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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

7525 Highland Road • White Lake, Michigan 48383-2900 • (248) 698-3300 • www.whitelaketwp.com

MINUTES

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
Dublin Senior Center
October 26, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Carlock called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called: Ms. Kowalski, Ms. Robinson and Mr. Anderson were absent.

ROLL CALL: Steve Anderson - **Absent**
Greg Baroni, Board Liaison
Merrie Carlock, Vice Chairperson
Debby Dehart
Deb Deren, Secretary
Shirley Kowalski - **Absent**
Caryn Robinson, Chairperson - **Absent**
Jean Shiloff
Bill Sweeney (Consultant) - **Absent**
Andrea Voorheis

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

Visitors: 3

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Shiloff moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Baroni supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Minutes of September 28, 2010 meeting

Ms. Shiloff moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2010. Mr. Baroni supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes; 1 abstained - Voorheis)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Carlock opened the discussion to the public for comments on items not listed on the agenda.

Citizen Carolyn Matern stated she came to the meeting to show her support for the Parks and Rec committee and also to convey her wishes of seeing a pedestrian-friendly pathway in the township. She noted she is an avid cyclist and there doesn't seem to be bike racks at any of the businesses in the township. This may be something for the board to consider as a requirement when new developments come into the township. Ms. Carlock stated that pathways have always been a priority to this committee. The pathways plan is adopted by the county and the township and is found in the Master Plan as well. The possibility of a pathway off Teggerdine that would connect Pontiac Lake and Indian Springs was discussed.

Terry Kelly, owner of 150-acre farm in the township stated he talked to Supervisor Kowall about putting in a trail from Porter Road. He likes the idea of a trail that would leave the corridor natural. He had an agreement with the DOA and DNR to use his property for AG purposes only until 2065, and that agreement (PA116) stays with the property. Ms. Carlock asked whether Mr. Kelly was familiar with a Natural Resources grant, where the landowner donates 25% value and puts it against the capital gain. Mr. Kelly stated he is interested in 501c3 partnerships. Ms. Carlock will look into this and noted when land is bought through a trust fund, land is protected in perpetuity.

Another resident noted he had heard at a board meeting there might be plans for a sidewalk to connect Broadmoor to the entrance of the subdivision and Mr. Iacoangeli concurred that it was discussed.

Vetter Park and Bloomer Park enhancements were discussed. Ms. Matern questioned how many people would actually venture back to Bloomer Park. She feels features will draw people to the parks and there are park areas all over the township with more amenities. Ms. Carlock noted the enhancements to Bloomer Park allow an opportunity to not lose the property to a development and it will also improve the property values for the people who live near there. She added that the committee has done a good job of leveraging the millage money, which was for pathways and they certainly are not giving up on that.

Financial Review for September

The September financial report was tabled this evening.

New Business:

a. Hawley-Ween Fun Run

Ms. Deren gave an update on the run. They have 13 runners registered to date, but many will register the day of. The township has already collected enough money to cover the cost of the water bottles. Everything seems to be in order and she will follow up with individual phone calls to volunteers.

b. Vetter and Bloomer Park Project Signs

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the board has indicated they want to reuse the signs that were used for the stimulus project to put at Bloomer and Vetter parks announcing "Park Redevelopment Coming Soon". There is an approximate cost of \$300 to reface them and the sign company is on standby for the project.

Mr. Baroni moved to have the township board repurpose the signs for park redevelopment. Ms. Shiloff supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote. (6 yes votes)

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that Vetter Park renovations will start soon. They will start grading this fall. The plan is to reuse the fencing and backstops and eliminate the smaller diamond. It was noted that the spring ball season may be cancelled. They will also review what is appropriate for the field with regard to player benches, etc.

Mr. Baroni reported the engineering bid came in at \$20,300 from Johnson & Anderson for the Vetter Park renovation. It may be more beneficial to look at other contractors.

Ms. Carlock moved to recommend to the Township Board to send this project out for bid for design concept through construction documents from various consulting firms and provide a plan that outlines the scope of what the building/material/roof, etc. will look like.

c. Gate for Bloomer Park Entrance

Mr. Iacoangeli reported the township wants to secure the park for the time being until the project starts in the spring. There have been previous discussions for a gate to restrict vehicular parking.

Ms. Carlock moved to recommend that the Township Board pursue a gate for the Bloomer Park Entrance. Mr. Baroni supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote. (6 yes votes)

Mr. Baroni noted that trails have already been cut from the original path and dead wood is being cleared out. There are 2 hand-pump wells that were backfilled with cement and the board is considering reopening two new hand pumped wells and the addition of a pavilion.

Ms. Carlock noted the importance of waiting for the grant and doing this properly as part of the Master Plan through the park development.

Mr. Kelly stated that there are a lot of ecosystems involved with this land and taking out standing wood when ecosystems are dependent on this isn't right.

Ms. Carlock added that we have a pending grant and we have to go through the process. Plans have to be approved by the state and there shouldn't be any activity at the park right now.

Other Business:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli announced the meeting next month on November 23 will be a joint meeting with the Township Board.

Communications:

a. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Iacoangeli gave an update on the grant. The paperwork is coming this week and he is in the process of writing a letter to reduce the match to 33%. The original grant was for \$500,000 with a \$250,000 match. The grant was reduced to \$350,000 but the match was never adjusted. The state is agreeable, but they need the letter.

Mr. Iacoangeli will put together a presentation after the first of the year for the ITC gateway project.

b. Next Meeting Date November 23, 2010

Adjournment

Ms. Shiloff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Ms. Deren supported and the motion carried with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)