

**Amberley Village Council
Public Buildings & Parks Committee – Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2020 (held via Zoom)**

Present: Peg Conway (chair), Ed Hattenbach (committee), Ray Warren (committee), Tom Muething, Elida Kamine, Scot Lahrmer, Chief Wallace, Tony Chesney, Jim Hull, Frank Gallenstein, Ronna Willis, Steve Cushard, Colin Driscoll, Merrie Stillpass, Bill Doering, Lisa Butler, Shirlene Wright, Josephine Rosenblum

Prior Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of May 7 were accepted as submitted.

Electric at Amberley Green

The Village maintains a level of electric power at AG for security cameras. The current electric panel in the clubhouse needs to be replaced. Due to damp and deteriorating conditions in the clubhouse, staff proposes to move it to the small building by the tennis courts, on the outside. Duke has approved it being powered from a phone poll on Burning Tree with the service line underground, though additional permits will be required. Initial estimate was \$10,000, but a second estimate that included village staff digging the trench was \$7,000. This amount is below the threshold requiring Council approval, so the information was mainly an update.

Status of Dogs under Control at Amberley Green

This topic was last discussed at the May 28, 2019, committee meeting, at that time in response to complaints from residents about loose dogs at AG. As agreed, since then staff has communicated via newsletter and social media about keeping dogs under control, and the police have increased patrols at AG. Chief Wallace reported that there had been no citable incidents, though injuries have occurred. Scot Lahrmer noted that the committee could 1) leave the situation as is, 2) propose adoption of a leash ordinance, or 3) possibly identify a hybrid approach that would preserve some off-leash opportunity, though he noted the practicalities of such a plan could be challenging.

Four residents spoke to the issue. Two of them supported a leash law based on multiple negative experiences with dogs over time (including bites and incursions into their yard and garage) and their owners. One person, who had not experienced problems at AG while walking his two small dogs, wondered if congregating of dogs and owners in the parking lot created issues and if that could be deterred. The fourth person walks early in the morning with his dog with few problems and wondered if the negative encounters happen in particular areas and if a hybrid approach could be adopted to address it.

Committee members who have had garden plots at AG stated they had encountered multiple loose dogs routinely at any time of day. It was noted that many non-residents are drawn to bring dogs to the AG off-leash and multiple residents have expressed that they don't walk at AG, with or without dogs, because so many loose dogs are present. It was also noted that since development plans at AG are on hold due to the pandemic, the property will continue as is, heightening the public safety issue.

Suggestions for hybrid approaches were to designate specific areas in the back of the property for off-leash or to designate specific hours of the day when leash is required.

The committee asked staff to examine hybrid options and to draw up text for a leash ordinance.

Mount Notre Dame Tennis Court Lease at Amberley Green

The MND lease expired in 2019, and Scot has been in conversation with their athletic director and principal about renewal for a 3-5 year period. MND is in process of making court repairs similar to recent work at the municipal building courts at a cost of \$16,000. Overall this has been a great partnership for the village. Scot presented two changes he would like to request: 1) Addition of the ability for other schools to rent the courts when MND is not using them, to be administered by MND with rent paid to AV. The previous agreement was exclusive between MND and AV. 2) Removal of a provision in the previous agreement that AV would reimburse MND for court improvements should AV end the agreement due to potential development. This was relevant at the start of the initial agreement in 2009 when MND had just invested significant money.

Ed moved to support renewal of the MND lease with Scot's suggested changes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Tree/Bench Donation Program

Though an annual tree planting occurs at Arbor Day, in general the village does not budget a lot for trees, and a number have been lost over time on the municipal grounds. Scot proposes to create a program whereby residents could donate funds to have a tree planted or bench installed in memory of a loved one, including a plaque. He researched other municipalities/park districts and presented a possible cost structure. The committee was very favorable to the idea. Suggestions were made to increase the donation required to provide a more comfortable margin for maintenance/replacement.

Replacement Compressor for Municipal Building

This item was added at the last minute when one of three compressors went out the morning of the meeting. It is original to the building, now 20 years old, and impacts the lower part of the building on the southern side, including the lobby, community room, back stairs, workout room and possibly the history room. An estimate was requested from Janson Heating and Air Conditioning, the village's HVAC service provider, and it was \$8145. Ed asked what the warranty would be. It's possibly 3 years, but Scot will confirm. Ed moved to authorize the village manager to proceed with compressor replacement. The committee supported immediate action in the circumstances rather than having staff wait until after the Aug. 10 Council meeting to replace the compressor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Peg Conway, Committee Chair