

**Town of Milton
Parks and Recreation Committee
September 19, 2007**

The Town Parks and Recreation Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on September 19 in Memorial Park. Members present were: Charlie Fleetwood, Elaine Carbone, Denise Suthard, and the Chairperson, Deanna Duby. Mayor Don Post was also in attendance. Member absent: Kathryn Greig.

The committee reviewed the types of equipment and other work that is being considered for the renovation of Memorial Park. The gazebo will be re-built, and the committee members agreed that it should be larger and moved back toward the point from its present location, so as to provide for more space for audiences for summer concerts in the park. Committee members expressed the view that the gazebo should also be higher off the ground, possibly with wide steps on the front of the extended platform. The playground equipment to be put in the park include one large piece that would include several slides, chutes, ramps and climbing apparatuses; two swing sets (one for very small children and one for older children); teeter-totters; several spring riders. The Town is planning to get very high quality equipment, constructed of powder-coated steel, for durability.

The committee discussed the general plans, and approved the plan the Town staff has developed. The funding for the park renovations is in the 2007-08 budget. In addition, the 200th Anniversary Committee turned back to the Town the monies that were not needed for the celebration, which totals \$25,000 to \$30,000. There is also the possibility that the Town will be able to acquire additional funding from state and federal grants. Finally, some organizations and individuals in Town have discussed making private contributions to support the renovation. The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to have a plaque in the park to acknowledge and recognize those who have made such donations.

Mayor Post indicated that now that the budget has been passed, the committee has approved the general plans, the Requests for Proposals will be prepared and sent out to solicit bids. There will be two RFPs, one for the playground equipment and one for the gazebo construction. All of the renovations --- gazebo, equipment ---- will comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The committee discussed pending work and grants in park-related projects. There is a DNREC Greenways grant to extend the governors walk walkway. Members discussed other possible grants, public and private.

Other items of business/discussion included:

1) The request from the VFW that the flagpoles toward which they have contributed \$3000 be constructed in the park. The Mayor reported that town staff has been tracking down the original request and check, and that the Town Manager has been in touch with VFW leaders regarding the specifics of the agreement. Work on the flagpoles will be done as soon as the details are worked out.

The current flagpole and flag were also discussed, particularly the need for a new flag. The suggestion was made that the Town request from our Congressman, Mike Castle, a 4' x 6' flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol.

2) Lighting. Committee members agreed that better lighting is needed in the park, and the suggestion was made that the town explore the possibility of putting some lights in trees. (Mr. Fleetwood pointed out that we should definitely not put lighting on the gazebo stage, as it attracts bugs that will attack concert performers during a performance.)

There was a consensus that a part of the renovation (as is already planned by the Town) should include electric wiring and water to sites throughout the park. Water fountains should be added, and appropriate lighting added. This will be a part of the work done on the park and the committee's recommendations will be included as

RFPs and other plans are developed. The Committee also asked that the Town consider putting in an irrigation system when the work is done. Committee members recommended that the Garden Club be consulted and asked for their input on these items.

3) The committee also wanted to be sure that the Town considers adding additional benches (possibly like the black iron ones that are on streets in the downtown area.) It is our understanding that new grills and trash cans are also a part of the planned renovation.

4) The committee also recommended that a new sign be put up at the entrances to the park, stating park hours (sunup to sundown) and park rules.

5) The committee also discussed the memorial tree program, and recommended that the Town structure the program so that it is clear to those who want to plant memorial trees in the park. The suggestions made included that the Town have a list of the trees available for planting, with prices included, that a uniform plaque be available for those purchasing memorial trees, and that the Town make clear who is to maintain the memorial trees. Ms. Suthard also recommended that the Town consider having a small portion of the park designated as a pet memorial section, where plants and/or trees can be planted to memorialize pets. The design and type of plants would be done by the town, just as in the memorial tree program, with town residents purchasing the plants as designated by the Town.

6) A request was made for the Town to consider a policy by which non-profit groups could request a waiver from the no-liquor-in-the-park policy for special events, such as fundraising events. The Mayor suggested that before the committee considers this request, a request should be made to the town solicitor to look at state law and the policies of the ABC board to see if such a waiver is allowed and, if so, research should be done to see whether such waivers are ever given by other municipalities. The Committee made no recommendation as to this item, but agreed that much research is

needed before such a recommendation would be made by the committee to the Council.

Denise Suthard requested that the committee, in its future deliberations, begin to consider recreation, as well as parks.

The Committee adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

(Minutes submitted by Deanna DUBY, Chair, Parks and Rec. Committee, with the approval of the Committee members attending)