

Village of Germantown Hills

Park Committee Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes Approval**-Chairperson Heather Armistead called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and roll call was taken.

Village President/Trustee	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5	6
Heather Armistead – Chair	Present	Y	Y	Y			
Karl Figg – President	Present	Y	Y	Y			
Elizabeth Cunningham	Present	Y	Y	Y			
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y			
Ryan White	Present	Y	Y	Y			

Also, present:

Zack Hecht, Superintendent of Public Works

- a. February 1, 2024, Minutes**-A motion was made by Karl Figg to approve the February 1, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #1.

2. Update on the Village Parks

Heather Armistead explained to the committee the need to update the playground equipment at JR White Park as some of the equipment is getting old. The Village has submitted two different grant applications for updating the JR White Park and playground equipment. Neither grant was awarded. The grant was for a 50/50 split and at the time the estimated cost for the improvements was \$750,000. Heather Armistead stated the plan would be to get the costs updated with the playground representative and schedule a meeting for the park committee to review the plan and make any revisions. The park committee would make a recommendation to the board before the grant opportunity opens next summer. Heather stated if we wouldn't get the grant this time, then the Village would need to be prepared to update some of the equipment next year either way.

3. Discussion and Recommendation to the Village Board on the Oak Grove Park Sign

Heather Armistead explained the Village had acquired an easement from the property owner in order to connect the new Oak Grove Park to the old Oak Grove Park. Kids have been cutting through that area so a defined access between the two parks is needed. The Village will need to decide if we will pave only the easement area or have the pavement connect to a sidewalk to the parking lot in the old Oak Grove Park. We have a rough estimate for the whole sidewalk connection of \$43,000. This improvement will need to be put out for bid, which could be done at the same time Phase 2 of the new Oak Grove Park trail and improvements are put out for bid but as a separate project. We had included it in the budget, but it wasn't completed this year.

Zack Hecht explained the topography of the area and a potential connection to the parking lot. The committee had consensus to bid the project in the spring.

Heather Armistead noted we have located a boulder that will be used to display the plaque that is required by the IDNR grant at Oak Grove Park similar to what was done at the J.R. White Park.

Heather Armistead explained the different options for an Oak Grove Park sign. Three different sizes of a metal arch sign were discussed depending on the location of the sign, as a sign going over the driveway would need to be wider than a sign going over the trail. The committee reviewed and discussed the potential sign sizes and locations.

Ryan White noted concerns with someone hitting the sign but felt the larger sign would be best.

The committee agreed to wait until the Oak Grove Park Phase 2 trail and improvements were completed for the installation of the sign so that there wouldn't be construction traffic near the sign.

Karl Figg noted he may know someone that could do the masonry work on the sign.

Betsy Cunningham recommended large decorative rock be placed around the base of the sign to protect the structure.

A motion was made by Karl Figg to recommend to the Village Board the larger Oak Grove Park metal arch sign for approximately \$21,000 for the entrance to the park. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #2.

4. **Adjournment-A motion** was made by Tom Eckstein to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Heather Armistead. Motion passed #3.

Ann Doubet
Village Clerk