

MINUTES OF GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 16, 2016

Attended by: Ronny Hardaway, Chair
Larry Bieri, Member
John Courtney, Member
Phil Dankert, Member
Lynn Leopold, Member
Monica Moll, Member
Deborah Dawson, Secretary

Hardaway called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

The meeting began with an update from John Courtney on DPW's process on Northwood Road and around the Dart park parcel. Courtney reported that the culvert repairs, boulevard installation, and paving on Northwood Road is now complete. He also indicated that DPW had removed some of the ash trees on the site of the new sports field in order to make room for a "driveway" of sorts, so that they could deposit the spoils from widening Northwood Road on the park parcel away from the road. DPW also began removing trees along the road from the eastern boundary of the park parcel westward to the proposed park entrance. Trunks from those trees and the ash trees have been piled on the western edge of the sports field site.

Hardaway began reporting on the Committee's action items.

- The replacement playground equipment for Village Park has been ordered from R.E. Woodson. It will be stored when delivered until it can be installed next April. The Village saved about \$3500, because the price went down after the solicitation of bids. Hardaway hopes to get approval at tomorrow's Board of Trustee's meeting to finalize the order from Woodson for the wood carpet and installation. DPW will prepare the surface for installation, and use liner that the Village already has on hand. Courtney added that DPW will hold off on installing new fencing at Village Park until after the new playground is installed.
- Lynn Leopold and Larry Bieri visited Village Park last week and left markers on the trees there. Both of them were concerned about a four-trunk maple tree that they hope to be able to keep on the park property. They asked about the possibility of removing two of the trunks and saving the others. Courtney stated that, because of the way the root systems grow to support the trunks, it would be best to remove or keep all four. Hardaway and Courtney indicated that they would try to place the new playground equipment so that the big maple could be retained.

- Leopold and Bieri will visit the Dart park parcel on November 17 to examine and mark trees. Dawson will join them.
- Hardaway reported that the Dart park action list is now available online at http://vlansing.org/dart_park_tasks.html. (After some discussion, it was agreed that Hardaway would add tasks for trails, sports field design, and utilities.) The list will be updated as progress is made, and as point persons for the tasks are chosen.
- Hardaway reported that he has begun drafting the new Greenway Plan. The draft is posted online, will be updated as it is written, and can be viewed at http://vlansing.org/Greenway_Resources/VOL%20Greenway%20Plan.docx. He also suggested that the new Greenway Plan should refer to trail maps, park plans, etc., to be posted online. That way, if a map or plan had to be amended, added, or deleted, the change could be made on line, without necessitating an amendment to the entire plan.

Hardaway apologized for not making greater progress on the draft, but indicated that he had been diverted by the necessity to spend many hours researching objections to the Bomax rezoning. In light of the promised political fallout from the Trustees' rezoning decision, he and Dawson indicated that they would like to have a draft of the new Greenway Plan completed before the Village elections next spring. Moreover, Dawson expressed concern that the financial burden of defending the threatened Article 78 proceedings challenging the rezoning might reduce the funds available for building the new park.

Bieri and Dankert suggested that the Committee should consider soliciting donations for the park from Village residents and/or businesses. It was the consensus that the Committee should identify a Village resident with fundraising experience/talent to assist with this effort.

Monica Moll offered to take point on the “playground” and “benches” tasks on the Dart park action list. She asked that Hardaway try to get a solid budget range from the Trustees for the playground items.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 18, 2017
 3:00 pm
 Village Hall