

# Village of Bellaire

## PARKS COMMITTEE

Patricia Drollinger, Chairman

Eldon McPherson

Helen Schuckel

### COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2015

5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Drollinger called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### Attendance

**Present:** Chairman Drollinger, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schuckel

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lori Lockett, Clerk; Cathy Odom Treasurer

**Also Present:** Angela Kline, Lou Kline and Jim McMichael, Co-ed Softball League; Trisha Young, Antrim County Youth Soccer; and, Doug Decker, Bellaire Summer Ball League

2. **Approval of Agenda:** There were additions to the agenda. Toilet paper dispensers and walking path signs were added under Old Business as items (a) and (b) respectively. Use of sports fields was moved to item (c). Methodist Church request was added under New Business as item (b). The amended agenda was approved.

**Motion by Trustee McPherson , seconded by Trustee Schuckel to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.**

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of February 25, 2015 were approved.

**Motion by Trustee Schuckel, seconded by Trustee McPherson, to approve the minutes of February 25, 2015 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

5. **Old Business:**

- a) **Toilet paper dispensers:** Chairman Drollinger reviewed the information provided by Clerk Lockett detailing the costs to purchase five jumbo toilet paper dispensers and toilet tissue for the restrooms at Craven Park. Chairman Drollinger informed those attending that the goal was to avoid running out of tissue in the restroom facilities. After discussion of the costs to stock the restrooms currently, compared to the cost of replacing with jumbo dispensers, the committee decided to replace the current dispensers with the double jumbo dispensers at a cost of \$199.95 for five dispensers. Toilet tissue for the dispensers being replaced will be used at the Richardi Park restrooms and the village offices. Chairman Drollinger asked Treasurer Odom if this needed to be taken to the village council. Treasurer Odom indicated that the funds were available in the budget under maintenance and did not have to go to village council.

**Motion by Chairman Drollinger, seconded by Trustee McPherson, to purchase five double jumbo toilet paper dispensers at \$39.99 each, for the restrooms at Craven Park and install them as part of the facility maintenance and upgrades. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- b) **Walking path signs:** The committee reviewed the proof for the walking path signs. The committee members noted that it was difficult to see given the size of the photocopy. Chairman Drollinger noted that a location of an animal waste station was in the wrong spot and needed to be moved to East Forest Home Avenue. Trustee McPherson thought that restrooms at Richardi Park and Craven Park should be added. The committee members agreed to hold off on approval until an updated proof could be provided.
- c) **Use of sports fields:** Chairman Drollinger introduced staff and committee members to the respective representatives in attendance. She explained the reason for the meeting noting that currently Bellaire High School pays an annual fee to use the fields. School officials wondered why they were the only group contributing. Chairman Drollinger stated that in the past the village has been reluctant to assess a fee because it wanted to bring people to the community. Unfortunately, the costs of maintaining the sports fields have increased significantly. The possibility of assessing a fee to use the fields has been discussed. The committee is open to ideas and was requesting their input. Chairman Drollinger said the possibility of a \$5 per player and \$50 per team fee have been discussed. Trustee McPherson suggested that the representatives be made aware of the village's annual costs to maintain the fields. The maintenance costs were reviewed. Chairman Drollinger pointed out that it costs over \$9000 to maintain the fields; of which the high school pays \$3200 each year. Chairman Drollinger asked what other fields were charging. Angela Kline stated that East Jordan added a \$5 per player fee last year which raised the per player fee from \$25 to \$30. Ms. Kline stated that she wanted to come to Bellaire because she had grown up watching and playing ball on the Bellaire fields. The Klines and Mr. McMichael are starting a co-ed league here. When asked by Trustee McPherson if the fields were meeting their expectations, Lou Kline responded that they have had a chance to put some money into the fields by adding diamond dust. He did note that the lights are an issue, with currently only 20% working. He stated that the lights on the third base line spark when turned on. Lights are used for tournaments but you cannot play at night; there is not enough light. Chairman Drollinger asked staff to notify DPW Supervisor to get the lights looked at before baseball season starts. According to Mr. Kline, the fields are getting better the more they are used. Doug Decker joined the meeting and asked about the maintenance costs and fees. Chairman Drollinger stated that there was no intention of pricing someone out of sports participation. She asked Trisha Young about the cost of adding \$5 to the soccer fee. Mrs. Young stated that she thought the fee sounded fair given the costs associated with maintaining the soccer fields. Mrs. Young informed the committee that the program was growing pretty strong. She explained that she is currently seeking donations from local businesses to help support 500 soccer families currently involved. Mrs. Young described the program and that it is no longer affiliated with AYSO. It is Antrim County Youth Soccer and has participants from Ellsworth, Mancelona, Central Lake and Bellaire. Recently Mancelona has decided to pass out the information and there has been a surge in participation. Mancelona players are signing up they now need coaches. When asked what the fee covers, Mrs. Young explained that it covers jerseys, paint for the fields and payment for referees. Fees are \$25 per player for the younger teams who play in Bellaire and \$35 per player for the travel teams. Currently there is one travel team but the number of players signing up has doubled. Her dream is to have a girls Bellaire soccer team. Last year there were 100 to 120 children in the program. She does not have a current number. Mrs. Young thought that a \$5 per player was reasonable. Mrs. Young is currently trying to raise money to buy nets and supplies. Chairman Drollinger asked if there was a scholarship program for players who could not afford the fees to play. Mrs. Young will be approaching the Rotary clubs to request assistance. Mr. Kline indicated that he did not see a problem with the \$5 fee but asked if it could be structured on a per team basis because they played with open rosters. Chairman Drollinger suggested \$50 per team.

