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Todd T. Birkle
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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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MINUTES

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
January 26, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

Vice Chairperson Carlock called the regular meeting of the White Lake Township Parks & Recreation to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called: Ms. Kowalski and Mr. Sweeney were absent and Ms. Robinson notified the office that she would be tardy.

ROLL CALL: Steve Anderson
Todd Birkle, Board Liaison
Merrie Carlock, Vice Chairperson
Debby Dehart
Deb Deren, Secretary
Shirley Kowalski - **Absent**
Caryn Robinson, Chairperson – **Tardy w/notification**
Jean Shiloff
Bill Sweeney - **Absent**
Andrea Voorheis

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

Visitors: 0

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Additions to "Other Business": Election of Officers; Signs and Trails; and a round table discussion for Ms. Carlock to update the committee on a meeting she attended regarding Hathaway.

Mr. Anderson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Shiloff supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (7 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Minutes of November 24, 2009 meeting

Mr. Anderson moved to approve the minutes of November 24, 2009 as presented. Ms. Carlock supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (7 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.

Financial Review for December:

Mr. Anderson reviewed the financial report for December 2009. He reported there is a \$2,000 expenditure for professional services, which was for the last lobbyist payment, and he reminded that notification to discontinue that service was sent to the organization.

The \$2,014 expenditure paid to J&A was for design engineering on the M-59 pathways project. Mr. Iacoangeli stated he has contacted J&A to have them come in and give a status update to the committee. He did talk with Ole Anderson, who indicated they surveyed the area and gave the info to a CAD tech, who is putting together a base plan. Ms. Carlock stated she would like to see a 24x36 plan of where they are to date. Steve Anderson will call Ole Anderson and request an update from a courtesy standpoint.

Mr. Anderson moved to approve and file the Financial Report for December 2009. Ms. Shiloff supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (7 yes votes)

Old Business:

NRTF Grant for Bloomer Park / Next Steps

Mr. Iacoangeli gave a Powerpoint presentation reflecting the chronological timeline of the progress with Bloomer Park.

The timetable provided an overview of state requirements and what is expected from the group in the coming year(s) from developing the RFP and the plan design, to beginning construction of the project. He noted before moving into construction, the State would review the plan again. They are interested in a universal design. The township will secure the required permits that will be needed, i.e., a curb cut from the RCOC, etc. The project will go out for bid in early 2011, with construction beginning in the spring. There is potential for this projected timeline if the target goals are followed, however there may be concerns about the park with regard to maintenance and hunting.

Mr. Anderson complemented Mr. Iacoangeli on his presentation and questioned whether he saw a division of roles with this plan. If this is not defined, he doesn't think things will get done. Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that he didn't know if a project like this has ever been undertaken in the township and most are done by private developments. He thinks it would be appropriate for the Parks & Rec to have a joint meeting with the Township Board to get everyone on the same page. With all that will be happening in the next year or two, there needs to be a sharing of information and what the projects entail. He will start showing this to management and noted that the Clerk's office would want to be involved in the RFP process, purchasing, etc.

Mr. Birkle suggested putting this item in the next board packet for information and then possibly form a subcommittee to get this going. The Board may be concerned with millages and the expiration of them, and how to go about if they fail. Those millages are not covering the full cost of operations and the general fund is contributing to them. Ms. Carlock questioned whether a maintenance endowment would be legal, where we could have a fund balance until it is gone. Mr. Birkle will tell the Board this committee wants a joint meeting and he will see about February 10th.

New Business:

Discussion Updating / Maintaining Vetter Park Ball Diamond

Mr. Iacoangeli stated this item is for informational purposes. There were questions as to whether this could be incorporated into a single field as opposed to keeping it as 2 fields. Before installing irrigation for both fields, consider eliminating the small field and incorporating it into one large, nicer field to make it

more "marketable". Mr. Anderson asked (from a rental standpoint), what revenue is being generated and if it is economically feasible to do this. Mr. Iacoangeli would like the committee to get to the point that it understands the revenue side of the parks. While we don't have a Parks & Rec department, we have many fields/parks that we need to make informed decisions about. Mr. Anderson noted that the committee has offered to do this in the past, but the Treasurer's office has stated they would handle it. Mr. Iacoangeli feels we need to start having better communications between committees and boards and information sharing or everyone will lose.

Other Business:

Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli had nothing further to add.

Election of Officers

Ms. Robinson indicated that there are currently a few members serving out the terms of those who resigned and the rest have come up for reappointment in the same year. At present, there is one too many on the board. She noted that Mr. Sweeney would like to be more of an advisor to the committee, which would eliminate the extra board member. She asked the committee members if they would like to continue for another term and everyone stated that they would. The Supervisor will take this to the Board at their next meeting.

Update from Board

Mr. Birkle reported that the Township Board, through the water department, secured a grant for expansion of the water system. The grant is \$800,000, which will save the residents who will connect tie into the Waterford water system.

With regard to the budget, the township is a year behind how it collects taxes. There is a 5% reduction and this big drop will not see us for another year. Over the year, the general fund has always given money to police and fire. To balance the budget this year, Fire has the '04 millage for hiring staff and equipment and there is currently a surplus here. The opinion of the township legal counsel is that the township can use millage funds to pay for supervision of the staff. Rumor is that the Board is taking from police and fire to fund the general fund and he wanted to note for the record that this is not true.

Mr. Iacoangeli stated the CIP (Capital Improvements Plan) is available if anyone wants a copy.

Hathaway

Ms. Carlock reported there are a lot of events this committee could piggyback on and she would like to see them posted on the website, i.e., Indian Springs, etc. The programs are free and available to everyone if we could promote them.

Signs and Trails

There is money in the budget for signs and trails and the Board is waiting for direction from the committee. Hawley Park still doesn't have a sign and the committee would like to revisit the proposal. There is still public money and this is not a big-ticket item.

Mr. Iacoangeli stated he got an email from ITC regarding us wanting a pathway between the 2 state parks. Ms. Stump has agreed to come to a meeting this year and give a presentation. In the past, that trail wasn't something they would look at until they utilized the corridor, however, they may be more receptive now since they have agreed to meet with us.

The sewer extension down Bogie Lake Road has been put on hold. If in the future the line looks like it will go there, we have some of the costs done.

Communications:

Next meeting dates:

Regular Meeting – February 23, 2010

Adjournment

Ms. Voorheis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Ms. Robinson supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (7 yes votes)