

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 21, 1999/4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting is called to order by Paula Zelenko, Chairperson, at 4:10 P.M.

Members Present: Hodgeson, Hindes, Crawford, Zelenko, Roach, Walls, Manzardo and Waterson.

Members Absent: Blundell, Kallin, Perry.

Others Present: J. Angle, Superintendent Bendle Schools; J. Major, DPW Director; R. LaDuke, Building Supervisor and C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk.

Mrs. Zelenko announced that the new Bentley Board Member is Nancy Perry and the alternate is Sandy West. However, they are unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Hindes moved and Crawford seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize the minutes of the Meeting of June 23, 1999 at 4:00 P.M., as written. Motion carried 8-0.

- PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:
1. Fire Station #1/Water Tower – Progress Report
 2. Improvements to Veterans Memorial Park – Progress Report
 3. Fire Station #2 –Progress Report
 4. Review & discussion relative to Thread Creek & Davison Rd. Side Park/Clean Michigan Initiative (Proposal C)
 5. Davison Road Side Park/Take Over Report – Sub-Committee
 6. Bentley Tennis Courts/Basketball Courts Discussion with Mr. Kefgen, Bentley Superintendent
 7. Bendle/CD Playground Equipment Request
 8. Any other business or discussion germane to commission business

PRESENTATION:

Item #1:

Mr. Major said the landscaping is in, as well as the main play structure, benches and tables. The drinking fountain hasn't arrived yet. The last thing will be the sign. A request has been put in for the cost of an additional fence to match the green fence to go across the front. I haven't received a cost back on that yet. We are probably still two weeks away from finalizing a grand opening or ribbon cutting ceremony. The men work over there and make daily improvements. We were told that if we water the landscaped area and start maintaining it, we bought it. There is a year guarantee so should something die, they have to go back in and replace it.

Mrs. Hodgeson said there are trees that need to be planted, but it looks good.

Mr. Major said the site is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way from being completed.

Mrs. Crawford asked for an update on Fire Station #2.

Item #3:

Mr. Major said Rick is filling in the area with pea rock. He explained the reasons for using the pea rock and said there would be wolmonized treatment around the perimeter. If you have any comments or something you don't like, let us know. We wanted to leave islands in there, but it couldn't be done.

Mrs. Crawford asked when the completion date would be. She was advised it should be completed in a week or two.

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Mrs. Zelenko said she would like to give the guests an opportunity to make their presentations before continuing with the agenda.

Item #6:

Alta Walls, 1049 N. Genesee Rd., Burton, spoke on behalf of Mr. Kefgen. She presented a report to the members regarding the plans to convert the existing tennis court to a basketball court. The Kiwanis will donate \$2,000.00 towards this project to repave the tennis courts.

Mrs. Zelenko asked if the check should be written to the person who will be doing the paving or to Bentley High School.

Mrs. Walls said Mr. Kefgen did not say who the check should be written to, but it could be sent to Bentley High School. Also, if this is approved, the project could be completed by late August.

Mrs. Zelenko stated that because the tennis courts were initially put in with CD dollars, the City would need some sort of verification from the county to make sure that there was no strings attached to a possible renovation of something that was paid for with CDBG dollars. We received a letter back from Flint Nesmith of the County Development Program, stating that they will be forwarding a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She asked Mr. LaDuke if he had heard anything regarding this issue.

Mr. LaDuke said no, he only spoke with Jean Benzing who works with our CD dollars. She thinks it's a reasonable request.

Mrs. Zelenko said the Commission has a temporary roadblock before we can approve and release the funds. At the last meeting, \$3,000.00 was set aside for this project, and it's the intention of this Commission to support this project.

Mr. Walls asked if any one group can claim this as a single interest project. The Bentley Board of Education, Bentley Boosters and Kiwanis have all been mentioned. Are all three groups whole-heartedly behind this project? Is there any controversy going on?

Mrs. Walls replied yes, all three groups agree to support the project. The Boosters are going to contribute by getting the fencing repaired and painted as needed. The Bentley Board of Education will be purchasing the benches.

