

Village of Bellaire

PARKS COMMITTEE

Patricia Drollinger, Chairperson

Eldon McPherson

Helen Schuckel

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES August 15, 2018 2:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Drollinger called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Chairperson Drollinger,
Absent: None
Staff Present: Lori Lockett, Clerk; Ken Stead, DPW Director
Also Present: Rachel Krino and Jean Seman

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Prior to approval, the committee added Tennis Courts, Electric and Water in Richardi Park, and Merry-Go-Round to the agenda. The agenda was approved with the additions.

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

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

Motion by Trustee Schuckel, seconded by Trustee McPherson to approve the minutes of May 11, 2018 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Jean Seman commented that water and grass seed were needed.

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

6. **New Business**

- a) **Request for Skate Park:** Chairperson Drollinger reported that Rachel Krino had approached her three weeks ago about putting in a skate park within Richardi Park. Ms. Krino and her children travel around to skate parks. During this process, she has learned that there are a lot of others from the Bellaire area using the skate parks. Ms. Krino and others have come up with an idea to develop a skate park that, once developed, would be turned over to and be maintained by the village. Chairperson Drollinger identified a proposed location in the area of the old tennis court and skating rink. Ms. Krino spoke that a splash pad could be a water feature and only in a small area. She added that discussions about a splash pad came out of the discussions of a skate park. The idea is to add activities that appeal to different age groups in the park. Ms. Krino stated that she drives her children 45 minutes to two and a half hours on the weekends to surrounding skate parks only to meet kids from Bellaire. She has been to Traverse City, Charlevoix, Frankfort, and Gaylord. According to Ms. Krino, Kewadin has a wooden park that has really gone down. Charlevoix's park has staff on site and requires a pass. Ms. Krino provided a sheet of frequently asked questions. She believes that a skate park will enhance the community. Her children, 7 and 9, spend their free time on their scooters. A skate park would appeal to all ages. Ms. Krino is working with a group of parents with children who are skate boarders and adults who started when they were young and still skate board. The goal is to raise

the money for a facility. They are currently trying to find an official fiduciary so that the group does not have to become a non-profit organization. According to Ms. Krino, a skate park poses no greater liability than the water in the park. The group would like to see a permanent, concrete structure that would accommodate different levels of ability. The cost on the front end is higher, the maintenance would be lower. The concrete structures generally have built in drainage. The belief is that this could foster stewardship among the kids. Ms. Krino was requesting permission to continue pursuing the skate park. Trustee McPherson thought it was a great idea. Chairperson Drollinger agreed, stating that there are not many park activities for kids in the older age brackets; this would be used after school. There was discussion about potential funding sources. Ms. Krino asked whether the village would consider being the fiduciary. Chairperson Drollinger thought the village council would consider it. Chairperson Drollinger suggested the possibility of partnering with Rotary. All were clear; the skate park is not intended to replace the skating rink. DPW Director Stead discouraged pursuing a splash pad due to the maintenance costs and requirements. Chairperson Drollinger thought that an area could be designated and old cement slabs could be removed. A new pad could be put in for the ice skating rink. Ms. Krino suggested that the concrete costs could be shared. There was further discussion about splash pads. Ms. Krino suggested that the skate park and splash pad would go hand in hand in the redevelopment portion of the park. Chairperson Drollinger suggested that a committee could be set up; either Parks Committee with an addition, or a group of people interested in developing a skate park could bring it to the Parks Committee. Trustee McPherson thought a group could do the research; the Parks Committee should make a recommendation to village council to authorize pursuing the idea. Jean Seman stated that she has been doing research about the walking path. It took 11 years to develop the path. The community was very involved in the process and there was a lot of public input. Mrs. Seman expressed her concern that the described process for the skate park might not allow for community involvement and input. Ms. Krino explained that the group had developed over the last month. She started a page on Facebook. There were 15 members at the beginning. There are currently 104 members involved on the page. The page is intended to be educational. Ms. Krino is meeting today to get permission to proceed. Mrs. Seman wants to ensure that the whole community is involved in the discussion. Not everyone is on Facebook. Ms. Krino responded that she is bringing this matter to the committee for permission to present it to the public for discussion. The master plan survey and focus groups will be discussing needs of the community. Chairperson Drollinger thought if the village council agreed to move forward it might be helpful to have an article in the newspaper. It is important to get the community involved. A committee could be formed after. Chairperson Drollinger said that it is also important to get student input; perhaps involving them in the design. A motion was made to recommend exploring development of a skate park within Richardi Park.

Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Chairperson Drollinger, to recommend to village council exploring the development of a skate park within Richardi Park. Motion carried by voice vote.

There was continued discussion of a location for the skate park and other possible amenities. The recommendation to explore the development of a skate park should include other amenities as well. Ms. Krino will attend the village council meeting to present the information.

- b) **Tennis Court Improvements:** Chairperson Drollinger explained that she had been contacted by Trustee Ciganick about the condition of the tennis court. The net and the backboard need to be replaced. There was discussion about the cost. \$400 had been suggested during the village council meeting. There are volunteers who will make the repairs if the village buys the materials. Chairperson Drollinger made the motion to recommend to village council to approve up to \$400.00 for the purchase of materials for the volunteers to replace the backboard and net.

Motion by Chairperson Drollinger, seconded by Trustee McPherson to recommend to village council that they approve up to \$400.00 for the purchase of materials for the volunteers to replace the backboard and net. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c) **Electric and Water in Richardi Park:** Chairperson Drollinger stated that she has received requests that water be available in the park for watering the trees and grass. According to Ms. Krino, Scott Udell has offered to set up irrigation to pump water from the river if the village installs the electrical service. The new trees are being watered three times a week because of the lack of rain. Trustee McPherson suggested that the village explore installing irrigation and a pump. The committee needs to find out from Mr. Udell what he is proposing.
- d) **Merry-Go-Round:** Chairperson Drollinger asked for update on the new merry-go-round in Holiday Acres. DPW Director Stead reported that the merry-go-round is scheduled to leave the factory on August 23 and to arrive in Bellaire on August 27. A picnic table will be placed on site too.

7. **Discussion Items:** None presented.

8. **Communications/Informational:** Rachel Krino said that Cindy Card from BYI had spoken with her about the use of the tennis courts for classes and after school programming. Chairperson Drollinger suggested that classes would have to be approved by the village council. Scheduling might be a problem because it is a public park however, if the BYI wants to use the tennis courts it might be possible. Trustee McPherson wondered about a dog park. Chairperson Drollinger suggested that it had been discussed previously. After doing some research, she concluded they were places for dogs to pick up illnesses and diseases. Chairperson Drollinger commented on how nice the spring toys look. Jean Seman asked if the other toys were going to be added to the list. She wondered how projects were identified. Chairperson Drollinger explained that the budget determined the projects. Chairperson Drollinger commented on the increased Craven Park revenues due to Roese Construction workers staying in the campground. Mrs. Seman asked about the plans for reseeded the parks. DPW Director Stead reported that they do not re-seed the grass. Mrs. Seman recounted how beautiful the parks were when they moved here. Now they are full of weeds. People will not want to come to the parks if there is no grass. Mrs. Seman shared a photograph of the splash pad in Waters, Michigan.

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

10. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Compiled by Lori Luckett, Clerk
Minutes Subject to Approval

Approved: _____

Date: _____