MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE
OF THE VILLAGE OF SPRING GROVE
FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Council Chambers, Spring Grove, Illinois, February 27, 2018; a meeting of the Parks Committee was held this date at 6:05 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, Lloyd Simonson and Randy Vinyard – 4. Absent: Members Jeff Letzter and Pat Mazzanti – 2. Also present for the Village were Matt Wittum, Public Works Supervisor; Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk; Judy Olson, Village Treasurer; and Tom Sanders, Chief of Police/Executive Assistant.

New Business. Address from Steve Thelen regarding Vern & Bunny Thelen Family Park. Mary Beth Varak, sister to Steve Thelen, said Steve sent his regrets on not being able to attend the meeting and asked her to speak in his place. She said the family is so pleased with the beautiful new monument sign at the park and feel it is a great honor to their parents Vern and Bunny who were so happy to be part of such a great community. Chairperson McMahon said the Public Works Department did all the work, constructing the stone pillars and installing the base and sign. He also complimented the Comets organization and their president, Rick Graves, who was in attendance, for all the work they have done at the park. Mary Beth and Steve’s wife, Diana, then presented Chairperson McMahon and President Eisenberg with a donation to purchase landscaping for the sign.

Discussion and recommendation for approval of the 2018 Field Usage Agreement with the Stateline Comets. It was added to the agreement that the renting of the facilities by the Stateline Comets to any individual, group or organization is strictly prohibited. Member Eisenberg moved, seconded by Member Anhalt to recommend the approval of the 2018 Field Usage Agreement with the Stateline Comets.

Public Comment. None.

Other Business. Comets President Rick Graves said the bleachers at Thelen Park will be inspected this spring and any work still needed will be finished. There is still a problem with drainage on the football field. The Comets have the people and equipment to fix it and can buy the seed, but they need direction. Supervisor Wittum will get some professional opinions on what to do.

Rick Graves introduced Dan Schwab, who runs baseball for the adult baseball league for the 20+ team called the Orioles, which is under the Fox Valley Men’s Adult baseball league. Mr. Schwab wanted to discuss the new Athletic Field Fee Schedule. His team practices once a week on Wednesdays and plays games on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for a total of twelve
games with playoffs. They pay $3,000 to the Fox Valley League for umpires and insurance but the league doesn’t pay for their field fees. The Orioles have paid $360 for the last ten years to RBBA. He also noted that the Orioles would rent out Spring Grove baseball fields that RBBA rented to them to other teams for an additional fee than what they paid, but now realize these teams will have to schedule the fields and pay the Village directly. He was told that renting out the fields to other teams violates the village’s Field Usage Agreement and that it is illegal to rent out village property without permission of the village.

His team is looking for a reduction of the new $60/game and $30/practice fee as they consider themselves a “Spring Grove” team. Some of the team members do not live in the village. Most graduated from Richmond Burton Community High School and still consider Spring Grove their hometown but are not current residents. He said they also helped build the big legion field ten years ago and have volunteered a lot of time there.

Member Eisenberg said the village wants to take control of the parks because the village didn’t know who was renting the fields and wasn’t getting all the rental fees owed. Many people donated time and money to build the park, but now it needs to be maintained and there is still a $45,000 loan on the property that must be paid. The Orioles are no longer a youth league or even a college league.

The idea was discussed that if 75% or more of the team lived in Spring Grove there could be a reduction in fees. A roster would have to be submitted and an amendment to the new ordinance would have to be drafted. However, the Committee has been counseled in the past to avoid any special agreements that could be considered favoritism. The village’s attorney will be consulted, and the topic will be discussed again before any decision is made.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Frumet, Deputy Clerk