

Gregory R. Baroni, Supervisor  
Terry Lilley, Clerk  
Forrest Jay Brendel, Treasurer



Trustees  
Carol J. Burkard  
Michael Powell  
Todd T. Birkle  
David Lewsley

## WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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### WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting  
7525 Highland Road  
White Lake, MI 48383  
September 27, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Carlock called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called: Ms. Deren and Ms. Shiloff were excused.

ROLL CALL: Steve Anderson  
Merrie Carlock, Vice Chairperson  
Debby Dehart  
Deb Deren, Secretary - **Absent**  
David Lewsley, Board Liaison  
Jean Shiloff - **Absent**  
Andrea Voorheis

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

Visitors: 14

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Voorheis moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Dehart supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Minutes of August 23, 2011 meeting
- b. Minutes of September 14, 2011 special meeting

Mr. Anderson moved to approve the minutes of August 23, 2011 as presented. Mr. Lewsley supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)

Mr. Lewsley moved to approve the minutes September 14, 2011 as corrected. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes; 1 abstained - Carlock)

#### 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.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW:**

Mr. Anderson reviewed the financial report for August. He indicated that he questioned Ms. Bockelman regarding the \$125 fee for the flag service. The Parks & Rec have never paid for this before and he asked for clarification as to whether this should be a Dublin Center expense.

**Mr. Anderson moved to approve the Financial Report for August, contingent upon clarification with regard to the fee for the flag service. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote. (5 yes votes)**

### **New Business:**

#### **a. Bloomer Park Design Presentation**

Mr. Iacoangeli introduced Brian Barrick of Beckett & Raeder, who presented the design plans for Bloomer Park.

Mr. Barrick gave a powerpoint presentation and explained the character and elements of the site as a result of a walk-through. Desired trail access, favorite views, shelter location and the overall favorite location of the park were discussed.

Options were explored for the parking lot design at the Steering Committee meeting. From that meeting, and taking thoughts and feedback from the group, they developed a site Master Plan detailing parking, the trail system, an equestrian trail, and the shelter location.

He reviewed in detail the parking plan, which is intended to be gravel with grass parking bays. There were concerns from some of the committee members with having to mow the grass bays too often.

The trails will be 8 ft. wide with a limestone surface. In areas where they are not using the existing trail route, there will be a smaller shoulder area. Boardwalks on the lower areas will allow for water runoff. The equestrian trails would be cut through the woods with no surfacing.

One resident stated that she rides at the barn and feels the equestrian trails should be exclusive to just horses. Mr. Barrick indicated they are intended to be separate trails.

Another resident asked how many miles of trails there are and referenced Commerce Township that has a marked distance trail, which is convenient when running or walking. Mr. Barrick said there is 1 mile of equestrian trails and 1.5 miles of pedestrian trails.

Ms. Dehart questioned the facility located at the water and if it would allow for launching a kayak. Mr. Barrick said it might be possible to have a small area that could be used in the spring, but not for summer due to the water level.

Mr. Barrick reviewed the overlook point. They are suggesting a cable mesh rail which is more transparent to allow for viewing at a lower level.

With regard to the shelter and in keeping with the state park character, they have planned for a modern interpretation of a steel structure that would require less maintenance and still keep the character.

Furnishings would include benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and bike hoops. The goal is to have a family of site furnishings that would work well with each other. The steel construction has the durability and maintainability for a park environment. There is potential for future furnishings including equestrian crossings and trailheads, and hitching posts.

Signage is required to be at angles of viewing height from a wheelchair. The site has geology/hydrology that could be described and also signage telling the story of the park itself.

Mr. Barrick reviewed the plan for Phase I, which includes the parking lot and trail systems in the southern part of the park with the shelter and overlook point. The north trails would be part of a future phase, including the equestrian trails. Phase I would satisfy the grant requirements and Phase II would be for park improvements at a later date.

