

Gregory R. Baroni, Supervisor
Terry Lilley, Clerk
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Trustees
Carol J. Burkard
Scott Ruggles
Andrea C. Voorheis
Rik Kowall

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 48383
July 22, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Erlich called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called: Ms. Carlock arrived after 7:00 and Ms. Derin was excused.

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

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

Visitors: 0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Minutes May 27, 2014 meeting

Mr. Loew moved to approve the minutes of May 27, 2014 as presented. Mr. Pegg supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Erlich 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

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that there has been discussion in the past about putting together a Master Plan for Fisk Farm. Fisk Farm already has historical assets and is already being used for community events. People identify with it as being a community focal point.

He has been researching a comprehensive plan of comparable sites. He found something similar in Windham, Maine, which has a site half the size and is located in an area not unlike Fisk Farm. That site accommodates existing buildings, i.e. old farm house, library, shops and they are looking to add a small garden area.

Mr. Iacoangeli feels a Master Plan for this area would help identify the needs. He noted that a permanent structure utilized for a restroom could be a benefit if this will be a constant public use. He added that there is potential for a multi-use building or gazebo to be used as a band shell or for other activities.

Mr. Pegg suggested a swimming pool, since not everyone lives on a lake, but Ms. Voorheis didn't think the historical society would be receptive to that idea.

Ms. Workman likes the idea of what is shown, and suggested having more historical type buildings where people could do arts and crafts, events with sheep shearing and possibly having a blacksmith on site.

Ms. Erlich noted that Fisk Farm is not real obvious from M-59 and feels if the township wants to draw people to the farm it has to do something to advertise it.

Mr. Loew added that the site is not next to M-59 and there is no pedestrian connection. The only way to get to the site is by car. He suggested extending the sidewalk from Walmart.

Mr. Iacoangeli stated the township knows there will never be full parking in the surrounding parking areas and it would be ideal if it could work out overflow parking for Fisk Farm events with the Marketplace owner. This would have to be discussed between Township Board and owner of the marketplace. A Master Plan could show parking on the site as a goodwill effort and request overflow in the marketplace. Ms. Erlich would also like to see a hitching post for people who want to come by horse.

Also discussed was screening portions of the site from adjacent uses that would complement the historic nature of the site. There may be fencing treatments other than chain link to give the feel of not being on M-59. Other enhancements would be to put in ADA compliant pathways to connect the buildings within the farm and programmed areas of the farm with a community garden area and historically appropriate gas lights, and a space for a permanent farmers market and other types of sales events. A farmer market on this site would be a huge hit.

Mr. Loew asked whether the buildings could be rented. Ms. Voorheis stated she is a member of the historical society and renting has come up in discussion, but no one has approached them with this idea. The historical society may be receptive if approached. The historical society could be interested in revenue generating opportunities at Fisk Farm when the site is not being actively used for public community events.

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the next steps moving forward would be to first reach out to historical society to build consensus around developing a Fisk Farm Master Plan; Present the idea to the Board of Trustees to see if there is the political will to spend money to take a look at this; and then identify a budget for the proposed Master Plan. Typical plans are approximately \$4,500 for someone to come in and make recommendations, provide drawings, and hold town hall visioning sessions to talk about priorities of what the public wants to see or do there. Lastly, the township would put out the request for proposal (RFP) for the project to local firms that provide park master planning services.

Starting the process now would lead to having plans finalized over the winter to begin enhancements in the spring. Once the plan is done, it would detail the goals and objectives with dollar amounts for each element.

It was agreed that the historical society would be invited to the next Parks meeting on August 26.

b. 2015 Project Priorities

Mr. Iacoangeli asked the committee to start thinking about some of the key projects it would like to see started or completed for next year. There is a grant out this year for Hidden Pines Park, at which a final decision will be made in December. If funded, this project would be the main focus next year and would involve going through the process to start putting a plan together for development.

The committee reviewed the current 5-year Parks Master Plan. Ms. Carlock would like to see Fisk Farm added or converted under the White Lake/Village Study. Projects on the plan were considered and the consensus of the group was to concentrate on the Bogie Lake pathway and to look at grant opportunities. Mr. Iacoangeli noted that there is still a sewer extension planned on Bogie Lake and it has already come up from Commerce to the high school. The pathway project was supposed to piggy back on the sewer extension up to M-59.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. DTE Foundation Tree Grant

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that everything is in good order and all but one tree is doing well. The trees were placed at the senior center and Hidden Pines Park. The refund check will be here in within 30 days.

b. Park Signage Update

Park signage has been installed and looks good. Ms. Carlock requested that another sign be erected on M-59 or by the library sign to give Hawley Park clearer identification.

c. M-59 Huron River Pathway Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the engineer has put in for a permit and this is in MDOTs tracking system now. MDOT is aware we are looking to cross over their existing structure. They are not keen about allowing a bridge but maybe a pathway over their existing culvert. Construction costs will be less for a crossing rather than having a bridge.

OTHER BUSINESS:

d. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli is waiting until next month to hear from the DNR on the trust grant for Hidden Pines Park; the \$1800 refund check will be coming within a month from DTE for the tree grant. He reported that the Movie in the Park event this year was a bust, very poor turnout. We will look at other ways to promote or partner with another group in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Liaison Report

Ms. Voorheis reminded about the August 5th election. She noted the Library is a normal renewal, they are proposing a light increase in Police and Fire, and a millage is on the ballot for Huron Valley Schools Sinking Fund for 10 years, which would amount to approximately \$75 per year per household.

b. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Workman indicated there was a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of Kensington Park recognizing the horse crossing into Kensington. Senator Kowall felt this could be done across from Highland Recreation as well.

Ms. Workman noted the "Welcome to White Lake" signs at each end of the township are in need of some mowing and landscaping. Mr. Iacoangeli will mention this to the supervisor.

Ms. Carlock requested to extend an invitation to Supervisor Baroni to attend a Parks & Rec meeting, perhaps on August 26 when the historical society will be here.

c. Next Meeting Date: August 26, 2014

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Pegg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)