

VILLAGE OF PLOVER
Parks Development Committee
Wednesday, October 19, 2011
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Fred LaRosa, Bob Brush, Mike McGinley, Jerry Krueger, Steve Fritz
Gary Portzen, Kraig Brooks

Others Present: Roy Hopfensperger, Dan Mahoney, Debbie Sniadajewski

1. Mr. Fritz called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
2. Mr. Krueger moved, Mr. LaRosa seconded, to approve the July 6, 2011 minutes as printed. Motion carried.
3. Persons wishing to address the Committee.
4. Discussion and possible action regarding west t-ball field relocation at Iber Park. Mr. Mahoney stated that over time there have been a number of complaints from the Adams Street area residents regarding parking on the Adams Streets, which has impacted access to their property, negatively impacted clear vision at intersections, and resulted in trespassing on private property. In addition, the distance of the bathroom facilities from the west field has resulted in some youths using the woods rather than taking the time to go to the restrooms. As such, the Village is considering removing the westernmost tee ball field from Iber Park.

Roy Hopfensperger met with PWYA President Craig Giese on site to discuss the removal of the tee ball field. Mr. Giese preferred relocating the field to the east end of the park rather than eliminating the field. Mr. Giese showed Mr. Hopfensperger where PWYA would prefer to relocate the tee ball field, which was marked with a wooden lathe. Iber Park currently has space for 2 soccer fields, although soccer games have not been scheduled at the Park for more than 5 years. Relocating the tee ball field as proposed by PWYA would result in the elimination of one soccer field. Mr. Mahoney suggested removal of the westernmost tee ball field for the 2012 season to see if the two other east fields would be sufficient at this park. After the 2012 season PWYA would be requested to report to Village staff regarding how the loss of the tee ball field affected the PWYA program and if there is a need to replace the field in 2013 (at this or another location). Mr. Mahoney stated that this option would give PWYA time to see determine how they will manage the tee ball program from a longer term perspective, while meeting the Village's desires to cost effectively maintain Village Parks and facilities.

Mr. Fritz asked if it was okay with PWYA to remove the west field. Mr. McGinley stated that they definitely would like to see the west field stay, but PWYA understands where the Village is coming from. Mr. Brooks asked if the west field could be retained if it were not used for the tee ball program. Mr. Schlutter responded that given input from the neighborhood, the west field should be removed from Iber Park.

Mr. Krueger moved to remove the west t-ball field at Iber Park and wait until the close of the 2012 season for PWYA to come back to the committee with comments. Mr. McGinley seconded and the motion carried.

5. Review 2012 Capital Improvement Projects. Mr. Hopfensperger went over the Parks Capital Improvement Fund for 2012 with total annual expenditures of \$80,050. Mr. Fritz questioned the increase in cost of wood chips from \$400 to \$450. Mr. Hopfensperger stated that the Village is required to have certified graded wood chips in our parks system. Costs run \$20.00 per cubic yard (truck load is 22.5 cu. yds.) and we use two truck loads. Staff was conservative in putting down \$450.00 to allow for price increases. Mr. McGinley asked if staff has ever looked at rubber chips. Mr. Hopfensperger stated that they were considered years ago, but the cost was much higher than the wood chips. Mr. Brush asked if they are treated wood chips. Mr. Hopfensperger stated that they are not treated but are manufactured chips which the company is required to stand behind for liabilities purposes.

Mr. Mahoney recommended that the Parks Development Committee recommend to the Village Board approval of the Parks Budget for 2012. Mr. Mahoney stated that at this time 100% of the budget is funded by room tax dollars and park fees. He noted that the Swiderski development accounted for the dollar increase in Impact Fees this year.

*****RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE BOARD*** Mr. Portzen moved that the Parks Development Committee recommend to the Village Board approval of the Parks Budget for 2012. Mr. LaRosa seconded and the motion carried.**

6. Urban Forestry Management/Emerald Ash Borer Plan Update. Mr. Mahoney stated that the purpose of this item on the agenda was to seek input from the public and to update the Community on the Village's progress regarding the Urban Forestry Management Plan, the Emeralds Ash Borer readiness Plan, and the educational pamphlet.

Mr. Mahoney stated that the DNR encouraged the Village to do an Urban Forestry Management Plan. The document drafts are complete and have been submitted to the DNR for review and comment. The Village received a grant from the DNR for this project. 50% of the costs for this project are being funded by the DNR grant. This project has been good and has provided the Village with:

- ✓ An Urban Forestry Management Plan;
- ✓ An Inventory of all park trees and street trees within the Village right of way;
- ✓ A Tree Keeper Software Program to evaluate our trees and what needs to be done. In turn the Public Works Department keeps them updated on maintenance of all trees. The program will target priority areas based on tree conditions;
- ✓ The program will target future planting opportunities on Hoover Avenue and Business 51.
- ✓ Development of an Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan.

The Plan identifies all ash tree locations and targets them for removal, based on priorities such as tree condition. Mr. Krueger asked if there are a lot of ash trees within the Village. Mr. Mahoney stated that there are a number of ash trees in Village Parks and rights-of-way (168 ash trees, which is 7.8% of the total trees in these areas). Mr. Mahoney appointed out that an inventory of ash trees was not performed on private property. Mr. Mahoney stated that it is the Village's goal to eventually remove all ash trees and replace with other species on properties owned by the Village. Mr. Brush asked if the DNR has advised staff on how to dispose of diseased trees. Mr. Mahoney stated that the DNR has guidelines for tree removal and that the Village has developed a brochure for use by property owners that will provide them with guidance of the subject. Mr. Brush asked if staff plans to address ash trees on private properties. Mr. Mahoney stated that private property owners will be responsible for meeting DNR requirements and removing ash trees on their property. Mr. Brush asked if the Village would be contracting the work for tree removal. Mr. Mahoney stated that staff would do as much as they can in-house. Mr. Mahoney noted that DNR funding could also include Village tree removal costs and that the Village may be able to apply unused grant dollars towards the purchase of necessary equipment for tree maintenance and removal.

7. Mr. Krueger moved, Mr. LaRosa seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:41pm. Motion carried.