Council Chambers, Spring Grove, Illinois, April 26, 2016; a meeting of the Parks Committee was held this date at 6:00 p.m., at the Municipal Centre, 7401 Meyer Road, Chairperson McMahon presiding.

Call to Order. The following members were present: Chairperson Bob McMahon and Members Jim Anhalt, Mark Eisenberg, Jeff Letzter, Pat Mazzanti and Lloyd Simonson – 6. Absent: Randy Vinyard - 1. Also present for the Village were Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk; Judy Olson, Village Treasurer; Mike Ringler, Public Works Crew Leader; Tom Sanders, Chief of Police/Executive Assistant; Sgt. Jason Hintz, Police Department and Sgt. Stanley St. Clair, Police Department.

New Business.
Discuss Spring Grove Park Concession Stand. The committee discussed several options for the concession stand building which is in need of major repairs. Options included tearing it down and building a smaller storage shed for the village, spending a few thousand dollars doing minor repairs or doing a major overhaul updating the electrical, putting on a new roof and siding and re-framing interior walls to give the village more storage space for about $13,000. The roof has been patched temporarily so it is no longer leaking. It was brought up that the village doesn’t have a Park District so it is up to the village to invest in its youth by maintaining parks buildings. Member Mazzanti who was involved with RBBA in the past said enrollment in baseball is down, but RBBA used to make a lot of money off concessions. Football used to store equipment there but now they use the building at Thelen Park. It was noted that the baseball fields at this park are smaller than the ones at Thelen Park so younger players play there. Members Anhalt & Simonson were of the same opinion to make minor repairs or tear it down, while the other members were more in favor of making an investment and fixing the building. After more discussion, it was decided to table the decision until it can be determined how valuable the building still is to RBBA and if they would be willing to contribute to repairs. Fundraising could also raise some money. If it is decided to go forward with repairs, Public Works will do the work in the fall and winter. Someone will contact RBBA officials and ask them to attend the next Parks meeting on May 31.

Discuss bleachers at Spring Grove Park and Thelen Park. Two quotes were received by the village to put safety fencing on the bleachers but RBBA is scheduled to meet with Shogren Fence Company this week for another quote so a decision will be held off until the Village Board meeting on May 3.
Public Comment. Resident Richard Seil asked when Spring Dale Trails Park will be open again. He likes to walk his elderly dogs there but the chain across the drive prevents him from being able to park there. Chairperson McMahon said they will open it tomorrow.

Resident Brandon Pope expressed concern about the bike jumps and trails he and his friends built on land leased by the village at Thelen Park. The property owner wants the jumps demolished and Mr. Pope asked for the village’s okay to build them somewhere else on village property. The Committee’s main concern was liability and will have staff research if the village’s premiums would go up if it is allowed. There is a possible spot for a bike trail at the northeast corner of Thelen Park and a project coming up this summer will have excess dirt that could be used to build hills. If allowed, Member Mazzanti would like users of the trail to become more involved in the community and volunteer at events like the 4th of July. Discussion will resume at the May Parks meeting.

Other Business. A message was received from Boy Scout Chris Williams that the foundation for the Purple Heart Memorial at Horse Fair Park will be filled in with stone this week but he is not hearing back from the supplier of the monument. He is hoping to install it this weekend, but if not, by May 7th with landscaping done by then, too.

Chairperson McMahon informed the Committee that the fishing piers and railings are twisting and splitting at Hatchery Park. Bracing has been installed for now but the wood will have to be stripped down to the steel frame and rebuilt with composite material. When questioned if the piers were built incorrectly, he stated that more fasteners and bolts would have probably helped but because of the water and sun beating down on the wood, it was inevitable for this to happen. The contractor did fix at his expense the south pier on the large pond that heaved.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk