

WALKER ROAD PARK  
AD HOC COMMITTEE  
Minutes of a Meeting held  
October 29, 2020

Present: Bay Village Councilmen Peter J. Winzig, David L. Tadych, Thomas J. Kelly  
Bay Village Councilwoman Lydia DeGeorge  
Avon Lake Mayor Greg Zilka  
Avon Lake President of Council Marty O'Donnell  
Avon Lake Councilwoman Billie Jo David, Councilman Mark Spaetzel (Zoom)  
Jon Liskovec, Director of Public Service and Properties Bay Village  
Dan Enovitch, Recreation Director, Bay Village

Audience: Dan Straitiff, 31032 Manchester Lane, Bay Village

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at the Bay Village City Hall by Councilman Pete Winzig, Chairman of the Recreation and Parks Improvement Committee of the City of Bay Village.

Avon Lake President of Council Marty O'Donnell introduced the new Avon Lake Member of Council, Billie Jo David. Mark Spaetzel, former Police Chief of the City of Bay Village, is also a new member of the Avon Lake City Council and attended this evening's meeting via Zoom.

**Bay Village Chairman Pete Winzig** welcomed everyone to this Ad Hoc Walker Road Park Committee meeting. Mr. Winzig noted that he is the Bay Village Council Chair of the Recreation and Parks Improvement Committee of Council, and also oversees the committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Billie Jo David, the Ward 1 representative for the City of Avon Lake, introduced herself to the Committee, noting that she was appointed to her position as Council representative in March of this year. Her duties include representing the City of Avon Lake on the Walker Road Park Ad-Hoc Committee, serving as Chairman on the Avon Lake side. She also oversees the Natural Resources and Environmental Committee of the City of Avon Lake Council.

Retention Basin Expansion Project

**Bay Village Director of Public Service and Properties Jon Liskovec** stated that he has discussed the Retention Basin Expansion Project with Avon Lake Service Director Joe Reitz. The bid package is now being completed by Mr. Reitz in preparation of the advertisement for bids in November, with review and award of contract expected in early 2021. Construction should begin in late winter or early spring.

Mr. Winzig asked if there are any changes to the retention basin expansion plans. Mr. Liskovec stated that he has not reviewed all of the specifications, but has not heard anything significant regarding a change in the plans.

Mr. Winzig noted that part of the project plan was to use some of the fill, both in Walker Road Park and also in Cahoon Memorial Park.

Mr. Liskovec stated that they are still looking to have fill for Cahoon Memorial Park, south of Harvey Yoder Parkway, but would have to talk further with Director Reitz about the Walker Road Park, and any specific plans for fields improvements.

Mr. Tadych asked if the Kopf new construction is going to be a factor in this effort of the retention basin project.

Mr. Liskovec stated that the new Kopf construction will not be a factor.

Mr. Tadych asked where the construction by Kopf is in regard to drainage with the new tile being installed.

Mayor Zilka stated that he does not believe that is a problem. Mr. Winzig stated that he believes the water will flow to the north catch basin, located along Walker Road, not south, which is good for the city property.

Mr. Winzig stated that there was some talk potentially about installing a sprinkler line. It wasn't definitive because it was based on some issues there were from the existing water mains to try to keep that operational and potentially tied into a water bottle filling station and a drinking fountain. In the minutes of the last meeting there were some issues that were pointed out. Mr. Winzig asked if this is still under consideration for next year.

Mr. Liskovec stated that it is all contingent upon the Kopf development to the north. It is a three-phase project, and there is a loop factor that would be needed for water lines. He has to have all three of his water lines in and that would then create the opportunity for a tie-in. That is still scheduled for the third phase and Mr. Liskovec will talk to Director Reitz about this as far as timing. He thinks that would be sometime in 2021 that Kopf Construction would proceed with that and looking at 2022 for those potential watering line improvements in the park. That will give the cities this year to actually put a plan together and how broad or narrow of a stroke to take.

Ms. David stated that she did talk with Director Reitz today and he said that Avon Lake Regional Water is still willing to donate the water bottle stations and possibly help with the water lines.

Mr. Tadych asked if there will be an impact on the budget to connect the water lines. Mr. Liskovec stated that the main loop for the connection will be part of the Kopf development. There will be a cost for the connection, but that would not be undertaken until 2022. The water lines have to be in place first. Mr. Winzig confirmed with Mr. Liskovec that it would be necessary to tap off the lines once they are in place. He asked if that would affect the drinking fountain issue as far as the pressure that is needed. Mr. Liskovec stated that once it is all done that would be left up to the Avon Regional Water Authority to make the determination about the distance and safety. If the distance from the main is too far the water becomes non-potable at some point.

Mr. Winzig commented that it does not appear anything needs to be included in the budget for 2021.

#### Agreed Upon Field Maintenance Repairs/Upgrades

Mr. Winzig stated that there has been discussion about a number of ideas as far as shutting fields down, moving playing surfaces so there would be room to work on a couple of different field improvements. When Mr. Winzig was there a week ago, he noted that one of the fields had physically been moved to the east side of the entryway, and there was maintenance underway on Field 2.

Mr. Liskovec stated that the crews did some work on the field on the western end of the property and the field to the south of that field.

Mr. Winzig asked if those are the completed improvements for this fall, or is there more work to be done.

Mr. Liskovec stated that with soccer fields there is always work to be done. At some point in time they all should be touched. This fall the fields were aerated and received an application of a top-dressing mixture highly designed for athletic fields. A pilot program was done last year when they created their own mix, but they used a new product this year on the second field at Walker Road Park, that went down nicely and there seems to be a dramatic improvement, after over-seeding and fertilizing.

Mr. Winzig asked if there is anymore that can be done this fall. Mr. Liskovec stated that there is nothing more to be done this fall due to the amount of heavy rain and the falling temperatures.

Mr. Winzig stated that we talk about fixing the fields and then find out it is too wet in the spring, and in the summer it is too dry, so we lose the summer opportunity, in the fall it is too wet again to do anything and they don't get repaired. Mr. Winzig stated that he is hoping there will be some better improvements. Mr. Winzig asked Recreation Director Enovitch and Director of Public Service Liskovec what the Ad-Hoc Committee can do to improve the playing surface at Walker Road Park.

Mr. Liskovec stated that this year they had a chance to address two playing fields. One was done very thoroughly. Mr. Liskovec stated that there is high demand, and not enough real estate to spread out the demand. That is the struggle we deal with every season. Soccer is a very active program with a lot of participants, demanding a lot of space.

Mr. Winzig stated that the season was closed in the spring and summer, and there was a very short season this fall, asking if there anything else either one of our cities can do to improve this surface. Mr. Winzig hears from the referees and the soccer players that it is extremely uneven and an unsafe playing surface. It can function, but it is not ideal. Mr. Winzig would like to make it as best as we can. We all have the passion to do it; but it doesn't seem to get fixed.

Mayor Zilka stated that he had a discussion with Director Reitz about this in the early spring. Mayor Koomar and Mr. Reitz met this week and talked about the generalities. Mayor Zilka expressed agreement that it is very frustrating when you finally get in between the rains. It is difficult, but you just have to make a commitment to do it and hopefully the weather will cooperate.

Ms. David asked if the drainage in the area is adequate, noting that the drainage makes a difference in the quality of the field.

Mr. Liskovec stated that from what he has seen the drainage seems adequate. The fields get a lot of use, but in the end, it is a park. You have to try to keep people off the fields. That is a challenge. The crews state that the drainage is the best that can be expected. This year we placed a more organic type blend and in time if we continue on with that there will be some dramatic improvements. Aerating has been done in the spring and in the fall, and again in the fall when the renovation work was done. Mr. Reitz has a fertilization program that is also key. He noted that Bay Village started leaf collection season this week, and this is the first time that we have had rain all week long. In years' past we could go almost full season without rain and had warmer temperatures.

Mr. Winzig stated that it seems as though from a budgeting standpoint, the money is there as needed to purchase fertilizer and the crews have been actively working the fields. Bay Village is going into their budget season for next year. He asked if there is anything Mr. Liskovec would recommend that should go into the Service Department or Recreation Department budget that would help.

Mr. Liskovec stated that there is a shared account that Mr. Enovitch and he both manage for parks. He would ask for more materials, such as the top dressing mixes, fertilizers, seeds, and all the things that add up when covering larger areas.

Mr. Winzig asked about the grass cutting. Mr. Liskovec stated that Bay Village does a lot of the cutting.

Mr. Tadych noted that the three members of the Walker Road Park Ad Hoc Committee from Bay Village are also on the Bay Village Finance Committee, which is why the funds are a large concern.

Mr. Winzig commented that the recycling containers were taken care of last year. A letter was received from a young lady who was visiting the park for a soccer match and did not find any recycling containers in the park. After she wrote a letter to Council, the containers were placed in the park.

#### Chimney Swift Project

Mr. Winzig asked if the chimney swift project is slated for Walker Road Park.

Mr. Liskovec stated that it will be installed at Walker Road Park but there have been setbacks this year due to the pandemic. The construction of the structure is being completed and weather permitting it will be installed within the next two weeks. It will be located in the vicinity of the other educational features, e.g., the butterfly garden and a storm water informational board.

Funds were donated by Bay Village residents for this project. The Chimney Swift is a type of bird that nests on the sidewalls of chimneys. Mr. Liskovec is working with the donors to create appropriate signage.

Mr. Tadych stated that there was discussion about more than one of the chimney structures. The donor was going to try to get additional donations. Mr. Liskovec stated that the donor is looking to continue the movement for additional structures and is having the expenses tracked to see how close the expense for construction matches the donation. Mr. Tadych stated that it would be nice if the Avon Lake people found someone who wanted to have one built as well. Information from the minutes when the donation was made in Bay Village will be sent to Avon Lake officials.

### Miscellaneous

Ms. David reported that a solar powered pump will be installed this winter for the butterfly garden.

The Fishing with Friends program was very successfully held over the summer. The park was very crowded and popular with fishing this season. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is going to do a count and restocking this spring of fish in the retention basin.

In regard to the deer management program, twenty percent of Avon Lake controlled culling came from the Walker Road Park location. The helicopter survey showed that about 50% of the White-Tailed deer they identified were actually south of the City limits and being pushed to the north.

Mayor Zilka stated that there is a little park that is off of Brunswick Road and Electric Blvd. There are ten deer there that are very friendly. When people come outside, the deer walk toward them because they anticipate being fed. They have been a problem at the Westwinds development where they have caused destruction. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has determined that a culling program can be done safely in that area. It is hopeful that the herd can be reduced there which will benefit Bay Village as well, since it is so close to the border. The City has 40 tags but an additional ten may be forthcoming. Ms. David has done a good job of picking up that responsibility and carrying it forward.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how the two cities are dividing the maintenance and security of the park.

Mr. Liskovec stated that the park does not seem to have any safety issues. There are camera views of the park. A meeting will be held between Director Reitz and Director Liskovec to set up a framework for the maintenance of the shared park.

Mr. Tadych asked if the expense of the retention basin project changed from the initial plans.

Mr. Liskovec stated that Director Reitz is putting the details together and will share them with Mr. Liskovec when they are ready.

Mayor Zilka stated that it is remarkable that the two cities have shared this park for so many years without any problems. Communication issues can be worked out, and the relationship has worked incredibly well.

Mr. Winzig stated that the shelter and bathrooms at the park are first class. He has spent a great deal of time there with the soccer program and the park is extremely well liked by many walkers, runners, and bicyclists. It is a wonderful facility and maturing into a lovely park. Many people enjoy going to the park. The design of the housing development to the north with the raised beds and trees should keep the integrity of the park in good condition.

**Mr. Dan Straitiff**, stated that he uses the park every day. Regarding the Kopf development to the north, it has always been a concern of Mr. Straitiff that as the fill is being spread from excavations plus the fill that was already there, it looks like the development for Phase 1 is continuing to raise the typical elevation of the plot of land to the north. As Kopf moves to Phases 2, 3 and 4, which are more southerly, particularly Phase 4, the concern is that the elevation of the development could be notably higher than Walker Road Park. There is a gap in the berm on the north of Walker Road Park which could change the drainage onto the soccer fields. Mr. Straitiff asked the committee to ponder that possibility as they move forward with their consideration of all things.

Mr. Winzig stated that as he understood the development is somewhat self-contained. The idea of the retention basin in the northwest corner would control a majority of the water. None of it was to go south or east.

Mr. Straitiff noted that Kopf had an unpermitted connection which he tied into the drainage system without a permit.

Mr. Straitiff stated that on November 2 the permanent restrooms will be closed for the season. He noted that people actively use the park all winter. He asked if there could be consideration for a portable restroom facility in the winter for the winter park activity. Mr. Liskovec will take this under advisement.

Prior to adjournment, Recreation Director Enovitch noted that the Recreation Director of the City of Avon Lake and he have a great relationship and work very well together.

Mr. Tadych suggested that information be kept current between both cities in regard to the park.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council  
City of Bay Village, Ohio