

## Parks, Playgrounds and Community Services

A meeting of the **Parks, Playground and Community Services** of the Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio was held on **March 18, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.** with Councilman Howard Selig presiding.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Senior Grass Cutting Program.

Present at roll call:	Councilmen:	Black, Selig, Foote, Walsh, Hatgas
	Mayor:	Procuk
	Clerk/Treasurer:	Clymer
	Comm. Service Dir.:	Guilfoyle
	Recreation Dir.:	Presot
	Guest:	G. Prebish
		M. Lader
		C. Rucinski

Mrs. Guilfoyle gave council paperwork with some history.

Mrs. Guilfoyle has two proposals for Senior Grass Cutting.

- MSL – Matt Lader – 1 to 50 homes \$14,000    51 to 100 homes \$17,000
- GBJ Landscaping – Greg Prebish – 1 to 50 homes \$10,000    51 to 100 homes \$15,000

Mr. Foote questioned the number of houses last year and the answer was 45. He felt it would be significantly higher.

The sign-ups have just begun and it is hard to judge how many will sign up.

Mrs. Hatgas asked Mrs. Guilfoyle to confirm that MSL was \$10,000 last year.

Mr. Walsh said that it would seem that GBJ at \$10,000 would be a no brainer, but from the comments of seniors they really like Matt Lader and the work he did.

Mrs. Hatgas asked if the seniors pay for this service themselves and Mrs. Guilfoyle stated that they pay \$200 but if they are on HEAP they pay \$80.

Mrs. Carol Rucinski said that Matt Lader did a great job last year and all the others she has talked to said the same thing. He edged, cleared the sidewalks and did an overall beautiful job and she never had to call to get cut.

Mr. Black asked Mrs. Guilfoyle if she thinks the number would grow from last year and she feels it will be about the same.

Mr. Black questioned Mr. Lader about last year's contract and then asked Mr. Prebish to address the complaints.

Mr. Prebish said he had no idea of any complaints. He said this is his business and he has been doing it for fifteen years. Mr. Prebish said that four years ago when the village dumped the seniors to the curb some of them had him cut their grass. Last year some of them stuck with him to have him mow their lawns and he was turned into the police department for soliciting without a permit. He said his price is his price and he is not changing it.

Mrs. Guilfoyle said that some complaints were about not being mowed when it should have been, not clearing the walks and overall sloppy jobs.

March 18, 2014

Mr. Black said he is just trying to understand the process.

Mr. Prebish said that in 2010 the contract read "cut grass, clear the walks and trim". He said that last year they threw in edging and edging does not need to be done every week. He also said that bagging every cut is not necessary and it costs good money to dump grass.

He explained that mowing season typically begins April 15<sup>th</sup> and runs about 28 weeks. In the spring, during the growing season you cut weekly. In the heat of the summer you cut every other week because it doesn't grow unless it is watered so you if you get 20 weeks of mowing it's good.

Mrs. Hatgas asked Matt Lader if he makes the same judgment call regarding cutting and Matt said that last year they needed cutting every week.

Mr. Selig said that last year was an unusual summer. It was wet and no heat. He asked what Matt did then and he answered that two years ago it was a bad summer and they would cut every other week.

Mr. Selig asked for a straw poll and the vote was GBJ 3 votes, MSL 2 votes. In order for it to be an emergency ordinance they need 4 yes votes so they would make it a non-emergency ordinance.

An ordinance would be written to be sponsored at the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting; a special meeting of council could be called for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading so cutting would begin in May.

Mrs. Hatgas changed her vote to yes (even though she is not changing her opinion) in order to make it an emergency ordinance and expedite the matter. The vote is now 4-1 for GBJ and the emergency ordinance will be drawn up for consideration at the April 1, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Selig closed the meeting.

Howard Selig  
Park, Playgrounds and Community Services