call vote ensued. Ayes: Dickinson, Kolzow, Kuefler, Leach, McCarty, Reilley, Szumny. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- e. Garden Plots – Szumny created a draft of rules and regulations and generated some ideas. Suggested only one community garden (located across the street from the Public Works Building on North Street) for this year. Public Works Supt VanBogaert reported there is a b-box located at the northeast corner of the lot and assume water can be accessible. Options to strip the sod and till the ground were discussed. We don't know what soil quality is on the property—we will not do soil testing, just fertilize. There is a berm on the property that may or may not be black dirt and could be used to build up the lot to help with flooding. Options regarding parking on the property were discussed; however parking in the Public Works Parking lot is an option. A meeting to walk the parcel should occur soon. There was consensus from the Commission to have one community garden this year, perhaps add another next year. Two sizes of plots (20x20 and 10x10) were suggested with a 3' walkway between. Plots will be on a first-come first-served basis with one lot maximum per family. It was suggested a plot be reserved for Rylie Brand, the Kaneland Middle School student who approached the Commission last fall regarding garden plots.
- f. Skate Board Park – VanBogaert reported the thick coating on the equipment has to be burned/baked off before it can be sand blasted and powder coated. Quotes range from \$36K to \$72K. Discussion ensued if only a few pieces of the equipment can be used. VanBogaert was asked to solicit bids to strip only a few pieces. In lieu of a skate park, there was discussion if a tennis court could be built on the parking lot but the thought was it would be too large—perhaps it would be more feasible in Elburn Station. There was consensus from the Commission to do a Facebook post asking skaters to attend the next Parks Commission meeting. VanBogaert stated his concern with putting the pieces together securely and potential liability to the Village. He encouraged all Commissioners to go to Well 5 and take a look at the equipment and see what they think.

9. Other Business – With the Village's purchase of property near Well 5, it was suggested the dirt mound be kept for Village use, not by developers. Nevenhoven thinks there is plenty of top soil but will keep it in mind.

Mayor Walter said the Chamber Craft Fair is scheduled for April 7 and would like the Parks Commission to help man the table. Commissioners should respond to Walter with their availability. Leach will attend.

Nevenhoven said it is time to start planning Arbor Day festivities for Saturday, April 27. VanBogaert will make arrangements to have a tree for planting. A Friday event was held at Blackberry Creek Elementary last year—Reilley will ask if a similar program can be held at John Stewart this year. Nevenhoven will discuss with the Tree Board at their next meeting.

Nevenhoven advised next year's budget is being worked on now. Please let Nevenhoven know of anything that should be included in the budget between now and the next meeting. Kolzow suggested the skate park. Prairie Park has playground equipment that needs to be renovated. Leach suggested a fitness park (outdoor gym)—kits are not too expensive. Leach will get pricing on the fitness park. Reilley suggested bike repair stations. It would be nice to have one at the train station. If the MS Ride goes through town, it would be nice to have one installed. A pump is

approximately \$600 and with a repair station, it would be \$1,000. There are several in Batavia, Geneva and St. Charles along with a bike rack if anyone would like to go look at them.

Waubonsee Community College will not be able to help re-build the bridge at Prairie Park. When it thaws, the large planters will be emptied and moved to the street-side of the missing bridge. It was asked if Public Works could burn the weeds in Prairie Park this spring.

The Commission thanked the HOA for their \$12K donation. Cybulski will follow up with the HOA president as to when the check will be sent to the Village. Regarding ideas for Heritage Park, Cybulski was asked if the HOA has any suggestions. He replied a "sprinkler park" but there would be parking issues. A soccer field was suggested along with some walking paths. Some "terrain" was also suggested be left from the dirt hill.

McCarty advised the contract for the Elliott Family Park has been signed. The community installation will take place end of April/early May. A temporary sign will be provided by the equipment vendor. Of the five park benches, three have been sponsored—two others are available for sponsorship. McCarty has another donor offering \$25K for another park.

The ice rink will be taken down soon. It was an overall success this year.

10. Adjourn - McCarty motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. with Dickinson seconding the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane McQuilkin
Village Clerk