

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
Regular Meeting  
7525 Highland Road  
White Lake, MI 38383  
**June 14, 2017 @ 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. Erlich was excused.

A group of students studying sign language at Oakland University were present to observe the meeting and practice their interpreter skills.

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

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

Visitors: 12

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Iacoangeli requested to add "Property Purchase" under "Other Business".

**Ms. Deren moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. April 12, 2017

The minutes were not included in the packet. No action was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Carlock opened the discussion for public comment on items not listed on the agenda.

Mary Earley, 5925 Pine Ridge Court, stated that at the last board meeting, they mentioned the survey that was done, but didn't say how many people responded. Mr. Iacoangeli stated that 356 responded to the survey.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

a. 5-Year Parks & Rec Plan Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reported there were minor problems with illustrations and formatting items. Once formalized, he will get it ready for the 30-day review process, which involves having the document available on the township's webpage, copies at the Dublin Senior Center, White Lake Township Library, and the Township Hall. The document will also be advertised for the public to review.

A public hearing notice will be published for the Board of Trustees to receive comments, after which they will adopt a formal resolution and then send to the State to certify. Once we receive certification, White Lake Township will then be eligible to apply for grand funds.

Other changes to the document included cleaning up pictures, and updating numbers from 2011 to 2016, where in some of those years (2012) we had larger expenses associated with Bloomer Park. He also went through the census info and statistics, and found not much has changed.

There were minor additions to the Persons with Disabilities section. The township constitutes 10.3% of the population of persons with disabilities, and the national average was 18.75%. Some of that info was missing from the document and he inserted it this time.

The Land Use Table also changed. It now includes 2016 data, which reflects a slight increase in Single Family Residential. Public and Institutional Land went from 331 acres to 350 acres. This could be due to Camp Gilman being demolished and 20 acres were reverted back to the Land Use Table. Agricultural land in 2009 went from 664 acres to 808. This could be due possibly to the fact that a lot of farm field weren't farmed at the time the photo was taken.

Maps were updated and Mr. Iacoangeli stated that Natural Features stayed the same but information regarding wildlife was outdated. He included other animals/pictures that weren't given credit in the other document. Bats are prevalent in endangered species due to white nose syndrome. The Inventory section now includes the grant project information for Bloomer Park. The State requires which parks received monies and what the current status of the parks are. We now have a statement that says all work was completed with grant funding and the park is being maintained.

Mr. Loew would like to see a summary page in the document showing how much money is available, how much is the township awarded, and what the township spends the month on. Mr. Iacoangeli stated he would update the document to include this. Ms. Carlock noted that the budget page should include this.

Mr. Iacoangeli continued that a Barrier-free analysis was done at all parks and the ratings did not change. Parks function at an acceptable level. With regard to multi-use pathways, pictures of the Huron River pathway were included and he also talked about money used from the federal government to make that pathway happen.

Goals and Objectives included bike boulevards and there may be an opportunity in the south east corner of the township that could incorporate this, i.e. South Broadmoor and Ivy Glen. Goals and objectives from 5 years ago are still current. The only addition in 2020 is now a community central park development and the development of a summer program at Hawley Park or Fisk Farm.

Ms. Carlock opened the roundtable discussion.

Mr. Loew stated that this is a massive document and people will have questions. He didn't see on the project list how much the Parks & Rec has in the bank right now. He would like to know what the starting point for 2016 is. Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that every year the township also creates a Capital Improvement Plan, at which the Parks & Rec in that plan shows how much is in there and what projects will be done in the next 6 years. The threshold is anything over \$50k has to be in there. Public record

exists, but to make it simple, Mr. Iacoangeli stated he would list the CIP section and include it with this document. The Parks & Rec balance is \$761,881 currently.

Mr. Loew also referenced the work on Williams Lake Road. Mr. Iacoangeli stated that called the RCOC and was told the work was a one mile test demonstration for new deep strength treatment they're putting on roads. Residents were mad because they thought the township was spending money on a road that didn't need it.

Mr. Loew stated for future, perhaps have a page for the millage, i.e., what does a millage mean and how much can it bring. We should show what we've done in the past. Ms. Carlock feels this is a good idea as long as it's legal. Also, Mr. Loew loves the pathway project. He thinks his idea of Fisk Farm connecting to an empty parcel across the street could be added as a project. This is an empty lot and it could be connected to the water pumping house.