According to Mr. Kline, currently each team and sponsor pays \$300 for a total of \$600 per team. Much of the money goes towards paying umpires. They are limiting play to ten teams in order to get play in before dark. The per team fee is easier for accounting. As for little league, Doug Decker said it may effect a few kids. The fee is \$30 and there is a discount if multiple family members play. Mr. Decker had questions about the expenses being reported by the village. He noted that the ball fields are not mowed very often. He said that he had spoken with a contractor about getting irrigation supplies donated to install irrigation on the fields so there could be grass on the fields. Mr. Decker wondered why the fields were not irrigated. Chairman Drollinger explained that the issue with irrigating the ball fields in the past was that the irrigation lines were punctured when the fences were moved. The village had many repair expenses. She noted that if they want to irrigate the fields, they would also have to speak with the county. According to Mr. Decker, electricity would not be used for the system. Chairman Drollinger asked Mr. Decker to bring a proposal to the council. Trustee McPherson said irrigation leads to weeds and the fields will need weed control. Mr. Decker advised that Ellsworth Farmer's Exchange donates fertilizer and weed control to other programs in the area. Trustee McPherson asked if little league would help get the fertilizer spread? Mr. Decker noted that last year he would have had all the supplies donated for the little league fields. The labor part is the easy part according to Mr. Decker. The only issues are permission and who would be responsible for cost of water to irrigate. There apparently is water at the fields. The question is whether it is a well or village water? Trustee McPherson asked Mr. Decker to bring a proposal to council. A fee of \$50 per team was discussed. Chairman Drollinger wondered about scholarships from service organizations. Chairman Drollinger then made a motion to recommend to council that soccer and little league teams be charged \$5 per person for the season and the co-ed softball teams \$50 per team for the season. The village will bill each team. During discussion it was pointed out that it should be billed by team rather than individual. It would then be up to the program to cover the fee.

**Motion by Chairman Drollinger seconded by Trustee McPherson, to recommend to village council that soccer and little league teams be charged \$5 person and co-ed softball a fee of \$50 per team. After discussion on the motion, the motion and second were rescinded.**

Treasurer Odom requested copies of schedules and waivers for each team. After further discussion of the number of players on each team and because soccer has maximum of 8 players on some teams, Angela Kline suggested the committee consider a \$5 per player fee up to a maximum of \$50 per team. The committee agreed that the suggestion was reasonable.

**Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Chairman Drollinger, to recommend to village council that a fee of \$5 per player fee, with a limit of \$50 per team, be charged for use of the sports fields. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Questions and concerns, including a proposal for irrigation of fields in the fall should be brought to village council. Discussion of when the fees will go into effect will be addressed by village council. It was noted that notices about soccer team and co-ed softball sign up are being sent out now. Chairman Drollinger thought that notices should be sent out in April if the village council agrees to assess fees.

**Motion by Chairman Drollinger, seconded by Trustee Schuckel, to recommend to village council that if fees are approved, notices be sent out in the beginning of April, so that when rosters are set fees may be paid before the seasons start. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**6. New Business**

- a) **Review of fees for Richardi Park and Craven Park rental:** Craven Park pavilion is used by 4-H and maybe one additional rental per year. There was discussion about the current fees of \$25 for rent plus a \$25 refundable key deposit for use of the pavilions at Craven Park and Richardi Park. The committee discussed the costs associated with the pavilions; trash removal, bathrooms, electricity and any repairs. After further discussion, raising the rental fee to \$50 was discussed. Payment of a fee secures use of the pavilion.

**Motion by Chairman Drollinger, seconded by Trustee McPherson, to recommend to village council that effective May 1, 2015 rental fees at Richardi Park and Craven Park be increased to \$50 and refundable key deposit remain \$25. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- b) **Methodist Church request:** Chairman Drollinger explained that the Methodist Church has requested to clean up Richardi Park. She thought this was part of a community project effort. The church is insured and willing to assume the risk. So long as a copy of the certificate of insurance is provided to the village, the committee thought the request should be approved.

**Motion by Chairman Drollinger, seconded by Trustee Schuckel, to recommend to village council that the request from the Bellaire Community Methodist Church be granted so long as they provide a copy of their liability insurance to the village. Motion carried by voice vote.**

7. **Discussion Items:** None presented.
8. **Communications/Informational:** None presented.
9. **Member/Public Comment:** None presented.
10. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Compiled by Lori Lockett, Clerk  
Minutes Subject to Approval

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

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