Item #7:

Mr. Angle stated he needed more information on the dollars available before making a formal presentation. Presently, we are going through a renovation project for playground equipment throughout the district. We just completed one project at one of the elementary schools at a cost of \$20,000.00.

Mrs. Zelenko said the commission holds two monthly meetings. We need some sort of idea as to what you would like to do and what you would like us to do and bring a request to us. We want to work with you and we're budgeting dollars for this purpose. We need to know what kind of projects are out there to be done.

Mr. Angle said one of the projects we have now are safety issues and in order to replace the equipment we have to follow the mandates. Mr. Angle asked when the next meeting would be and was informed it will be held on August 11th at 4:00 P.M.

Mrs. Hodgeson inquired whether Bendle would be losing CD funds by a certain date. She was informed that the funds were transferred and put back into another department.

Mr. Major said this could be handled in next year's budget.

Mrs. Manzardo explained that in the master plan the commission would try to coordinate the facilities between the three school districts. What kind of shape are the tennis courts in at your school?

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Mr. Angle said they are okay, but the nets have been yanked down and the area is used for roller blading or roller hockey, so the tennis courts get very little use for tennis.

A brief discussion continued regarding the tennis courts.

Mr. Hindes said these items should be looked at on a yearly basis instead of putting money out in large amounts.

Mrs. Zelenko then gave a brief overview of the 5 year plan of the Parks and Recreation Commission. She said the idea of the plan was to treat the schools as neighborhood type parks throughout the city so things would be available in each area. This was the focus when the plan was established. Mrs. Zelenko said the church groups have many events taking place that we are not aware of. If we get a parks and rec director, this will help get these things coordinated.

Item #2:

Mr. Hindes said the Veteran's Memorial Park basic guidelines were adopted at our last meeting and they were to be presented to the City Council, but was left off the agenda. There are a couple of items we plan to change, one being the waterfall. We plan to pull all the stones out and fill with black dirt and plant different colored bushes. We are also working on the cannon and it's about two-thirds away from completion. We hope to have it in by next Memorial Day. Mr. Hindes said the walkways are all named, such as Disabled American Veteran Walkway, Veterans of Foreign Wars Walkway, Vietnam Veteran's Walkway. The main walkway coming from the pavilion to the memorial is called the All Veterans Walkway. The signs would be 6"x10" or 6"x12" with the logo, and each sign would cost no more than \$35.00. Mr. Hindes said he would meet with the different Veteran's groups and see if they would be willing to pay for the sign on their walkway. He will advise the commission what their share, if any, will be.

Mrs. Hodgeson asked if the public has been informed that the pavilion may be rented?

Mr. Hindes said the news is out, because someone has already called, requesting to rent the pavilion.

Mrs. Zelenko said we will be asking the Council for their blessing on this and after that we should receive the media's attention.

Mrs. Manzardo suggested that money coming in from the VG's receipts, in the amount of \$50.00, could go towards the cost of the signs. Mrs. Zelenko agreed.

Item #3:

Mr. Major has already given the report on Fire Station #2.

Item #4:

Mrs. Zelenko noted that the representative from Rowe, Inc., is unable to be here today, so we will take care of that later.

Item #5:

Mr. LaDuke said he has a copy of the letter that was drafted with the ideas from the Committee that could be presented to this Body. He asked the members to read the recommendations and then a discussion could be held.

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Mrs. Zelenko read the letter to the audience with the following recommendations:

1. Keep the park passive.

2. Improve the sledding area.
3. Replace grills, tables and add small pavilion
4. Consider adding a restroom (sometime in the future)
5. Meet with the Chairman of the Genesee County Parks Board and see if the county is willing to consider the following:
 - a. Assist on the cost of maintaining the park for five years the city would maintain the park with city staff and the county would contribute half of the cost. (there will be initial cleanup costs and each agency would contribute to the cleanup).
6. In five years review the joint agreement:
 - a. Continue current agreement
 - b. Return back to the county
 - c. City take over control of park and all financial responsibility.