Ms. Carlock stated that our park land is owned by the state, and communities are submitting applications for trails and trailheads on state land. They just need a permission letter. You don't necessarily have to own the property. She thinks we should investigate partnerships for programming and development of metro parks, etc. Also, Hess Hathaway's collaboration should be brought up for potential grants and programming. The park was left to White Lake Township and Waterford, and she would like to see something more formal. The park has good programs that we benefit from and we could make it nicer. She would also like to show a list of accomplishments that have been completed since the last time the plan was done. She suggested going back 10 years.

b. M-59 Pathway (Bogie Lake/M-59)

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that this has been discussed this in the past and he would like to get a formal recommendation this evening. Redwood Apartments will extend a portion of the pathway across their frontage to the ITC corridor. The idea is that Redwood has put together construction drawings for us for 300 ft. of pathway across ITC in the MDOT right of way. A construction cost estimate is being done by Powell engineering. Redwood's contractors will install this. The corner of Bogie Lake and M-59 will develop at some point and tie into the existing system, which will benefit the residents of Cedar Brook Estates as well. He not sure how much cut through this new development will tolerate. The Board and Supervisor are looking for a formal action this evening.

**Mr. Loew moved to recommend to the Township Board that they move forward getting the MDOT permit and setting aside funding to make the 300 ft. pathway connection along M-59. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Fisk Farm Driveway Improvement & Pathway

Mr. Iacoangeli distributed a quote from Johnson & Anderson. Fisk Farm is in need of relocating and widening their driveway. The proposal from J&A is to do the design work for the drive and the sidewalk across the frontage. This would involve removing the fence along that portion of the property and relocating the sidewalk along Fisk Road. This coincides with the Master Plan. The scope also includes design across the frontage outside Dr. Dave's office. Mr. Loew asked if there was a ditch and Mr. Iacoangeli confirmed there was and noted it would have to be addresses as part of the alignment. The farm could spec out a more historically accurate fence. Former Township Supervisor, Greg Baroni stated they talked about a fence for the farm and would like to see split rail, or white board, however keeping the chain link for security reasons was talked about too.

Fees will not exceed \$7,500 for design, and extra services for the doctor not to exceed \$1,500, for a total of \$9,000 for the overall design of the pathway. They will meet with township staff to prepare a proposal.

He noted that the crosswalk and landing would require RCOG approval. Mr. Baroni added that there are many residents in the mobile home park that are wheelchair bound.

**Ms. Carlock moved to recommend to the Township Board to have J&A design the sidewalk and crossing across from Fisk Farm, as well as the doctor's property, and add a crosswalk to the mobile home park with landing pads to all access for pedestrian and widening. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)**

b. Playground Wood Fiber Purchase

Mr. Iacoangeli stated we have dealt with this before. Game Time's quote was \$3,496 to remove and topcoat. The purchase has not been made, but it is moving forward. Also, the Playscape is in need of dire repair and the wood fiber will help. He noted that the equipment may look bad, but it's been inspected and it is safe.

c. Property Purchase – Parcel 12-09-476-005 – Hitchcock Road

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that this is a portion of the old Kelly Tree Farm parcel that is up for tax sale. The parcel is 20 acres in size. Mr. Kelly signed an agreement with the US Department of Agriculture for the property to be used as a tree farm, so some of those taxes have to be paid back to school districts. There is potential it may not have to be paid since it will go municipal as park. The township wants to purchase this property, not to exceed \$20k, but it could be as low as \$5-6k. Counsel is currently looking to see if the township is obligated to pay back taxes. The idea is that it is so close to acquisition target, it would be a logical extension to approach the Hitchcock's property. This would make a great trailhead into the park system and there is potential long term for a pathway up to Alpine, at which Alpine may choose to put in cross country trails.

The township has to move quickly on this or it will go up for tax sale. Mr. Loew asked whether there were contamination issues with the compost that was previously on the property. Mr. Iacoangeli didn't think so, as Mr. Kelly was very much an environmentalist. Timing isn't afforded to us in this case.

**Ms. Carlock moved to recommend to the Township Board that they seek to purchase parcel 12-09-46-005 as park land, not to exceed \$20k without returning to this board. Mr. Loew supported and MOTION CARRIED with voice vote (5 yes votes).**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that SEMCOG launched a park finder app where you can search by location and size and filter by amenities. Their comprehensive list of parks includes White Lake Township. He will put a link on the township's web page.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Grubb reported that the Planning Commission rezoned the property on Union Lake Road at Carpathian from Single Family Residential and Light Business to Planned Development to allow for a condo development.

Ms. Voorheis reported that the Fisk Farm has scheduled their Halloween event for October 21, 2017. She asked if the Parks and Rec was interested in doing their movie event again this year, at which the committee unanimously agreed that it would like to do the same as last year. Ms. Voorheis noted that the Historical Society has a suggestion of playing just one movie rather than two. On another note, Ms.

Voorheis reported that Republic was bought out by GFL for rubbish, but that service would not change. And lastly, former Township Treasurer, Bev Spoor passed away on April 26 at the age of 76.

Ms. Carlock indicated that she would like another joint meeting with regard to the Recreation Plan. Also, certain communities are applying for passport funds to upgrade things on school properties. We can bring funds that the schools can't apply for themselves. There is also a state park project to convert the gate house into trailhead restrooms.

- b. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.