

Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Terry Lilley, Clerk
Mike Roman, Treasurer



Trustees
Scott Ruggles
Michael Powell
Andrea C. Voorheis
Liz Fessler Smith

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 38383
January 10, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Carlock called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called: Ms. Deren and Ms. Grubb were not present.

ROLL CALL: Merrie Carlock, Chairperson
Deb Deren, Vice Chair - Absent
Rhonda Grubb – Planning Commission Liaison - Absent
Jean-Philippe Loew
Andrea Voorheis

Also Present: Jason Iacoangeli, AICP, Staff Planner
Lynn Hinton, Recording Secretary

Visitors: 6

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Voorheis moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Loew supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (3 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. October 11, 2017

Ms. Carlock moved to approve the minutes of October 11, 2017 as submitted. Ms. Voorheis submitted and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (3 yes votes)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Carlock opened the discussion for public comment on items not listed on the agenda, but none was offered.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. 2017 Halloween Event

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that there was a very good turnout for the event and there were no issues with the company that was used this year. The screen was smaller, but it seemed to do well in the wind. He would like the committee to consider reimbursing the Historical Society \$200 for their volunteer efforts and supplies provided by them for the event. Ms. Carlock added that she would also like to have a formal thank you note sent to the sponsors of the event.

Ms. Carlock recommended that the Supervisor's office reimburse the Historical Society \$200 for supplies used for the 2017 Halloween Event. Mr. Loew supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (3 yes votes)

b. Fisk Farm Pathway Design Review

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the Parks Committee, along with the Township Board and Historical Society wanted to investigate the possibility of extending the pathway connection from Walmart to Highland Road, and connecting the medical office building with Applebee's to the east.

They would use asphalt along M-59 and concrete south down Fisk Road. The pathway down Fisk Road would run in the right of way, cross the doctor's driveway and extend in between the siren and Christmas tree pine, running perpendicular to the fence on the farm side to avoid utilities. It would straighten back out to the Walmart sidewalk. This would be an encroachment inside what is currently the fence to the farm and we would be looking for permission from the Historical Society to encroach on their property. The fence would be bumped back to accommodate this. We would also ask the doctor for a temporary construction easement. The existing utilities and ditch are driving the location of the sidewalk.

Mr. Baroni of the Historical Society indicated the turn into the parking area needs to be widened, as they currently have officers directing traffic for their events. He asked that if the pathway is pushed into the property inside the property line, how far back would it go versus where the current fence is. The total cost of this project will be very expensive and he questioned whether they could just look at widening the driveway at this time. Ms. Carlock stated she would like the pedestrian pathway and feels they can do the shift back towards the fence and soften it. Mr. Baroni asked if the fence would be pushed back to the wellhouse. He assumed the sidewalk would come in somewhere because of the ditch. Mr. Iacoangeli stated it is not the intent to push the fence back that far. He has a cost estimate already and he has budgeted for this project entirely. The committee is looking at \$75k in construction costs, including the 8 ft. wide concrete pathway, 4" aggregate base, restoration and driveway widening.

Mr. Loew reviewed a Powerpoint that he developed on Fisk Road sidewalk plans. He feels the sidewalk should be on both sides of Fisk Road with a crosswalk connecting the retail development and mobile home park to Walmart and Fisk Farm. There are 314 homes that can't walk out and cross the road. Mr. Baroni confirmed and added that he has seen cars backed up due to people in wheelchairs traveling on the road. There are many people in wheelchairs in that subdivision.

Ms. Carlock indicated that there is a limit as to what the Parks Committee can do, but since this is by a park, a pathway on the west side of the street may qualify. She asked Mr. Iacoangeli to get a price to do a pathway on the west side of the street as well.

Mr. Loew added that he sent his proposal to the mobile home park, he has talked to them and encouraged them to come to the Township Board meeting next week. Mr. Baroni noted that the property on the west side of Fisk Road is private and a pathway would have to come out of another budget. Mr. Carlock stated that discussion should be with the mobile home park and the Township Board.

c. 2018 Meeting Dates

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Ms. Carlock moved to approve the 2018 Meeting Dates as submitted. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (3) yes votes

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli reported the township is extremely busy with developments and rezoning requests coming in. He distributed a sheet reflecting the current budget and current fund balance for the Parks & Rec. This year there are 2 major items: the Fisk Farm project, and the pathway extension by Redwood, which continues to move through the MDOT process. Playground equipment is being earmarked in case the township gets grant monies for a park. Everything else is consistent with how it's been in the past.

Carlock asked the status on a new Civic Center. Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the plans have been completed and it's on the township's website for the public to view. There is no bond or schedule to facilitate the project at this time.

Mr. Iacoangeli continued that he will apply for a grant this cycle. The 5-year plan was approved by the State of Michigan, and they found our plan in good order. It was adopted and placed on file, which makes the township eligible to apply for grant funds.

Lastly, he has been asked by the Supervisor to discuss going out for a new millage at the next meeting. The old millage has expired and a new one would be consistent with what we had in the past. Would the committee think a larger millage would be something the voters would be supportive of and for how long.

Ms. Carlock indicated there is millage information on MPARKS website. She added that there will be a Trail Conference in Detroit February 7-9 if anyone wanted to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Grubb was not present to give a report.

Ms. Voorheis reiterated what Mr. Iacoangeli said about discussing the millage. The last millage was 3.5 mills for 5 years, which is \$3 per house. She also wanted to recognize Mr. Greg Baroni for dedicating many hours volunteering and time spent on the tree lighting event, which grows each year. "Kudos to Mr. Baroni."

Mr. Loew referenced the budget and how much it costs to maintain services. With the same millage, the department would barely be able to maintain its current services. Mr. Iacoangeli stated the department allocates \$70k per year to maintain the parks and staffing. This year, they spent \$63k, which was \$10k over and above what they would normally spend due to the M59 pathway project. In reality, it would cost \$53k per year to maintain existing services.

Mr. Loew reference the corner at Union Lake and Cooley Lake roads and indicated that there could be opportunities for little snipits of sidewalks that could be completed. Ms. Carlock noted that this area is not by a park, but she doesn't mind doing these little gap connections. It's possible the millage could include pedestrian pathways with the language.

Ms. Deren noted there is a "Sold" sign on M-59 by Sunset Drive and questioned what will go in there. Mr. Iacoangeli stated he didn't know. It was a private sale, but the lot is zoned commercial. No plans have been submitted yet.

Ms. Carlock indicated she may have to step down from her role as Chairperson due to her day job. She added that she would like the committee to continue applying for grants and acquisitions that would be related to park land. All applicants were funded this year and sometimes you can get the land owner to

match. The Trust Fund awarded \$40 million, which accounts for 2/3; and \$3.5 million was funded from Land and Water last year. Recreation Passports are the most competitive and only 1/3 was funded.

- b. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.