The Committee's recommendation is to maintain the passive atmosphere that's there today.

Mr. LaDuke said the committee thinks we should take one step at a time. Each committee member went through the park. The neighborhood is a well-kept, passive neighborhood and we would like to keep it this way. Possibly we could improve the sledding area. If this took hold and the park was used, then possibly we could put in bathrooms. We need to meet with the County and see what they would be willing to do. This could be a county/city park.

Items #6, #7 and #8 have been addressed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh, asked for clarification on the theory of restructuring the tennis court at Bentley. She asked whether this came from the schools, Kiwanis or where?

Mrs. Zelenko said Mr. Kefgen contacted her because of the joint effort between the school and Kiwanis.

Mrs. Dargel questioned whether Mr. Kefgen was representing the service organization or the school district. She suggested that soccer fields could be put in at Bentley, and the basketball courts could be placed in another location on school property, other than the tennis court area. If the tennis courts are converted to the basketball courts, this will prohibit Bentley from offering tennis to students in the future.

Jan Bolen, 1169 Howe Rd., said she would like to see the tennis courts fixed and redone. She said there is a need to have basketball courts in the Bentley area. I would like to issue discussed at the school board. There is plenty of property for the basketball courts.

Mrs. Zelenko said the Commission may have to address these issues with Bentley Schools.

Mrs. Walls said the joint effort came about because Kiwanis had extra money left in the budget after the scholarships were given to each school. Mr. Kefgen took it upon himself to draw up this plan, but actually we asked him for a plan.

Laurie Tinnin, 2340 Harmony, how much money is available to the other school districts? How about Kearsley?

Mrs. Zelenko said she doesn't have a copy of budget on hand, but she could submit a letter to the commission requesting this information. Mrs. Zelenko also stated that it was the intent of the commission to work in cooperation with the school districts to help improve playgrounds and/or programs, to provide recreation and try to utilize our schools as much as we can as a neighborhood park.

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Mrs. Zelenko said Kearsley School is a part of Burton, but the focus is on the three school districts that are totally within the city limits. This is done because we are a new board and don't want to get in deeper than we should. We may have money go to the other school districts sometime in the future, but didn't want to get overloaded in the first five year plan.

Mrs. Tinnin asked about the roughness of the ground cover (pea rock) at Fire Station #2. She also inquired about a fee to use the pavilion at the Veterans Memorial.

Mrs. Zelenko discussed the reasoning behind the use of pea rock and said it was Mr. Riess' recommendation. In response to the pavilion fee, Mrs. Zelenko noted there is a \$25.00 charge for use.

Mrs. Bolen asked if the cost of converting the tennis courts would be more costly than new ones. Mrs. Zelenko said probably not, because there is no mention of ground preparation and doing surveys. Mrs. Bolen asked if there would be more dollars available for use. Mrs. Zelenko said she isn't certain at this time, but there is a possibility of having funds available sometime in the future.

Mrs. Bolen said she thinks there would be enough people to volunteer their time, which would cut down on the costs.

Mrs. Zelenko reviewed the budget for Parks and Recreation, and stated there is about \$90,500.00 without the CD dollars.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Item #1:

Mrs. Hodgeson asked if there would be anything planned for an opening at Fire Station #1 park and who would be in charge.

Mrs. Zelenko said she understands from Mayor Smiley there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and it will probably be another two weeks before the park opens.

Mr. Major said Joyce is currently working on this project.

Mrs. Hodgeson inquired about the clock being installed at the Water Tower Park and was advised Mr. Perez is in charge of this project.

Item #2:

Mrs. Zelenko said the basic guidelines for the Veterans Memorial have been presented to the Mayor's Office and hopefully it will be placed on the Council agenda within the next couple of meetings.

Mr. Hindes said if anyone see bicycles on the walkway at the Veteran's Memorial, please ask them to stay off, as they are leaving black tire marks all over it.

