

Village of Bellaire

PARKS COMMITTEE

Patricia Drollinger, Chairperson

Eldon McPherson

Helen Schuckel

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2018

2:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Drollinger called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Chairperson Drollinger, Trustee McPherson and Trustee Schuckel

Absent: None

Staff Present: Lori Luckett, Clerk and Bradley Keiser

Also Present: Dee Lynch, Bellaire Youth Initiative and Ansley Slagle

2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

Motion by Trustee Schuckel, seconded by Chairperson Drollinger, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved.

Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Trustee Schuckel, to approve the minutes of September 20, 2018 as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.

5. **Old Business:** None presented

6. **New Business**

- a) **Antrim Youth Center Request for Garden:** Dee Lynch spoke to the committee about the Bellaire Youth Initiative and her garden project. Mrs. Lynch explained that \$2000 has been donated by the Juniper Garden Club and she is working with another garden club for additional funding. She will hire student apprentices. Mrs. Lynch explained that last summer she had an apprentice at Cyman's Gardens working in and learning about the flower garden. The apprentice has shared her experience with other garden clubs speaking around the state. This experience got Mrs. Lynch excited about working with the children; she did a test this summer. She explained she has her own garden at Messiah Tree Farm. The produce grown was used to teach the children how to make salsa. She worked with fourteen children at a time. It was exciting to see the children participate and learn. Because of this experience, Mrs. Lynch began looking for a plot of land on which to have a vegetable and flower garden. The vegetables grown will be taken to the schools and home economics rooms where the students will learn how to can, to freeze, and to make relishes and salsas. She has many women, including former home economics teachers, who are willing to help with this project. The garden will be surrounded by flowers that will discourage rabbits and deer. A temporary fence may also be needed. The flowers will be tended to by the apprentice under the tutelage of John and Cathy Cyman. The flowers picked will go to shut-ins. The produce, including tomatoes, peppers, and squash will be grown in the garden. If the first year goes well the plantings will be expanded. She requested that the committee consider allowing the garden for two years, the second year dependent upon the success of the first. An area approximately 90' x 30' along River Street was

identified for the garden. There was discussion that a soil test should be done to determine if topsoil is needed. There was also discussion about a water source for the garden. Chairperson Drollinger made a motion to recommend to village council that they allow the youth organization to use the plot for a garden.

Motion by Chairperson Drollinger, seconded by Trustee McPherson, to recommend to village council that they allow the youth organization to use the plot for a garden. Motion carried by voice vote.

If approved, Mrs. Lynch will follow through on the soil analysis and the garden tilling. DPW Director Keiser will contact Miss DIG and will mark the area off before the soil is tilled. Mrs. Lynch asked whether the use of the plot was being donated to BYI or leased. Chairperson Drollinger said that it was being donated because it is for the youth in the community; perhaps it could be used by the community. Mrs. Lynch explained that there are other groups working to put in a community garden in a former asparagus farm. Mrs. Lynch will find out how many families will participate in the garden project. If there is surplus produce, it will be taken to the food pantry. She explained that the children would take home what they grow and make. There is no expense to the children. The BYI Garden Initiative will be insured with the village as a named insured. There was discussion about temporary fencing around the plot during the winter months. DPW Director Keiser will work with Mr. Udell to set up irrigation. Mrs. Lynch intends to be at the village council meeting to answer any questions.

8. Communications/Informational: None presented.

9. Member/Public Comment: None presented.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Compiled by Lori Lockett, Clerk
Minutes Subject to Approval

Approved: _____

Date: _____