

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 38383
July 28, 2015 @ 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 was excused.

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

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

Visitors: 3

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Erlich moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Loew supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. June 23, 2015

Ms. Grubb moved to approve the minutes of June 23, 2015 as submitted. Ms. Workman supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

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

Brett Artinian, from Active Scout of Troop #3 located in Davisburg, gave a presentation on "Little Free Libraries". He is earning his Eagle Scout requirement. He and his troop will be building two free libraries at a few of the parks in White Lake Township. The concept is "take a book, leave a book", and this is

based on the honor system. There will be two sections to the library, one for adult reading and the other for children books. The Troop will raise funds for supplies by advertising on a website and doing other fundraisers, i.e., bottle drive, etc. He is currently working with the White Lake Library Director in coordinating the details.

Ms. Carlock moved to support the Free Library Project presented by Brett Artinian of Active Scout Troop #3. Mr. Loew supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote: (6 yes votes)

NEW BUSINESS:

a. ITC Corridor Pathway Initiative

Mr. Mike Powell presented to the committee. Years ago, the township voted to extend the millage for pathways throughout the township. At that time ITC also voted to not allow any pathways in their corridors. As part of one of his developments, Worthington Crossing, the developer is responsible for putting in a pathway along M-59 from the mobile home park to the ITC corridor. He has met with ITC to possibly cross their corridor with utilities. As it turns out, ITC had a policy change over the years and are now taking applications to allow these crossings.

The idea would be to have a multi-jurisdictional pathway starting at Indian Springs through Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, crossing various roadways including M-59, and continuing south. Some negotiations will have to take place with Brentwood and Beacon Hill Golf Courses, but he doesn't foresee a problem. The Village of Wolverine Lake already has a pathway established.

This is a major undertaking and it is exciting to think of a north/south pathway corridor with White Lake being the initiators. The interest has to start with White Lake and he is looking for feedback from the committee. He noted that Oakland County is very interested and the affected communities would most likely contribute to this project.

Ms. Workman noted that in past discussions, the pathway system was to include horse trails. Mr. Powell stated it was discussed years ago to go through Highland Township and down through Milford into Kensington Park. Unfortunately, ITC has a major condition that horses are not allowed on their corridor.

Ms. Carlock stated she is happy to see discussions again on this, as the item remains in the Parks & Rec 5 year plan. There is grant money available. She would like to see Huron Metro Parks added to Mr. Powell's list of jurisdictions, as well as the DNR. She asked if there is a fee for Mr. Powell's work on this. Mr. Powell stated he is volunteering as a citizen and professional engineer. He can do quite a bit of work from his office, but there are limits. If this project goes further, Stanley Consultants will submit a proposal. Ms. Carlock also recommended Mr. Powell contact the Trail Authority, which crosses multiple jurisdictions. They have also been working on a trail/pathway proposal. When the focus comes to the White Lake portion of the pathway, she would like to get more involved.

Ms. Erlich moved to express interest in the ITC pathway concept, which is in line with the Parks & Rec 5 year Master Plan, and to do exploratory and concept planning for a north/south pathway. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)

b. Friends of Bloomer Park Discussion

Mr. Iacoangeli reported he was called by a resident, Mr. Shapiro, near Bloomer Park who was interested in establishing a Friends Group to function for maintenance and fundraising efforts. Some of the nearby residents have already made financial contributions for improvements and Mr. Shapiro would like the group commissioned by the township. Mr. Iacoangeli stated he could put something on the Facebook page that Bloomer Park is looking for "Friends". There is a special email address for Parks and Rec that interested residents can email directly. He could also put this on the township website front page for a

month or so to see how many people are interested. Ms. Erlich stated she would be happy to spearhead this.

c. Fall Events

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the Film at the Farm event was under-attended, with maybe 20 people showing up. The event was well done, the weather was perfect, but attendance was so low for whatever reason. The thought is to possibly try the event one more time this year and tie it into the Haunting Event on October 24. The event could be drive-in style where you can hear the moving through the radio, and also have a "trunk and treating" portion before the movie. The group, including Barb Allison from the Historical Society, thought this would be a great idea. Ms. Allison will mention this to the Historical Society.

d. Pickle Ball Court / Existing Horseshoe & Volleyball

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the Supervisor wants to remove the horseshoe pits and possibly the volleyball court at Hawley Park, since both are underutilized.

He has gotten calls asking if the township would provide pickle ball courts. Pickle ball seems to be the fastest growing sport in the US for people over 50. It utilizes a racket and ball similar to a whiffle ball. It is very accessible and doesn't require a lot of room. He asked for thoughts from the committee.

Ms. Carlock would like to use an existing surface, like the basketball courts, and overlay stripes on those courts. She is in favor of removing the horseshoe pits, but is opposed to taking the volley ball court out. She'd like to see it refurbished with new sand and a net. Mr. Loew suggested moving the volley ball court to the location of the horseshoe pits that are being removed. It is closer to the pavilion and he feels it would get used more. Mr. Iacoangeli stated he could get quotes.

Ms. Carlock moved to remove the horseshoe pits, and relocate the volley ball court in that area where the horseshoe pits will be covered and sodded, add new sand and a new net, and promote it. Mr. Loew supported and MOTION CARRIED with voice vote: (6 yes votes)

OLD BUSINESS:

a. M-59 Huron River Pathway Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the Board has already taken action and this is more informational. A contract was approved to hire Reliance Company in the amount of \$186,380 with a 12% contingency and including Johnson & Anderson's engineering costs, for a total of \$217,000. The \$147,000 will be taken out of the HUD grant and \$70,000 from the Parks and Rec fund. They do not have a time line, but once the project is started, it will take 3 weeks.

b. Fisk Farm Master Plan

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the Administration asked him to revisit Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio for the development of a Master Plan for Fisk Farm. The cost is \$10,580. Originally the Parks & Rec suggested Beckett & Raeder in the amount of \$20,000, but the Township Board would not approve that amount and thus the reason for revisiting Johnson Hill. The proposal by Johnson Hill is to do things previously discussed, i.e. inventory, putting stuff on paper, looking at surrounding land uses, vehicular patterns, visibility, signage, lighting. They will meet with stakeholder groups for ideas on what issues there are and compile a planning and design response resulting from those ideas and issues. Johnson Hill thinks it will take 4 months to put something together.

Ms. Erlich moved to recommend to the Township Board to accept the proposal from Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio, not to exceed \$10,580, for professional services to develop a Master Plan for

Fisk Farm. Ms. Workman supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote (6 yes votes).

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the Facebook page is updated with events and encouraged the committee to check it out and keep pushing people towards our site.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Workman is excited for ITC pathway discussions again. Ms. Erlich is excited with all the projects happening.

Ms. Grubb likes the drive in movie event with the trunk or treat portion. She thinks it's a great idea and will bring a better draw.

Ms. Voorheis reported there were a lot of human interest items at the last Township Board meeting. Patrol cars will be purchased, Dublin Senior Center is getting a generator, the Township Hall will be repainted, Jay Brendel is retiring as the township Sexton, Carol Burkhart is retiring August 31, and a female officer, Jessica Snow was honored with a lifesaving award.

a. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Loew referenced the discussion at the board meeting regarding Kroger wanting to pay less taxes. Ms. Voorheis confirmed that Kroger withdrew the Tax Abatement.

Mr. Loew asked about the Complete Streets Plan. Mr. Iacoangeli stated the CIP is being updated and the Complete Streets Plan will get incorporated in the Master Plan.

b. Next Meeting Date: August 25, 2015

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.