Mrs. Zelenko inquired about the type of signs that would be installed on the walkways. She is concerned about someone tripping over them if they are sticking up out of the ground. She would rather seem them flat on the walkway itself.

Mrs. Hodgeson suggested having one of the bricks engraved with the walkway name. This would eliminate a tripping hazard..

Mrs. Zelenko said she doesn't think the Commission would be willing to spend money on signs that stand up.

Discussion continued regarding the type of walkway signs to be purchased. Several members requested to see sample of signs prior to them being purchased.

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Mr. Hindes said he would try to get samples for the Commission to review and bring back to the next meeting.

Item #3:

There was no further discussion on Fire Station #2.

Item #4:

Mrs. Zelenko asked for direction from the Commission regarding the Clean Michigan Initiative issue. She asked if this should be removed from the agenda and discussed at a later date. The members agreed to remove the item from the agenda for the time being.

Item #5:

Mrs. Zelenko said we have a copy of the Committee's report and the request will be submitted to the Genesee County Parks. We have invited them to attend our meetings three different times. We've only had a representative attend one meeting.

Mr. LaDuke said a DPW staff person and the Parks Chairperson could set up a meeting with the County Commissioner and meet with the Parks and Recreation Director to ask what their thoughts are regarding Davison Road Side Park. They may tell us there is no joint effort and we will then have to make other decisions.

Mr. Walls said Mr. LaDuke's suggestion is a good one, and as he was on the sub-committee, he could continue on with this issue. I have no problem if he would do this.

Mr. LaDuke said he has no problems meeting with the Chairperson and Mr. Herman.

Discussion continued regarding timeline and meeting with the County.

Mrs. Waterson said she would like to be advised of the meeting so she may also attend.

Mrs. Zelenko thanked the sub-committee for the work they did on the Davison Road Side Park.

Item #6:

Mrs. Zelenko asked for thoughts on the Bentley Tennis Courts and Basketball Courts.

Mrs. Hodgeson said she agrees with the people about not taking away the tennis courts. If they have another area they could build the basketball courts, then they should place them at that location. Maybe we could give them some money to build the basketball courts.

Mrs. Manzardo said the Parks and Rec Director would be more knowledgeable and I would like to know his thoughts on this.

Mr. LaDuke said he doesn't believe the tennis courts are owned by the City. Those are Bentley's tennis courts and it is Bentley that is asking you for the funds, or that portion of it. Atherton has four tennis courts and also had a cooperative program with Bentley to allow Bentley students to play tennis. For whatever reason, Bentley chose not to participate in that joint program anymore, and deprived their students of a tennis team. We are here to make a decision as to whether we want to contribute \$3,000 of Parks and Rec money to a program that Bentley thinks will better serve their community. We need to focus on whether we want to contribute, not whether we want them to change the tennis courts for basketball courts. That decision is up to the school.

Mrs. Zelenko said the Commission's main concern is the fact that the courts were originally built with CD dollars. Do we have the right to take part in a renovation because of the CD dollars? I asked Mr. Kefgen to contact the County, which he did, and they are forwarding the request onto HUD for their recommendation or approval. That's the only hang up I see for us at this point.

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Discussion continued by the Commission members regarding whether the tennis court issue being taken to the Bentley School Board.

Item #7:

Mrs. Zelenko said we will have a presentation made at the August 11th meeting by Bendle School regarding their wants and needs.

Mrs. Manzardo said the Burton Memorial Library and the Senior Citizens Activity Center are now collecting VG's receipts for us.

Mr. Roach asked if Atherton had submitted anything in regards to the Parks and Rec Master Plan. Mrs. Zelenko replied no.

Mrs. Crawford asked if the City of Burton has a soccer field because it is such a growing sport. Mrs. Zelenko replied it is in our plan, but is up to the school districts. The Genesee Christian School has a soccer field and it is used quite regularly.

Mrs. Zelenko said she has copies of activities being offered through the churches and she would have copies made for the rest of the members. She then read the list of the activities being offered. She said she would ask the Mayor about when he will appoint a Parks and Rec Director.

