

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**
Virtual Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383
April 14, 2021 @ 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.

ROLL CALL: Merrie Carlock, Chairperson, White Lake Township
CJ Bratta, White Lake Township
Rhonda Grubb – Planning Commission Liaison, White Lake Township
Kathleen Aseltyne, White Lake Township
Deb Deren, Vice Chair, White Lake Township

Absent: Andrea Voorheis – Township Board Liaison

Also Present: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
Sherri Barber, Recording Secretary
Kris Olsson – Huron River Watershed Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Aseltyne moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Bratta moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021 as presented. Ms. Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one raised their hand from the public virtually to make public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Presentation – Huron River Watershed Council

Kris Olsson was at the meeting on behalf of the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) for a presentation. Mr. Quagliata thanked Ms. Aseltyne for arranging the presentation, and Ms. Olsson for preparing the presentation and attending the meeting. Ms. Olsson thanked the Committee for allowing her to join them. She had been a watershed ecologist at the HRWC since 1992. She worked with local governments on policies and land protections. HRWC was founded in 1965, and was Michigan's oldest organization dedicated to river protection. The Huron River flows through seven different counties, and it was 125 miles downriver. It was a very diverse area. There were a lot of state and federally protected areas, different programs, and field monitoring. The land activities dictated the quality of the water. She discussed some of the threats to the watershed. When natural areas were lost, it impacted the water quality. She touched on the risks of coal tar-based sealants and some land use planning that could help the river. About half of the wetlands in the watershed had been lost. Communities could try to control where development happened and how it happened.

Ms. Carlock thanked Ms. Olsson for all the information. She was interested in the model ordinances and giving developers credit at site plan review. Ms. Olsson said their website was hrwc.org. and some of the ordinances were on the website. The website also had information about lakeshore quality. Mr. Quagliata said it was a great presentation, and added 100% of White Lake residents get their water from groundwater in the Huron River Watershed. Ms. Aseltyne noted White Lake Township was at the headwaters of the Huron River and had an extra burden for the people downstream. She added this information was good for Stanley Park too, and the ideas could be applied towards other future developments. She asked if a subcommittee could be formed to look into CISMA, etc. Mr. Quagliata was not prepared to discuss this. He added there were two Parks and Recreation Committee members on the Planning Commission who could bring up these ideas. The Committee members thanked Ms. Olsson. Ms. Aseltyne was the Township's liaison to the HRWC. Mr. Quagliata extended an invitation to Ms. Olsson for another presentation possibly in the fall. The Committee thanked Ms. Aseltyne for organizing the presentation.

b. Stanley Park Picnic Tables

Mr. Quagliata stated the picnic tables discussed at the March meeting were used in Bloomer Park and were high quality and had lasted well. They were 10 years old and in great shape. However, those tables were expensive so staff had been researching alternatives.

Mr. Quagliata presented other options for picnic tables. There were ADA compliant tables and the Committee could consider four-sided tables. Mr. Quagliata said he had a discussion with Supervisor Kowall who thought four-sided square tables may be better for conversations and a good social experiment. Four standard tables and two ADA tables would cost approximately \$8,800 with one option. Two square tables, two standard tables, and two ADA tables would cost approximately \$8,800 with another option. Ms. Carlock noted sales tax needed to be removed from the quotes.

Mr. Quagliata stated one of the companies had a long lead time for steel frame tables and they may not be here until the end of the season. There was an option for tables with recycled plastic frames and tops. Ms. Carlock did not think those would last. Mr. Quagliata was working on getting a quote from a different supplier. The square tables could come in about eight weeks. The other two table types would take 16 to 20 weeks from one of the suppliers. Ms. Carlock suggested four square tables for now. Mr. Bratta suggested approving four square tables tonight and ordering the others at a later date. He added a bench could be left off one side for ADA accessibility. Mr. Quagliata was still checking with one more supplier, possibly another company with a shorter lead time. Mr. Quagliata asked the Committee for a motion including the number of tables of each type, with a not to exceed price. Six tables were what came up at the last meeting and that was appropriate at this time. Mr. Quagliata stated we wanted the steel frames because they were more durable.

