MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE OF SPRING GROVE
AUGUST 29, 2017

Council Chambers, Spring Grove, Illinois, August 29, 2017; a meeting of the Parks Committee was held this date at 6:01 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, Lloyd Simonson, and Randy Vinyard – 6. Absent: Member Pat Mazzanti - 1. Also present for the Village were Bob Walczak, Building & Zoning Officer; Judy Olson, Village Treasurer; Matt Wittum, Public Works Supervisor; Mike Ringer, Public Works Crew Leader; Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk; Jason Hintz, Police Sergeant; and Tom Sanders, Chief of Police/Executive Assistant.

New Business. Discuss the village’s role in the 4th of July activities. Chairperson McMahon said Member Mazzanti requested that this discussion be postponed until he can be part of it as he is the President of the 4th of July Committee. The reason for the discussion is that village employees had to spend several days cleaning up the parks and roads after the festivities. Because of the lack of volunteers, the village is absorbing more costs every year as more help is requested with set-up and clean-up. Chairperson McMahon asked the committee members to think about how much assistance they feel the village should give in both labor and monetarily.

Discuss general maintenance at all parks. Chairperson McMahon informed the committee that the Public Works department has been stretched to the limit trying to keep up with parks maintenance. The list of projects at each park continues to grow. The Hatchery Park building has a roof leak, the chimney needs to be tuckpointed and the siding repaired, not to mention sink holes, pier repairs and tree trimming. All parks need tree work, field repair, building maintenance, and more. He would like to have one public works employee assigned to parks only. The practicality of having many small parks in subdivisions was discussed. This type of plan was halted years back after the village realized the maintenance issues.

The meeting was suspended at 6:10 to start the Finance meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:29.

Some suggestions to free up the department were outsourcing mowing, having the sports organizations mow sports parks and hiring seasonal workers. Member Vinyard said he wanted to start a program where young people home from college could earn scholarships from RBBA for cutting grass and grooming sports fields. He thinks he can get a donation of a professional landscape mower for them to use.

It was decided next year to hire two college-age individuals as summer helpers at an hourly rate of $11 and one older seasonal worker to work from April – November. Member Eisenberg also
would like to see some parks projects addressed in the winter or off-season and appreciates the idea from RBBA to offer scholarships in return for work at the parks.

**Discuss the alarm system at Thelen Park.** The committee discussed possible updates to the alarm system.

**Discuss trees in various parks.** There are many diseased and dying trees in the parks. Some can be handled by the public works crew but some are just too large. They will need a $10,000 line item budget in 2018 to cover the costs next year. Crew Leader Ringler said the estimates for tree work varies widely and they received a good estimate from a local company to do some work.

**Update on Spring Dale Trails Park.** The playground equipment that had to be moved because of the proposed new water tower is ready to be reinstalled and is on the schedule.

**Presentation from the Jake Vinyard Foundation.** Randy Vinyard, representing the Jake Vinyard Foundation, stated the Foundation was created in memory of his son Jake, who died from suicide. The non-profit’s slogan is #JVStrong and the campaign is Pay It Forward. Jake loved baseball so the foundation started a baseball tournament in 2016 which is played at Thelen and Spring Grove Parks. A new goal is to help communities rebuild baseball fields that need repair. They will be coming up with a plan in 2018 to rebuild the baseball fields in Spring Grove Park in 2019. Mr. Vinyard then presented the village with a limited edition commemorative baseball bat from the 2017 Jake Vinyard Memorial Tournament.

**Public Comment.** Rick Graves, president of the Stateline Comets Football, outlined some clean-up projects his group performed at Thelen Park in advance of a football jamboree held in August. He was informed that public works made some repairs at the base of the light posts installed by the Comets. Mr. Graves felt the community should work with the village in helping with parks maintenance by volunteering their time. Member Eisenberg agreed and said although it’s hard to get volunteers these days, the village would be happy to work with anyone or any group willing to donate their time.

**Other Business.** None.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Simonson moved, seconded by Member Vinyard to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. On voice vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk