

# Village of Bellaire

## PARKS COMMITTEE

Trish Drollinger, Chairman

Helen Schuckel

Brent Nelson

### MEETING MINUTES

July 30, 2012

10:00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman T. Drollinger called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

#### Attendance

**Present:** Chairman T. Drollinger, Brent Nelson & Helen Schuckel

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Chief of Police Brad Rowe, Officer Bill Drollinger (partial), Deputy Clerk Cathy Odom & Clerk Janet Koch

**Also Present:** None

2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

**Motion by Schuckel, seconded by Nelson, to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved.

**Motion by Schuckel, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes of May 2, 2012 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.**

4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.

5. **Old Business:** None presented.

6. **New Business**

#### a) Craven Park

**Bathroom Cleaning (Craven & Richardi Parks):** Koch said the DPW has been cleaning the bathhouses during the week and they seem willing to continue with the task, that it's the weekends that are the real issue. The DPW has said it takes half an hour to an hour to clean each bathhouse. T. Drollinger asked if Koch had asked Jan Howland, who currently cleans the village hall, about cleaning the bathhouses. Koch said she was waiting to contact Howland after there was some clarification about a pay rate. She added that Diane Kirt might be willing to do the weekend bathhouse cleaning. A rate of \$25 per bathhouse cleaning was discussed. It was mentioned that cleaning might have to be done multiple times a day during the weekend of the upcoming softball tournament and county fair, August 10-12.

**Motion by T. Drollinger, second by Schuckel, to recommend to village council to hire one or two people to clean the Craven Park and Richardi Park bathhouses on Saturdays and Sundays at \$25 per bathhouse per day with added cleaning during the softball tournament and over Labor Day weekend as needed. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**Reservations:** Odom said the police department, the DPW, and the office staff have spent a lot of time the previous week trying to work through the reservation paperwork left behind by the campground caretaker. Chief Rowe said it was becoming clear that Gary, the caretaker, had not been doing things the way he was supposed to. There was still one campsite that had not paid in advance. The police department had not been able to contact the campers to get payment, but were still working on the situation.

Odom said a method of marking reserved campsites was needed. T. Drollinger said that reserved campsites at national forest campgrounds are marked with an "R." She suggested reserving only some campsites. Rowe said without someone there, it's tough to make sure the campsite is available for the person who reserved it. He said if there are no reservations there is no confusion. Odom said we could not take any more reservations. A method of marking reserved sites was discussed.

Rowe said another problem with no caretaker is that people tend to park across two sites since many sites don't have the back corners marked. Placing posts was discussed. Nelson suggested using white paint to mark the site lines. Using rocks was suggested, but T. Drollinger said rocks disappear. Chief Rowe said he had athletic field marker equipment.

Rowe said a couple from East Jordan had camped at Craven Park last weekend and might be interested in being campground caretakers.

Koch said that with a few changes it wouldn't be too difficult to have the campground operate without a fulltime caretaker. At this point, however, taking reservations was a problem because there was no method of making sure the reserved sites were occupied by the person making the reservation.

T. Drollinger said that ice and wood could be offered for sale at a posted time. She added that next year it could be possible to allow someone to sell wood at the campground. It was mentioned that the savings of not paying a caretaker could be reinvested into campground improvements.

**Motion by T. Drollinger, second by Schuckel, to recommend to village council that we stop taking reservations for the year if no campground caretaker is found. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**Purchase of items to allow self-serve camping:** T. Drollinger said a number of things would need to be purchased to do self-serve camping next year. Envelopes would have to be printed, a cash post would need to be installed, and posts marking the rear of the lots had to be put in the ground. She'd also like to see new fire rings next year. A kiosk would probably be needed. Odom suggested putting a payment slot in one of the storage room doors; Rowe said it would be better to have a kiosk at the entrance with a place to drop the envelopes. Koch asked about credit card payments, T. Drollinger said the national forests take cash or check payments only. Having a seven-day limit unless at a full hookup site was discussed, as was limiting the number of campsites that could be reserved.

Koch said she looked online for cash posts and the only ones she found cost over five hundred dollars. The DPW has said they might be able to build one.

Rates for next year were discussed. T. Drollinger suggested eliminating weekly and seasonal rates for anything other than full hookup.

**Softball tournament and Labor Day:** Odom said the campground will be very busy on the weekend of the softball tournament, that is also the weekend of the 4-H county fair. Odom added that it will be hard to keep track of campsites with multiple tents. B. Drollinger said they'd put tags on the tents previously. It was agreed to do that again. T. Drollinger said that with the bathrooms being cleaned one way or another, that the campground should be okay.

**7. Discussion Items**

- a) **Richardi Beach water testing:** Koch said that the beach had been tested three times so far this summer, the most recent testing on July 25. She said there were funds remaining to test again. It was agreed to test within the next week or so.
- b) **Swans at Richardi Beach:** Koch said the lifeguard at Richardi Park, Billy Bohannon, called to say that swans were being aggressive and scaring young children. She contacted the DNR and was told by Lieutenant Jim Gorno that the mute swans (orange-billed) are an invasive species. He advised trying to chase off the swans. He also said if we watched the swans in the spring and noted where the mute swans were nesting, that we could call the DNR and they'd eradicate the nests.
- c) **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant:** T. Drollinger said she'd like to pursue a grant for improving the Craven Park ball fields. She has talked to Rotary and they indicated an interest in providing some matching funds. Koch said there is a January workshop that gives instructions for completing the grant, the grant is due in April, and that grants will be awarded in December with funds being distributed the following year. T. Drollinger said more meetings with representatives from the ball teams will be necessary to work out what improvements are desired.
- d) **Purchase of drag rake for Craven Park ball fields:** T. Drollinger said Rotary had implied that they would be willing to purchase a drag rake if the village requested it. Details regarding the exact equipment need to be worked out.

**8. Communications/Informational:** None presented.

**9. Member/Public Comment:** None presented.

**10. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Compiled by Janet Koch, Clerk  
Minutes Subject to Approval

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_