

**Park Board Meeting  
May 5, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Person Jon Blanchard.
2. Roll Call  
Present: Jon Blanchard, Ron Novinska, Jennifer Skibba, Dan Olson, Chad Winklepleck, and Rich Strohmenger  
Absent: David Donovan  
Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director, Gary Disch
3. Welcome David Donovan, Village Representative
4. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary
  - **Novinska nominated Jon Blanchard for Chair. Second by Winklepleck. Motion Carried.**
  - **Olson nominated Ron Novinska for Vice Chair. Second by Winklepleck. Motion Carried.**
  - **Strohmenger nominated Jennifer Skibba for Secretary. Second by Olson. Motion Carried.**
5. Approval of Minutes – 4/7/10  
**Novinska moved to approve the April 7, 2010 minutes. Second by Winklepleck. Motion Carried.**
6. Public Appearances
  - a) Possible Recommendation to the Village Board re: Hillcrest Bible Church use of Jaycee Park – Tabled Heather Kugel was not present
  - b) Discussion and Possible Recommendation to the Village Board re: Request for Port-A-Potty at Rustic Vineyard
    - Dana Leikness requested a Port-A-Potty be placed in Rustic Vineyard Park near the tree line in June and July.
    - The Port-A-Potty would be rented from Badger.
    - Girls Baseball would call Badger to set this up and pay for the rental.
    - Two softball families would watch the Port-A-potty to make sure nothing happens.
    - Four neighbors were asked about the Port-A-Potty and they did not have any objections.
    - The Port-A-Potty would be emptied on Wednesdays.
    - **Olson moved to approve the request for a Port-A-Potty to be placed in the tree line in Rustic Vineyard Park. Second by Novinska. Motion Carried.**
  - c) Discussion and Possible Recommendation to the Village Board re: Update of Trees Planted in the Village and Future Tree Planting Options
    - Kathy Esch updated the Park Board.

- A letter from Kathy with the updates is attached.
  - Kathy also gave a copy of the actual location of the trees that were planted on maps so we can reference the maps for future plantings.
  - Jack Mitchell shared information about maintaining and future plantings.
  - In order for us to work with a local provider, like Winterland, Kathy and Jack would need to know how much money and what types of trees the Park Board is interested in planting by Fall.
  - Jack was concerned about the trees not being pruned properly. Kathy and Jack offered to prune the trees in the parks. The Park Board graciously accepted the offer.
  - Jack's concern is once the trees are bigger the Village would need to pick up the branches after the trees were pruned.
  - Kathy updated the Park Board that the mulch has been moved away from the trunks of the trees that were planted last year.
  - Stakes are not always needed. Kathy and Jack were going to determine what trees needed stakes and store the stakes that are not needed for future plantings.
  - Jack updated the Park Board that the second graders have been planting at Jaycee Park and some of those trees may be ready to transfer to other parks in the future.
- d) Thank You to Project Volunteers
- The Park Board thanked Kathy Esch for all her hard work and dedication. Kathy did a sensational job of planning and organizing the tree planting at the Village Parks.
- e) Lerner Conservation Park – Oregon Rotary – Possible Recommendation to Village Board Eagle Scout Projects – None
- f) Discussion regarding Public Responses to Bergamont Neighborhood Survey, Public Input regarding Survey and Possible Recommendation to the Village Board regarding a Little League Ball Field in Bergamont Park
- The Park Board looked at the copy of the approved survey and compared it to the survey that was distributed. (Copies of the surveys are attached)
  - The Park Board needs to determine if the Park Board is using the survey or another survey will be created and distributed by the Village.
  - The Park Board stated that the Park Board is not trying to stop anything. Redoing the survey makes it as fair as it can be for youth baseball and the neighborhood.
  - Park Board comments included:
    - The first survey had more options.
    - The major objection is with the baseball field.
    - A tainted survey makes for hard feelings.
  - There was a misunderstanding with the survey. The meeting that the survey was approved Dan Dean was looking at the survey on his computer and the Park Board was looking at a hard copy. The hard copy was approved with one revision. The two documents must have been different.
  - Dan Dean commented that we do need more facilities for the youth.

