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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
August 23, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Carlock called the regular meeting to order at p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll was called: All members were present.

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

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

Visitors: 2

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Shiloff moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Dehart supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (8 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Minutes of June 28, 2011 meeting

Ms. Dehart noted that she has to withdraw from the Bloomer Park design committee.

Ms. Carlock moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2011 as presented. Ms. Robinson supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (8 yes votes)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Robinson opened the discussion to the public for comments on items not listed on the agenda, but none was offered at this time.

Financial Review:

Mr. Anderson reviewed the financial report for June and July. He indicated that he was going to ask for a breakdown of the \$2,000 per month going for Grounds and Maintenance fees. Initially, there was detail on how many cuttings, fertilizer, etc. but it is no longer being provided.

Mr. Lewsley stated he has had conversations with Mr. Lilley in the past and understands this is the allocated share of Parks and Recreation from what was budgeted for the year from the township general fund.

Discussion continued with a review of the July report. In question were costs for the soccer nets, and recording secretary fees for the meeting that was not held.

Mr. Iacoangeli stated he would ask for clarification from the Accounting department.

Mr. Anderson moved to approve the Financial Report for June based on clarification on the Grounds and Maintenance fees, and the Financial Report for July with the removal of the recording secretary's fees and clarification on the soccer nets. Ms. Robinson supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (7 yes votes; 1 no vote – Mr. Lewsley was opposed)

New Business:

a. White Lake Road Park (Hidden Pines)

Mr. Iacoangeli reported there has been discussion on this in the past. There is a 9-acre site on White Lake Road owned by the township and the Township Board has talked about building youth softball diamonds on the property. The Township Board is looking for thoughts from the Parks and Rec committee on this proposal.

The committee felt this proposition should go through the formal site plan process and have a design engineer solicited.

The committee also questioned the sense of urgency from the board to proceed. Mr. Lewsley responded that when the Vetter Park enhancements are done, one ball diamond will be lost. They also intend on moving the backstop from Vetter to the new fields. There is more demand for ball diamonds than what are available. The Township Board doesn't envision this as being a formal park but rather just a couple of fields. He agrees that there should be a site plan process however this is not intended to be a full blown park like Hawley and Vetter. His thought is to have a plan for parking, curb cuts and a layout of the field.

Ms. Robinson moved that a site plan be developed and a recommendation sent by this committee to the Township Board before any construction starts at the site. Mr. Anderson supported and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote. (8 yes votes)

Discussion on the motion:

White Lake resident, Rich Trahey, indicated that this topic was brought up last spring, at which time he talked with neighbors in the area. They were concerned that a tree in the middle of the park that is home to a red hawk would be disturbed. Mr. Lewsley responded that the rudimentary plan was that the fields could be constructed without disturbing the tree. And with whatever plans move forward, the intent is also to preserve the property for a future fire hall.

b. Vetter Park Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reviewed the costs of the Vetter Park enhancements. He broke down the individual elements and announced the companies that were awarded the projects.

The grading bid was awarded to B & B Road Grading for \$14,000 with the option of also grading Hidden Pines for \$3,400.

The fencing bid was awarded to Northern Fencing in the amount of \$15,512 and they will use existing fencing from diamond 2 and reintroduce it into diamond 1. Any leftover fencing would go towards the Hidden Pines project.

There was only one response for the multi-use building and gazebo repair. They are anticipating the costs to be in the \$70-80,000 range for both and are hoping to have a contractor lined up next week.

The specs have been compiled for irrigation and seed, but they are waiting until the grading is done before going out for bids. They are anticipating \$15-18,000 including irrigation connection, work inside the multi-use building, and seeding.

Mr. Lewsley noted that one bid was received for the entire project and the Township Board moved to act as the general contractor to find sub-contractors for the separate pieces. The total cost of \$135,512 compromises the major components with grading, fencing, multi-use building, irrigation and seeding, infield restoration and additional concrete work.

This project is starting now and most of the elements will be done by the fall. It was noted the entire project is being overseen by the township officials and the building department.

c. Bloomer Park Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reported there was a meeting on site and a public visioning session. They didn't get the public attendance they had anticipated, but they discussed the natural features and walked the existing trails. They participated in an exercise and discussed the location of a gazebo and picnic shelter, etc.

The next step is to take all the comments resulting from that session and put together the first initial design plan for review at the next meeting. He will bring something to this committee for review and comments and then send all the feedback to the Township Board for their comments.

d. Corridor Enhancement Funds (EDI Grant)

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that MDOT is starting to work inside of M-59. They will do a recap from Milford Road to Pontiac Lake Road and in between, making all intersections ADA compliant. When the township knew about this project happening, it started a dialogue with regard to the bike path. He and Mr. O'Neil had multiple meetings to renovate the shoulder or bring it back to usable condition. MDOT is not willing to do anything with the shoulder, but have offered to submit on the township's behalf an enhancement grant for pathways which would be for a 70-30% split in funding.

Ms. Carlock asked whether MDOT would split the 30% local match with the local unit.

Mr. Iacoangeli is looking for a recommendation or opinion from the committee this evening on whether pathways built on M-59 are still a priority.

Mr. Lewsley stated his opinion is to have a walkable path on M-59 is critical. The existing path may not be what the township ends up with since there are definitions about sidewalks versus paths. The objective is to run on the same side of the road, but there will be some separation and the township will have to contribute some funding.

Noted was the fact that the \$147,000 enhancement grant has to be used in the corridor, but it doesn't appear it could be used as a match against another federal grant.

Ms. Robinson stated the priority of the Parks and Rec committee is to get a pathway down M-59. This has always been a priority and goal since day one.

Ms. Carlock moved to support the Community Development Department working with MDOT and Oakland County TSE to prepare an enhancement grant for pathways along M-59. Ms. Robinson supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote.

Other Business:

- a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli had nothing further to add.

Communications:

- a. Liaison Reports

Mr. Lewsley had nothing further to add.

- b. Committee Member Comments

Ms. Shiloff referenced the minutes from June 28 where Mr. Tayhey asked if the swings at Vetter Park could be replaced. Mr. Tayhey volunteered to replace the swings by providing the manpower, but there was discussion on liability issues.

Mr. Anderson noted the August Movie in the Park was canceled due to rain.

The Park-It Program might be considered for the opening day of the new Vetter Park.

- c. Next Meeting Date: Regular meeting of September 27, 2011

Adjournment

Ms. Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Mr. Anderson supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (8 yes votes)