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Terry Lilley, Clerk
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Trustees
Carol J. Burkard
Scott Ruggles
Andrea C. Voorheis
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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
685 Union Lake Rd.
White Lake, MI 48383
October 28, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Deren called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called: Mr. Carr, Ms. Carlock and Ms. Workman were excused.

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

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

Visitors: 1

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Erlich moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Minutes August 26, 2014 meeting

Ms. Voorheis moved to approve the minutes of August 26, 2014 as presented. Ms. Erlich supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Fisk Farm Master Plan RFQ Review

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the RFQ's were due back last Friday and there were a few companies that chose not to respond. He distributed packages from the companies that did respond, including their professional qualifications and examples of work related projects similar to Fisk Farm. There is no scoring sheet yet, as he wanted the committee members to review the packets first. Of the 4 responses, the idea is give those companies and RFP and block half hour segments for them to come in with a presentation and submit a sealed bid on the cost of the project.

The next stage would be to establish a steering committee.

b. Fisk Farm Subcommittee

With regard to establishing a subcommittee, Mr. Iacoangeli felt there should be 2 representatives each from the Historical Society, Parks & Rec, the Township Board, and the Planning Commission.

Ms. Voorheis indicated that she would be the liaison between the Township Board and the Historical Society, since she sits on both boards. Ms. Erlich stated that she and Ms. Workman would represent the Parks and Rec.

Mr. Iacoangeli stated that a budget will have to be established and determined by the Township Board. A master plan has never been done and a plan should be in place. One to two visioning sessions will be held, maybe one at the farm. If the Township Board is serious about moving forward, a company could be hired before the holidays with the idea they would do some work this winter after the first of the year. He will get a proposal together to outline what the township would like to see in the plan. He will also contact the other boards/committees for volunteers and will PDF a survey monkey on when the new subcommittee wants to meet.

c. Preliminary MNRTF Grant

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the score sheet was received from the state on the grant request for Hidden Pines Park. The score was somewhat weak with less than 50% of points, as it doesn't meet the criteria for the state. Connectivity is big with the state and there is no pathway system that leads to the park. White Lake Township is just one community, and if there was shared maintenance or if the park was used by multiple communities, we could have scored extra points. We will get points back for environmental features, i.e., bike hoops, parking, etc. The state was concerned with ADA parking, but he assured there would be a paved lot with signage at some point. Also, we initially never mentioned that the township has a formal Parks committee or department. He showed the state the link on the website to the Parks Committee and he feels we'll get some points back.

The final score will be available in November and awards announced in December.

d. Township Pathways Update

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated the township has a meeting with MDOT tomorrow regarding the pathway in front of the Woodside Bible Church. We are close to getting a permit issued. Environmental letters are being drafted. MDOT wants the pathway over their existing culvert and there is enough room for 8 ft. This will save some money and J&A is revising their scope of work. The money saved will be rolled into the length of the pathway and probably will fully connect this section.

MDOT wants a safety barrier for pedestrians. There will be some sort of shielding or guard rail on the river side and there will also need to be some improvement on the road side, i.e., guardrail.

With regard to maintenance, Mr. Iacoangeli stated there would be no additional maintenance over the other pathways in the township. We will have to provide maintenance for repairs, patch work or replacement, but no snow plowing, etc.

Mr. Loew asked what would happen down the line if MDOT wants to make the road/pathway wider. Mr. Iacoangeli stated it would be on the township. If this were to happen, it would only be this section and we would have an opportunity to do something better. Right now, it will be barely 8 ft. with the guardrail and where it drops off. The township is hoping to get the construction drawings done this winter.

Also, Mr. Iacoangeli stated the township staff has been looking at the potential for putting together a pathway program in the township and having a separate committee was one idea. The committee would meet quarterly or bi-annually outside this meeting and there could be representatives from this committee, the Township Board, Planning Commission, school districts, police and fire. The idea is to bring key stakeholders in the township together. The Township Supervisor or board member would act as the liaison to talk to various groups on meeting on a quarterly basis. However, if the Board of Trustees isn't on board with pathways and spending, this won't go any further.

A Pathway Master Plan is something to consider and develop along with a Complete Streets Plan. The Planning Commission is looking at putting this together and should work with Parks committee on this. Funding could be considered through a millage and the creation of a 501-C3 for 2016.

Mr. Iacoangeli will start looking for interested parties and will reach out to the school districts as well. It might be good to have a flagship meeting and see who shows up. Chief Kline of the police department can appoint someone as well.

Mr. Loew suggested going to subdivision meetings and presenting what the township envisions.

Ms. Erlich would like to have something on paper to hand out to groups. The important thing is to get the information out.

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli had nothing further to add.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Liaison Report

Ms. Voorheis mentioned White Lake Township now has an unofficial Facebook page that was created by Matt Carr. Also, the old Gin Mill Party Store has been demolished and the new store should be opening soon prior to Thanksgiving. This may encourage other businesses to improve or upgrade their look.

Ms. Voorheis reported that at the Township Board September meeting, Mr. Lilley gave board members information on a storage barn he wants to put on the Hawley Park property to store election equipment. This would be a \$20k expenditure and she doesn't see it happening right now. She would have voted against this has it been up for consideration.

There will be a Fallen Soldier Memorial at the White Lake Cemetery, Tuesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m.

b. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Loew noted that at the last meeting he commented on Union Lake Road being bumpy and it would be a matter of time before RCOC fixes it. It has since been resurfaced and it's nice. After Bogie Lake, this would be a good connectivity project at Cooley Lake.

Mr. Iacoangeli feels it may be a good idea to have a joint Planning Commission / Parks & Rec meeting when the Complete Streets Plan will be up for discussion.

Ms. Erlich reported that the Optimist Club's 5th Annual Pumpkin Hunt at Indian Springs on October 11 was a huge success. There were 1,700 people that attended and the Optimist Club has received positive comments.

Ms. Erlich also mentioned that a lot of people don't where all the township parks are located and it might be fun to do a joint venture between the Parks Committee and the Optimist Club for a scavenger hunt to all the parks. There could be some funding assistance through the County's Brooksie's Way Foundation.

c. Next Meeting Date: November 25, 2014

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.