- Mark Mortensen commented on the survey and developing park land.
  - If the field does not go there then where?
  - What is the survey going to accomplish?
    - The Park Board agreed to survey the neighborhood before going forward with the baseball field.
  - The first survey did not go to the gated part of the neighborhood. The second survey will go to everyone in the neighborhood.
  - The goal in the past was to develop parks by adding trees, shelters and ball fields.
  - Would the Park Board be interested in setting aside money to pay for a lawyer to begin preliminary negotiate with possible adjoining properties?
  - Looking at undeveloped land that we can carve this complex.
  - It would take money from the Park Fund to hire an attorney.
    - We would need to identify areas before we pursue.
    - How many acres? 10-15 acres to include parking and water retention.
    - If this would happen would this free up other areas?
    - The 13 and 14 year olds have no fields available in the Oregon Parks.
    - Currently baseball plays on 9 fields.
- A survey by the homeowners association was distributed and a ball field was one of the items the homeowners showed an interest in.
- Baseball was also interested in developing more fields so youth baseball contacted the homeowners association. Historically surveys have been used in decision making in the recent years.
- Surveys are not binding to the Board. The Park Board could move forward without the survey.
- The survey seemed to work at Rustic Vineyards when the neighborhood and the baseball association worked together to create the survey.
- Ed Ruotsinja presented a petition that was signed by neighbors living near the park.
  - The petition stated: The neighbors surrounding the Bergamont neighborhood park DO NOT want a Little League Baseball Field at the Bergamont Park: Signature and Address (Attached)
  - The expectations about how and when the baseball field will be used should be included on the survey.
  - Little League is a structured environment.
- Bridget Nettlesheim was at the Park Board meeting last May of 2009.
  - At that meeting the outfield fence was not included with the proposal.
  - The proposal was to look similar to Rustic Vineyard.
  - The survey should have a better picture with more details.
  - Will there be restrooms or a port-a-potty?
  - Her major concern was the outfield fence.
  - The final plan should be included with the survey
- Jeanne Corcoran was present from the Homeowners Association.

- She was in support of a facilitated discussion/meeting to get questions answered.
- She would like to work together for a common goal.
- Work on putting together a new survey with the right kind of questions.
- Judy Knutson was present to voice her concerns about safety.
  - She is in opposition of the Little League Baseball Field because of safety issues. She currently watches children cross the street and many times she has witnessed children almost getting hit. There are no yellow lines in the area.
  - There are many unanswered questions to move forward.
  - A question about the times the field would be in use.
  - How can the Park Board go forward knowing the zoning issues?
- John Bieno was present from the Rustic Vinyard Dr.
  - He lives near Rustic Vineyard Park and shared that the baseball diamond is a benefit to the community.
  - He enjoys the park getting active use.
- Dana Leikness
  - The problem is bigger than the 1 field.
  - The goal would be to get a complex so Oregon could efficiently hold tournaments.
  - Currently baseball is challenged with the facilities.
  - Youth baseball will loose Huntoon in the next few years and there needs to be a plan.
  - Right now baseball is using what is available and if the problem is not fixed girls will need to get cut.
  - The challenge is where to put a facility.
    - Park Board responded – The facility in Verona took years and millions of dollars.
    - A planner is looking at Keller Alpine Meadows at how to most effectively create more baseball and soccer fields.
- Jennifer Hanson is a resident of the Bergamont Neighborhood.
  - Presented a letter from Dan Flemming. (Attached)
  - She referenced the definition of a Neighborhood Playground on page 5 of the Outdoor Plan.
  - She pointed out that the survey did not say when or how the Little League Field would be used.
- Amy Brauns is a resident in opposition to the Little League Field.
  - There is a need for a facility in Oregon.
  - An organized sport in a neighborhood states the park needs to be 10 to 20 acres.
  - The Little League Field in a neighborhood park does not comply with the recreational outdoor plan.
  - There is no parking.
  - Parking can no solely be on a street for an organized sport.
  - The zoning ordinances state that this is not an option because of the parking issue. (Attached is the zoning ordinance)