Ms. Carlock stated she would like to take care of the equestrian trails in Phase I and would also like a quote for surfacing and a link to get to the subdivision. At the very least, she wants to see the equestrian trails marked. Ms. Dehart added that there are local riders that use the park and if the trail is staked and laid out, the park could be ready for everyone when it opens.

Mr. Barrick noted that creating the equestrian trails would be more of a volunteer effort, but he will have the contractor stake the route. Discussion will continue on this.

The MNRTF Grant Budget was reviewed totaling \$525,000. Mr. Barrick stated they also did a conceptual opinion of cost totaling \$524,656. There were questions regarding soft costs and whether the other bidding companies included some of these costs in their proposals.

The next step with the general agreement is to solicit RFP's for the topographic survey and geotechnical investigation. The intent is to bid the project in February 2012 for spring 2012 construction.

Ms. Carlock would still like to see the spur that goes to the subdivision. Mr. Barrick will put together a conceptual cost for this.

Ms. Dehart questioned whether there were there any wet or low areas on the equestrian trails that would require a boardwalk, which would be the least favorable option. Mr. Barrick showed those areas on the map and indicated geo plus crushed stone might be more acceptable.

**Mr. Anderson moved to recommend to the Township Board to proceed with the Phase I main concept plan and approve a design alternative for the entry into the subdivision, evaluate the existing north trails, and proceed with the survey. Mr. Dehart supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote. (5 yes votes)**

**b. Hawley Park Swing and Park Bench Purchase**

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that he was asked by Supervisor Baroni to discuss replacing the swing sets at Hawley Park. He showed pictures of several options for new sets and reviewed the costs associated with each. There is a requirement that the swings have a 32 ft. x 40 ft. usage zone. He plotted out the area off the existing playscape and noted there would be additional costs for a safety surface area. Ms. Carlock would like to see at least 1-2 bucket swings for babies. Mr. Iacoangeli will price out the swings and the cost to do the area surface based on the 32 x 40 requirement.

There was a previous recommendation from this committee to install new benches. Mr. Iacoangeli will find that motion and reintroduce it to the board.

**Mr. Anderson moved to recommend to the Township Board that benches be put back in the parks without advertising or dedication, and to reintroduce the last motion approved by this committee. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote. (5 yes votes)**

**Other Business:**

**a. Staff Report**

Mr. Iacoangeli had nothing further to add.

**Communications:**

a. Liaison Reports

Mr. Lewsley reported that the Township Board moved \$104,000 from the Parks & Rec budget to Improvement Funds for Vetter Park. Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the roof repairs to the gazebo are finished as is the electrical. Final grading and irrigation still needs to be done.

b. Committee Member Comments

Mr. Anderson reported that JoAnn Fabrics and Bed, Bath & Beyond are moving into the Farmer Jack location and another opportunity will present itself at the old Blockbuster location. Also, The Root Restaurant is doing very well and has exceeded the owner's expectations.

Trinity is coming along and St. Joes will have a quick care facility located next to Marshall's.

Mr. Anderson would like to have the fee schedule for the parks revisited since the parks are being upgraded.

**Ms. Voorheis moved to recommend to the Township Board to charge the Parks & Rec Committee with reviewing the Park Fee Schedule and to look at neighboring communities and what they charge for like services. Mr. Anderson supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote. (5 yes votes)**

It was noted that in the past, no one was monitoring the use of the fields after 5:00 where revenue could have been generated.

Ms. Carlock reported that there would not be the Hawleyween Run this year, but the high school would be having a Wicked Run.

Depending on whether the township would be going for a millage again, Ms. Carlock suggested the possibility of a few communities getting together to combine efforts.

Ms. Carlock also suggested considering now if the committee is going to have any grant applications. She would like to talk to land owner to the west of Bloomer Park on whether he would provide matching funds.

Hess Hathaway will be selling Christmas ornaments this year with a picture of the barn.

c. Next Meeting Date: Regular meeting of October 25, 2011

**Adjournment**

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