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Trustees
Scott Ruggles
Andrea C. Voorheis
Rik Kowall
Michael Powell

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 38383
November 22, 2016 @ 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.

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

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

Visitors: 2

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Iacoangeli requested to add under "Old Business", a discussion on the White Lake Regional Trail.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. September 27, 2016

Ms. Deren moved to approve the minutes of September 27, 2016 as submitted. Ms. Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

a. White Lake Regional Trail Discussion

Township Trustee, Mike Powell, indicated that options have opened up with the multi-jurisdictional trail and he is looking for direction from the committee this evening. He has met with the county and other communities who are excited about the project, but one community needs to guide this through and he is hoping that is White Lake.

This project provides for a north/south corridor pathway in Oakland County and the concept is to follow as much as the ITC corridor as possible.

As an update, Springfield Township has plans for a pathway system, but they are not willing to extend it from their system to our border. They are only responsible for pathways through their parks until they get matching funds from the multi-jurisdictional effort.

Commerce Township has a parks committee and they are very excited about this project, but cannot allocate funding at this time. They take their direction from the Township Board, who is addressing the east/west pathway between Walled Lake and Wixom via the Rails and Trails project. They also plan on building a bridge/elevated crosswalk over M-5 at Pontiac Lake Road. They have a consultant for design, a trail authority, and are going for a MDOT grant. This is a major lake-to-lake trail across the state.

Another trail supported by the Governor goes from Belle Isle to the Upper Peninsula and clips the corner of Springfield Township. If White Lake had a portion done, it could connect to any trail. We can only control White Lake Township. There is potential right now for the Bogie Lake pathway project, and while this is being studied, we could also propose a bridge across M-59 to see if we could get a grant. The ITC corridor crossing is to the west of Bogie Lake Road. He added that the Worthington project is required to put a pathway in, and the township is in the process of designing it to get across ITC corridor. Perhaps the DNR can assist in tying the 2 parts together.

He is looking for guidance from group tonight on whether it is appropriate to study this more or make a motion to the Township Board to earmark funds. Until we study this project, we can't even apply for a grant.

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the Supervisor should communicate with the Community Development Department to prioritize a project like this. At that point, he can start talking more with the group about putting a plan together for a RFQ.

Ms. Carlock noted that when the initial grant was written for this area and didn't go anywhere, she felt this was a big bite for this section of the township. MDOT wants you to have a destination. She feels Indian Springs is a wonderful destination.

Mr. Loew feels people may be scared of this and he suggested prioritizing the project then having a plan or schedule to gradually pile drive it.

Mr. Powell indicated that he linked up with a national company, Stanley Corporation, who has experience with utility corridors. He gave the information to Mr. Iacoangeli, who can present it to the supervisor. He added that it is a goal of the Supervisor to extend pathways in the project. Also, the Township Board is receptive to this and we need the Community Development Department and professional company to keep the progress going.

Mr. Iacoangeli stated that the Supervisor has to approve the Community Development Department spending time on this. He and Mr. O'Neil advocate as much as they can, but without funding, they wouldn't be able to spend the time on this project. He will relay the information to the Supervisor.

b. Fisk Farm Haunting / Halloween Movie and Trunk or Treat

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the event went very well, more successful than last year. He showed pictures and indicated there were well over 60 vehicles in the parking area for the movie event. The farm was decorated well by the Historical Society. He feels advertising on Facebook helped, along with the fantastic weather.

Ms. Carlock indicated that she recently read an article that resident Ron Hinman got a state award for his volunteer service in the community. She thinks it would be nice if the Township Board could recognize him as well.

c. Hidden Pines Park Grant Final Scores

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the final score of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application was 240 points out of 430, which was not much different from the preliminary score. Points lost were unachievable. He looked at the 2015 application and it was 290 out of 490. This year's grant application scored better than last year's submittal. The next step will have a list of projects funded based on the score and how much is allocated per line item.

Ms. Carlock stated that trust fund projects go to that board and Land and Water Passport projects go to that director. There is more money available in Recreational Passport. The ranking list will be on the website after Thanksgiving and we will know next month how much federal funding will be awarded.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the current 5-Year plan will expire on December 31, 2017 and we have next year to get updates into the plan. The board will want the Community Development Department to do this in-house again like last time.

Ms. Carlock would like to see more of a 2-document "bible", one for parks and sites, and the other for non-motorized trails. They need their own cover and not be buried in the parks plan.

Mr. Iacoangeli also noted that the Planning Commission will meet with Mr. O'Neil in the next few months to discuss township Master Plan updates, if any. The Master Plan went through complete overhaul at its last review and if it still meets the vision and holds the intent, it will be recorded in the minutes that the plan will be re-upped for the next 5 years.

Since the next Parks meeting is January 24, 2017, Ms. Carlock asked the committee members to review the plan over the next month for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Powell added to the comments that he has been asked by some residents for a study for a pathway down Williams Lake Road. Mr. Loew felt that when the road was put in, the RCOC had an opportunity to put in a nice graded shoulder that could have been blacktopped later, but they didn't. Ms. Carlock agreed a pathway would be nice, since Hess Hathaway Park is also on Williams Lake Road.

b. Bogie Lake Pathway

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the township is still in the process with the pathway. Determinations have to be made on whether a water extension will go down Bogie Lake Road. Also, the TAP grant cycle just opened last week, and he is not sure the township is ready right now for an application. He will work with Mr. O'Neil on when and how to proceed.

Ms. Carlock indicated that Kevin at SEMCOG would be a good resource for ideas and thoughts.

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli had nothing further to add.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Voorheis reported that all the new officials took office on November 20. At the last board meeting, the board approved the purchase of new fire tools; Adam Kline resigned as Police Chief effective November 3 and November 18 was the deadline for applications to fill his position, which will now have to go through the Civil Service Board for a recommendation; Cooley Lake and Union Lake corner was purchased and there was a large group concerned from the development behind that lot. They were mostly concerned with increased traffic. Due to the contamination on the lot, the board approved a 7-year tax abatement to the developer; and lastly, the board meetings are now being televised on You Tube. There were mixed emotions from the board members and staff.

Ms. Grubb reported that the Planning Commission listened to the plan for the 4-corners development at Cooley Lake and Union Lake roads. She feels it will be a nice development.

Ms. Deren had nothing to report.

Mr. Loew stated he spent a month in Europe and will be traveling again soon. He is still in the process of writing an article for the Parks and Rec to be published in the paper.

Ms. Carlock had nothing to add.

b. Next Meeting Date: January 24, 2016

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Carlock moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)