- Dan Dean and Pat McGuine spoke for youth baseball.
  - The goal of youth baseball is to provide activities for the youth.
  - Activities in parks usually slows down the traffic.
  - Baseball has been working with the community to provide these opportunities.
  - Oregon does not have a Little League Field.
  - The point is to do something productive and fun for the youth.
  - There is a timeline before some fields are lost.
  - Baseball is looking for a solution.
  - Youth baseball has invested \$12,000.00 in the Village Parks.
  - Youth baseball would be willing to put money towards a facility.
  - Keller Alpine Meadows is more than a two year project.
  - This year registration for youth 10 and 11 was closed and 7 children were turned away.
  - The problem now is no practice fields being opened.
  - The facilities in Oregon our poor compared to surrounding areas.
  - Ideally we would have a facility with multiple fields.
    - The Park Board shared – We appreciate everything Youth Baseball does by providing activities.
    - Is it possible for the sports organizations to come up with a plan?
    - Space is an issue. Keller Alpine Meadows has more than one purpose. Part of the park is not able to be turned into playing fields.
    - This may need we need to reconfigure or purchase land.
    - The facilities in Oregon our poor compared to surrounding areas.
    - The Park Board along with sports organizations need to come up with a long range plan.
- The Park Board asked Girls Fast Pitch representative Dana Leikness how it is working using the field at Rome Corners.
  - She was strongly encouraged to use the field less this year.
  - The games are between 5:00pm to 7:00pm.
  - The 12's are playing on Huntoon field.
    - Park Board Comments – This has been a field since the school was built. It is also in a location that the use should not be so restricted.
- Scott Zagrodnik was present from youth baseball.
  - In the short term the goal is to keep the fields we currently have playable by fixing fences and taking care of the fields.
- The Park Board commented - Something could get started if all the sports organizations had a discussion.
- Mike Chapes is the Athletic Director for Oregon School District.
  - He offered to set up a meeting.
  - Discuss the needs.

- He also suggested that we may not need to buy property. If the village restructures the parks we currently own, the village may have what we need.
- The organizations are looking for a competitive facility, with curb appeal which would also be good for the community.
- It is possible if Jaycee Park is reconfigured.
- The goal is to bring the community more together.
- The results of the meeting would be presented to the strategic planning committee.
- Novinska's professional opinion would be very valuable.
- The important thing is to do the right thing the first time.
- The playground equipment could be relocated within Jaycee Park.
  - The Park Board stated – We would welcome Mike Chapes to facilitate the meeting with the youth organizations.
  - Mike passed a paper around for people to sign up if they were interested in attending the meeting.
  - Jon Blanchard is going to get him the contact list of sport organizations.
  - The meeting will be posted in the Oregon Observer.
  - The tentative date was set for May 19, 2010.
- Conclusion of the discussion – A new survey would be created by using input from a member from the park committee, the homeowner association, and youth baseball.
  - The current survey would not be used in any way.
  - **Olson moved to reject the current survey that was distributed. Second by Winklepleck. Motion Carried.**
  - **Winklepleck moved to have the village create a new survey with input from youth baseball and the homeowners association facilitated by Jon Blanchard from the Park Board. Second by Novinska. Motion Carried.**
  - *Things that need to get looked at:* Does the zoning code present an issue with this park? This will need to get investigated.

## 7. Communication and Miscellaneous Business

- a) Continue Discussion of Status of Dega Park – Tabled
- b) Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Village Board re: Approval of Revised Outdoor Plan
  - Future Plans
    - Jaycee Park may need to get fields reconfigured.
    - Forest View – Add addition landscaping, possible path way, possible connection bridge
    - Bergamont Park – Needs to get reviewed (type of park) and what it offers
  - Page 20 delete Surveys
  - Check acreage of Bergamont Park

- Oregon Middle School fields are no longer informal
- Thank you to Jon Blanchard for all the work and time that went into revising the Outdoor Plan.
- Park Board Members should send Jon feedback on the Revised Outdoor Plan.

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

10. Report of Public Works/Park Department

a) Lion Shelter/Kiser Park

- This shelter is the two story shelter in Kiser Park.
- The high school students are giving it new siding, a roof, and a floor.
- Donations are being collected.
- \$1000.00 has already been donated by youth baseball.
- \$200.00 was donated by the Lions Organization.
- Deb Bossingham is taking care of the donations.

b) Work getting done:

- Benches are going in
- Work is being done on the band shelter
- Working on mowing

11. Items for Future Meetings and Future Assignments

- Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Parks
- Ribbon Cutting for Jefferson Street/North Alpine Parkway Bike/Pedestrian Path and Dedication of Keller Alpine Meadows Park in Fall, 2008
- Discussion of Possibly Establishing Fenced Dog Area
- Jim Lease Merri-Hill 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Identifying an Additional Softball Diamond Instead of Using Rome Corners Intermediate School's Diamond (School District Request) – Andy Weiland
- Anderson County Park with Laura Guyer from Dane County

12. Adjournment

**Skibba moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Second by Winklepleck. Motion Carried.**

Minutes Submitted by Jennifer Skibba