Mr. LaDuke asked if the Parks and Rec would be interested in sponsoring a youth softball tournament for girls 12 and under and boys baseball 12 and under. Other leagues could be brought in and play the teams that are playing at Atherton, and select an all-star team. Also, a coed softball tournament could be held to include the entire family. He said he doesn't think there will be a lot of cost but this is a way to get the Parks and Rec name out into the community.

Dave Roach said he spoke with some of the coaches and they would be interested in participating.

Further discussion was held regarding the possibility of sponsoring the softball tournament and the costs involved.

Mr. Hindes suggested hosting a music in the park, which would be another way of getting our name out to the public.

Mrs. Zelenko said the music in the park could be discussed with the County and we could get more information on sponsoring this type of event.

Mr. Walls said he thinks the Board agrees with Mr. LaDuke about the tournament being a good idea. He asked what is needed from the commission to get this started.

Mr. LaDuke said he would be responsible to get this started and would keep the cost down as much as possible.

Mrs. Zelenko asked Mr. LaDuke to make a report at the next meeting in August regarding the details of the softball tournament.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION: No action was necessary.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION RELATIVE TO OTHER ITEMS OR NEW BUSINESS.

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh, asked for clarification as to Mr. LaDuke's role. He will be a spokesperson, carrying over as a chairman of a committee pertaining to Takeover of the Davison Road Side Park. Mrs. Dargel asked what Mr. LaDuke's mission would be.

Mrs. Zelenko said Mr. LaDuke's role, now that he is no longer the appointed board member from Atherton, is to fill in as the DPW representative in Mr. Major's place. She explained that Mr. LaDuke would help make headway because he has the history of the parks from the City's standpoint and DPW standpoint, and I will be with him. He will present the sub-committee's ideas to the County Commissioner and then present it to the County Park Board. Mrs. Dargel received a copy of the recommendations.

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Mrs. Dargel said she thinks there should be a copy of the Grounds and Building Committee's report or a resolution from Bentley School. She also asked what happened to the boxing equipment, which was purchased with CD dollars in the amount of \$10,513.00. It was in the early 1970's and in 1979 they used the facility involving the Police/Fire building. She asked Mrs. Zelenko, as Council person or Recreation Chairman, if she had some idea of what happened to that equipment.

Mr. LaDuke said Mrs. Dargel is correct. In 1975 the City of Burton had a Police Boxing Team. He said the equipment was disposed of many years ago.

Mrs. Dargel said she was told it was rented to a group that is not housed in Burton. There is a group in Davison at M-15 and Bristol Road.

Mr. Walls commented that it sounds as though Mrs. Dargel has more information on this and asked her if she would fill the board in on the status of this equipment. We will be happy to listen.

Mrs. Dargel replied that she is asking the question in relevance to recreation. Once upon a time the City did spend money for city recreation.

Mr. Walls said Mrs. Dargel suggested the equipment has been rented to the Davison Boxing Group. Can you tell us where this information came from, because I think this should be followed up on. If you have the information, please come forward with it.

Mr. LaDuke said he wasn't aware of the equipment being rented. This issue has nothing to do with this Commission. If Mrs. Dargel is questioning the CD dollars that were spent in the 70's, she could make her inquiries to the City Council.

Mrs. Zelenko said the relevance is that as the Council representative on this Board, if I have the information, I could take the question back to the City Council. I need to know where the information came from.

Mrs. Dargel said the information came from Mr. Becker.

Mrs. Zelenko asked Mrs. Dargel if it was Mr. Becker who led her to believe that the equipment was being rented out.

Mrs. Dargel said yes, because the County has to do a semi-annual audit every two years to account for the equipment.

COMMISSION ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. LaDuke will set up a meeting with the Mr. Herman. Mrs. Zelenko said as long as it is after 3:00 P.M., she would be available to attend the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: August 11, 1999 at 4:00 P.M.

Moved by Walls, seconded by Crawford to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 8-0.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:02 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk

CML