Mr. Bratta moved to recommend to the Township Board the purchase of two square, two standard, and two ADA compliant powder coated steel frame picnic tables at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 including shipping. Ms. Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.

c. Summer Event – Hawley Park

Ms. Aseltyne would like to have a summer event. Mr. Quagliata suggested Saturday, June 26 at Hawley Park. She had a band in mind, and could ask some food trucks to come to the park. The event could be social distanced. Mr. Quagliata said the current MDHHS gathering limit was 300 people outdoors and asked if the Committee wanted to do this with Covid concerns. Ms. Carlock sat on the Hess Hathaway board and they were scheduling three summer concerts and did not want a Township event to overlap on their dates. We could pencil it in. You had to make sure attendees had masks and socially distanced. Ms. Grubb commented it was very difficult to make people wear masks. She said the Township would not want to police that at an event. Ms. Aseltyne said the bands were booking, but they were tentative. Mr. Quagliata said he and Ms. Aseltyne discussed a potential summer event before the Covid numbers spiked. Fireworks were suggested but that would be hard to police as well and some area lakes already had fireworks. Mr. Quagliata suggested the Committee not hold any event until it could be done safely. The Committee thanked Ms. Aseltyne for the idea. Ms. Deren let everyone know Indian Springs would hold a 5K. Ms. Carlock would share the information for Hess Hathaway.

Mr. Quagliata stated the Township was still renting fields and pavilions with an addendum on Covid precautions. The Committee was okay with the facilities being rented. Ms. Grubb suggested giving renters the Covid addendum and they were responsible to follow the guidelines, they sign for that. Ms. Aseltyne noted one other idea may be something in conjunction with HRWC or some other smaller educational event.

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Bylaw Amendments

Mr. Quagliata noted the bylaws were being amended with the consent of Supervisor Kowall. The bylaws documented procedures of how the Committee operated. Mr. Quagliata sent out the bylaws for review and went through the redline version. This would be back at another meeting for potential action.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Member Comments

Staff report: Mr. Quagliata stated the Stanley Park grant application had been submitted and would be on the Township website for review. The Township should have a decision on the Ralph Wilson grant application in a couple of weeks. There were now trash receptacles installed at Stanley Park. Maintenance and Planning staff were monitoring facilities and looking to see how it went over the winter and what may need to be improved. Dog waste stations would be ordered for Stanley Park. The shipping container at Hawley Park would be removed. Ms. Aseltyne asked about a citizen cleanup. Mr. Quagliata noted Supervisor Kowall had talked about a cleanup day at Stanley Park. Covid had waylaid some event planning. The parks were being regularly used and people were excited about Stanley Park.

Mr. Bratta appreciated Ms. Aseltyne bringing in the HRWC. Developing Stanley Park with some of those ideas in mind would be great. He noted he would like the picnic tables on the next Township Board meeting. He would like to see pickleball somewhere in the park.

Ms. Grubb reported the Planning Commission met March 18 and discussed West Valley. There would be two developments across the street from each other from the same developer. West Valley received final site plan approval. She appreciated Mr. Quagliata's hard work.

Ms. Carlock appreciated Ms. Aseltyne lining up HRWC for the presentation. There were so many resources available. She was interested in protecting our head waters. She said Hess Hathaway was getting dwarf calves. Some of the older animals had passed away. They were ordering turkey eggs too. Hess Hathaway farm was left to both Waterford and White Lake but was located in Waterford, and she represented White Lake Township.

Ms. Aseltyne echoed what everyone else said.

Ms. Deren appreciated the letters Mr. Quagliata forwarded from residents about paving and pickleball. She added the Committee received resident comments and read them.

Mr. Quagliata added the Committee would continue to meet on Zoom for the near future, July and August meetings may be held in the parks. Ms. Carlock said she was glad the Stanley Park public visioning session was in held in-person at Hawley Park last October. Mr. Quagliata added the public visioning session for Stanley Park was the first outdoor public visioning session held by Beckett & Raeder. Brian Barrick and Caitlin Jackson from Becket & Raeder put in a lot of hard

work on the Stanley Park master plan and grant application. Ms. Carlock agreed it was a lot of work. Mr. Quagliata encouraged everyone to look at the Stanley Park grant application and master plan; it was quite robust and a lot of work went into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.