MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE
OF THE VILLAGE OF SPRING GROVE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

Council Chambers, Spring Grove, Illinois, September 26, 2017; a meeting of the Parks Committee was held this date at 6:04 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, Lloyd Simonson, and Randy Vinyard – 7. Also present for the Village were Bob Walczak, Building & Zoning Officer; Mike Gajewski, Planning & Zoning Chairperson; Matt Wittum, Public Works Supervisor; Mike Ringer, Public Works Crew Leader; Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk; Judy Olson, Village Treasurer; 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. Members of the 4th of July Committee were in attendance. Chairperson McMahon stated the 4th of July celebration is a Spring Grove tradition that the Parks Committee doesn’t want to see end. He and President Eisenberg were on the 4th of July Committee for many years and they realize the time and commitment it takes to put on the event. In years past the bulk of the work was done by the 4th of July Committee and their volunteers. However; the number of volunteers has dwindled and the village’s role and costs have increased. This year, in addition to the pre-festivity duties, Public Works employees and even the Building Inspector spent several days afterwards cleaning up the parks and roads.

Member Mazzanti, who is also the 4th of July President, said they have 50 volunteers including NHS students, the Comets football team and Girl and Boy Scouts to help. He said many community organizations are also part of the festivities, selling food, helping with games etc. and the event gives them the opportunity to highlight their organization. The biggest issue is getting more volunteers. 4th of July Secretary Kelly Popelka noted they held two volunteer recruitment meetings but no one showed up. They will continue to actively pursue new volunteers but also plan to call a temp staffing agency to hire people to pick up trash to keep the streets and grounds clean during the festivities and to hire traffic control help instead of using Police Officers. Hiring outside security is too expensive. It was suggested that Public Works shouldn’t be responsible for picking up the day after the 4th. Mark Mahalo, a member of the 4th of July Committee, noted he was there on the 5th to help with clean-up in the bar area where he volunteers, but said he will take full responsibility for setting up and taking down the bar and clean-up in that area next year.

The Parks Committee agreed that they want to see the event continue but are concerned with the rising costs and labor contributions of the village. One suggestion to hold down the cost was to cut the festivities back to only the parade or fireworks but it was the consensus of both committees for now to continue the festivities as is. The 4th of July Committee is committed to finding new committee members and volunteers, hiring additional help, and improving
communications so everyone knows what their specific job duties are each day. This will alleviate some costs to the village and duties now performed by the Public Works and Police Departments.

**Public Comment.** Dave Rudolph, representing the SnoGrovers Snowmobile Club asked the committee for their approval to allow them to continue putting up trail signs around some parks in the village. It was noted that the SnoGrovers volunteer and help the community in many ways. Permission was granted.

**Other Business.** None.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Eisenberg moved, seconded by Member Mazzanti to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. On voice vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk