

VILLAGE OF JOHNSBURG
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
March 12, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Sisk
Ellen Bathje (absent)
Cynthia Ducak
Cheri Dory
Jill McEvoy
Rob Gough (absent)
Mike Koeshall (absent)

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Chairman Sisk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Dory moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2012 meeting. Seconded by Committee Member McEvoy – All committee members present voted aye. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Photo Contest:** Chairperson Sisk discussed starting a photo contest similar to what is done in Algonquin as Debbie Swetz suggested. She suggested either having it seasonally or once or twice a year. The committee will decide the frequency based upon the responses they receive. The committee would like to have the contest start in the fall with something included in the current newsletter to make the residence aware of the upcoming competition. The judges for the contest will need to be determined. Committee Member Dory stated that it would make people in the village more aware of the Community Affairs committee.
- **Budget Items:** The Committee would like the lighting in the parking lot to be completed in time for the fall soccer season. Committee Member McEvoy asked about dugouts and if they are already in the budget. It was confirmed that they are. Chairman Sisk mentioned that the boat launch slab is moving significantly and there is a need to extend the pier. She stated that the work to the slab will need to be completed in the fall but the extension to the pier can be completed now. Committee Member Dory mentioned that concrete was donated in the past and she would like to see if anyone would donate it. Committee Member McEvoy mentioned past discussions of installing a basketball court at Hiller Park and questioned if that option could be revisited as the court at Sunnyside Park is used a lot. The committee discussed adding a line item to the budget for events. Celebration in the Park has made money in the last couple of years and the left over funds were used for Meet and Greet Santa. Committee Member McEvoy mentioned that Meet and Greet Santa may

need to be moved because of its popularity and the other committee members agreed. If the event is moved, it may cost money. A suggestion was made to move it to the Community Club or discuss the option with the library. Committee McEvoy would like it to become bigger and possibly have the Lions Club sell their wreaths and maybe have tree sales. The committee agreed to discuss it with Community Club, Library and Lions Club for their input. Chairman Sisk stated that she will prepare the figures and provide them to the Trustee Hutchinson within the next couple of weeks.

- **Chairman's Report:** Chairperson Sisk handed out the Chairman's report for review and informed the committee that the Village has hired two new police officers, Kevin Del Ray and Vincenzo LaMantagna.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Running Brook Farms:** Chairperson Sisk stated that she thought there was more than \$47,615 available for park improvements. She stated that the proposed project is not big enough to pursue the grant that was discussed. The committee discussed pursuing the project in phases with the first phase being excavation and the pavilion. They questioned if the subdivision would consider a fundraising event for a playground and agreed to pursue feedback from the subdivision. Chairperson Sisk stated that Tim Hartnett has a survey of the land. She reported that the shelter will be close to \$20,000. The committee agreed that they need to determine the cost to prepare the park for improvements and then research a plan for a playground/work out circuit. Chairperson Sisk stated that she will work on getting numbers from Mr. Hartnett to compile the costs. Chairperson Sisk suggested that the residents of the subdivision receive an invitation to a future meeting and have Mr. Hartnett in attendance.
- **Hiller Park dugouts:** Chairperson Sisk reported that there had been concerns regarding the roofing of the dugouts as they were originally proposed to sit on the fence, strapped to the wood. Bill Swartzloff did some research and the board approved a more stable roof design. The fencing is up and roofs will be completed this spring. Chairman Sisk reported that the labor was going to be completed in house but it has since been decided that AMB roofing is going to install the roofs for \$12,742. The roofs were originally budgeted at \$12,000 but it was decided the additional dollars to have AMB install the roof was money well spent. The roof color will be brown to match the bathroom and concessions.
- **User Maintenance Agreement:** Due to unexpected issues coming up, Chairperson Sisk would like to have the User Maintenance Agreement completed and sent out to the organizations even if it does not include user fees this season. An issue arose in that the football league requested the use of Hiller Park for a spring season of 7 on 7. The league team wanted to use the fields at Hiller Park for practice however White Lightning had already arranged to use them while they are reseeding Sunnyside Park. Chairperson Sisk sent the football organization an email and reiterated the plans for the park stressing the space limitations Both Ms. Peters and Chairperson Sisk made it clear to the organization

that soccer had already scheduled Hiller Park. Chairperson Sisk mentioned the need to get the user maintenance agreement completed to avoid this conflict in the future. She suggested additional language for the User Maintenance Agreement which reflects how many fields the Village has, where they are and the type of field. Audrey Ullrich stated that she would like it noted that the soccer organization has put money into the fields from their own fund raising efforts and they are planning to repair the area of Hiller Park they are using this spring. It was agreed by the committee that the park matrix needs to be merged into the User Maintenance Agreement. All organizations have a current copy of the park matrix. Chairperson Sisk stated that she will update the park matrix and include it with the User Maintenance Agreement. Committee Member Dory inquired about land in Ringwood as White Lightning used to play there. Audrey Ullrich suggested that the football organization pursue that option. Committee Member McEvoy made a motion to add language in the User Maintenance Agreement to be more specific about field usage. Seconded by Committee Member Dory. All committee members present voted aye.

The Committee reviewed a report detailing the cost of field maintenance which includes the cost of mowing and maintenance. Chairperson Sisk stated her goal is to make sure the user fee is not too expensive since some organizations already invest money into the fields. The cost for mowing both parks is \$20,000 per year. It was discussed that the Committee can impose a per hour, per kid, or per year fee and want to do it in fair manner. Committee Member McEvoy suggested taking the number of events, divided by the cost of field maintenance and dividing that by teams to see what it would look like.

A concern was expressed by the committee that if a fee is imposed, the organizations may stop contributing to the fields designated to them. It was agreed that even if there is not a fee charged to local organizations, a fee should be charged to outside organizations that use the Village's fields. Audrey Ullrich mentioned that when fees are being assessed, it should be taken into account that baseball fields are more difficult to cut than soccer fields because they need more manual cutting. She also mentioned that any fees that are charged will be passed onto the children whose parent already pay for them through taxes.

- **Community sign:** Chairperson Sisk reported that the board authorized the purchase of 2300 bulbs for the Community sign. She explained that it was in the capital budget and the Village would like to eventually get a new sign. Chairman Sisk wanted to touch base with the committee to see if anyone has thought about it. She stated she will bring in books listing the various signs available for the group to look at. Committee Member McEvoy would like to see the sign more centrally located. Chairperson Sisk stated they are not planning on moving it, just updating the sign.

Because of the election, the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th. Chairman Sisk stated she will reach out to the committee to check availability.

ADJOURNMENT

- Committee Member McEvoy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Ducak. All committee members present voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marikay Gebis