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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 48383
January 28, 2014 @ 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. Dehart, Ms. Voorheis and Ms. Workman were excused

ROLL CALL: Merrie Carlock, Chairperson
Debby Dehart, Secretary - Excused
Deb Deren, Vice Chair
Linda Erlich
Jean-Philippe Loew
Andrea Voorheis - Excused
Barbara Workman - Excused

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

Visitors: 0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Minutes November 26, 2013 meeting

Ms. Erlich moved to approve the minutes of November 26, 2013 as submitted. Mr. Loew supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. EDI – Special Project Grant

Mr. Iacoangeli stated that the Township Board wants to move forward with EDI Special Project Grant. This is one of the last earmarks that came out of 2008 budget from the federal government. There is \$147k that is coming up on the 7-year deadline in 2015. He gave a Powerpoint presentation on some of the potential projects the funds could be used for and the Township Board would like feedback from the Parks Committee to recommend projects for consideration. He noted that the Planning Commission has also discussed potential projects and there will be a culmination for the board to review.

Woodside Bible Church is being considered to continue the pathway they recently installed when they constructed their addition to the church. The continuation would involve installing a bridge over the Huron River, where the existing pathway ends. The cost of doing this would be in the \$120-130k range.

Another project for consideration is the Oxbow Lake/M-59 mini park, where ice fishermen park their cars. Currently, the property is in private ownership. The lot is unbuildable and is not worth much, but people do park there now and it could be a small pocket park that could be expanded with amenities at a later date.

Parking behind the township hall at Hawley Park could be improved with paving where there is existing gravel, and handicap spaces along with a sidewalk could be added to be ADA compliant and more accessible.

Also for consideration is for improvement to the Fisk Farm property to make it more of a focal point for community gatherings. Pathways and lighting could be added and keep with the historical nature of the property. A gazebo or band shell is a suggestion to get the property to a point to hold events, i.e., tree lighting ceremony, Halloween, etc. Ms. Carlock feels this is a nice project, but she would like to see a master plan developed before starting anything on this property.

Mr. Iacoangeli noted that the township tried to use these funds for a pathway down M-59 in the past, but after researching what would be involved with meeting state standards, the board didn't feel it was a good allocation of the funds.

Mr. Loew reviewed the area of the Fisk Farm on the screen. He noted there is no crossing capability to get from Twin Lakes Subdivision to the other side of M-59. He referenced an empty space in the neighborhood near the park and suggested connectivity that would run behind Tim Horton's and Belle Tire to allow crossing at the light, since this is already a township property. Ms. Deren asked how far off M-59 they could go and still qualify for the grant. Mr. Iacoangeli felt it could be a feasible project, but Ms. Carlock stated while she is not opposed, she would like to see the money spent on another project that everyone in the community could use.

Ms. Erlich is in favor of enhancing the Fisk Farm property. She questioned whether it could be done in stages and start the work within the deadline. Mr. Iacoangeli stated this could be one combined project that can be phased, but it would have to be submitted all at once. Ms. Erlich's second choice would be improvements to Hawley Park.

Ms. Deren would like to see a pathway with the bridge at the church. She likes all the projects, but feels the township needs to concentrate on a pathway since it has recently completed many small park projects.

Mr. Loew noted that unless you use a car, you can't get to Fisk Farm. He would like to see the connectivity in Twin Lakes, but also likes the idea of the bridge connection to the church property because he feels it would draw more people to Fisk Farm.

Mr. Iacoangeli noted that the current pathway system stops at the end of the church property where the water crossing is. If the bridge was constructed, it would stub off again on the other side, however, there is a small commercial property between the church and Lowe's that will eventually get developed and

would have to install the portion of pathway connecting the bridge to Lowe's. Ms. Carlock suggested looking into Continental Bridge Co for pre-fab bridge, which she has done on another project.

Ms. Carlock likes the bridge project and the Oxbow Lake mini-park. With the mini park, she thinks the ice fishing is a nice feature and could be a great acquisition grant this year. She also feels that bringing Hawley Park into ADA compliance would work well for a Passport Grant. With regard to Fisk Farm, she likes the idea, but would like to move forward with Parks and Rec funds to develop a master plan for the site. She agrees this property has been a great focal point for the community, and painting and shutters could be done by volunteers with the help of Parks and Rec funding, and by working with the Historical Society. Her first choice would be to construct the bridge across the Huron River at the church property.

Ms. Deren questioned whether any extra funding after constructing the bridge could be used for enhancements at Fisk Farm. Mr. Iacoangeli thought this could be a possibility. He will submit suggestions to Mr. O'Neil and they will do online survey to the internal groups for a vote on the top item.

b. MNRTF Grant Application 2014

Mr. Iacoangeli stated that the township administration has asked Clearzoning to write a proposal for Hidden Pines Park. They will submit a master plan to the state and ask for the maximum of \$300-\$350k. This would be the same grant that was used for Bloomer Park. They will submit the grant by the April deadline and an answer should be forthcoming by December. A visioning session for Hidden Pines Park has been scheduled for Thursday, February 20, at the Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Carlock would like to get participation from people with disabilities if possible.

Ms. Carlock asked what the chances are to pursue grants for Hawley Park and Oxbow Lake would be. Mr. Iacoangeli will have to get approval from the office to work on these. He feels the Passport Grant applicant is feasible, but not sure on pursuing the Acquisition Grant for Oxbow at this time. Ms. Carlock explained how the Acquisition Grant works and will contact the property owner at Oxbow to see if he will donate the local match and take the assessed market value.

c. Bloomer Park Award Presentation

Mr. Iacoangeli presented a plaque to the Parks and Rec committee for winning the Landscape Design award presented by the state of Michigan. He went to Grand Traverse Resort last week to accept the award for Bloomer Park. At the February 18 township board meeting, he will ask the supervisor to present the award on behalf of the parks committee. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the residents that use the park. Ms. Carlock would also like a press release from the Parks & Rec committee.

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli had nothing further to add.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Liaison Report

Ms. Voorheis was not present to give a report.

b. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Deren asked if the township got the money back yet from Bloomer Park coming in under budget. Mr. Iacoangeli confirmed that it did and added that it was received by year end, including the 10% that was held back.

Ms. Deren also asked for a status on the tree-planting grant. Mr. Iacoangeli stated it was submitted on December 16 and the township should be notified within 30-60 days whether it was approved.

Mr. Loew stated he likes smaller connections. He referenced Caboodles in France, where there are small passages between large streets. This is keeping within the same spirit rather than having a large grid. Ms. Carlock asked Mr. Iacoangeli to bring a trail plan to a future meeting for the group to review and map out areas where this concept could be feasible.

Mr. Loew also feels it is good to have communication within the township on what has been done to date. Mr. Iacoangeli pulled up the new township newsletter on its website where residents can now sign up to receive it electronically. He showed a paragraph acknowledging the Parks and Rec for winning its award from the state for Bloomer Park.

Ms. Carlock stated she sits on the Hess Hathaway board and they are going out for a millage on their own. She would not be adverse to pairing with Highland if this would be a consideration.

c. Next Meeting Date: February 25, 2014

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Carlock moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Ms. Loew supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)