

Village of Bellaire

PARKS COMMITTEE

Trish Drollinger, Chairman

Helen Schuckel

Brent Nelson

MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2013

1:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Trish Drollinger called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

Attendance

Present: Chairman Drollinger & Helen Schuckel
Absent: Brent Nelson
Staff Present: Janet Koch, Clerk
Also Present: None

2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.
Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Schuckel, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved.
Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Schuckel, to approve the minutes of January 23, 2013 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.
5. **Old Business:** None presented.
 - a) **DNR Grant Application:** The committee discussed possible projects for a DNR grant. Koch said a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant involving a Chain of Lakes waterways project could be a very good application for next year's grant cycle. She said there is a lot of interest in different area municipalities for a waterways project, but that putting together a comprehensive plan is still in the early stages.

The committee looked at a list of the 2011 Recreation Passport Development Grant awards. Koch said the 2012 award list wasn't yet available. Schuckel noted that the award list included a lot of play equipment and redoing bathrooms. Drollinger said she'd love to replace the Transportation Station, that getting rid of the wood toys would eliminate the risk of accidents from slivers and nails and screws.

Drollinger asked Koch what she thought about a possible project. Koch said the grant is a 25% match, which can include in-kind labor. She added that nothing has been budgeted for a grant match this fiscal year beyond the normal parks budget. She also said that wages and some costs had been budgeted for improvements at Craven Park campground. The Recreation Passport awards included award for similar projects. Drollinger said it would be nice to have fire rings similar to the fire rings at the state parks, a double ring with the gap between the rings filled by tightly-packed stone. She added that new picnic tables might also be nice.

Koch went through the point system the DNR uses when judging the applications. Need for the project, site quality, including universal accessibility, project quality, and applicant history are all considered. Drollinger asked if the campground bathrooms were ADA compliant. Koch said

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she doubted it, but that the bathrooms at Richardi are accessible. Drollinger said those bathrooms cost over \$100,000; Koch mentioned that they were built with DNR grant assistance. She added that any proposed project had to be part of the new recreation plan.

Koch said that the Recreation Passport Grant requires that any grant project over \$15,000 is required to be designed by a licensed professional. Drollinger asked if Craven Park needed any sewer, water, or electrical upgrades. Koch said that didn't sound like a project that would be awarded a grant, that the Recreation Passport Grants are awarded to assist local efforts in getting people outside more often. Koch said the minimum grant award is \$7,500 with a 25% grant, bringing the minimum project total to \$10,000.

The purchase of picnic tables was discussed with the possibility of moving some of the older tables to Richardi. Koch said she'd talked to a play equipment representative last fall about increasing accessibility at the Transportation Station. Most important would be adding a concrete pad for off-loading, adding a sidewalk to the play equipment, and adding surface material in the play area itself.

Koch said there wasn't any Parks money budgeted for improvements at Richardi. Drollinger asked if \$2500 or \$5000 could be found. Koch said they'd tried to budget appropriately for wages, but that this year there are a lot of unknowns due to not having a campground caretaker.

Schuckel asked if the project could be divided up between parks. Koch said it appeared that it couldn't be. She added that her best estimate to complete the application was 40 hours of her time. Drollinger said she'd like to see the money go to improving the Transportation Station, that improvements there would benefit many people. Schuckel agreed. Drollinger said that improvements at Craven Park would help bring people to the community, but that improvements at Richardi would help the residents.

Koch said much of that kind of work might have to be hired out. Drollinger said she thought the DPW could do a lot of the work and added that it could be a community project. The Lions Club was mentioned. Koch said volunteer labor can be used for the 25% match. Drollinger mentioned adding adult work-out stations similar to the ones in Alden.

Motion by Drollinger, seconded by Schuckel, to have Koch investigate writing a DNR Recreation Passport Grant application to improve accessibility at Richardi Park's Transportation Station, the results of the investigation to be presented to the village council at the March 6, 2013 council meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

7. **Discussion Items:** None presented.
8. **Communications/Informational:** None presented.
9. **Member/Public Comment:** None presented.
10. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Compiled by Janet Koch, Clerk
Minutes Subject to Approval

Approved: _____

Date: _____