

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
VIRTUAL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 9, 2021

Ms. Carlock called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Andrea Voorheis – Township Board Liaison

Also Present: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
Hannah Micallef, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Aseltyne wanted to add under other business as item b: “Consideration of a donation to running event.”

Member Aseltyne moved to approve the agenda as amended. Member Deren supported, and the motion CARRIED with a voice vote (5 yes votes).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Grubb moved to approve the minutes of May 2021 as presented. Member Aseltyne supported and the motion CARRIED with a voice vote (5 yes votes).

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in the virtual waiting room raising their hand.

NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS

a) Stanley Park temporary sign

Staff Planner Quagliata shared the proof for the new temporary sign for Stanley Park. It would have the same colors and be made out of the same material as the current park rules signs. He suggested installing it north of the parking area so people driving north/south could see it.

Member Bratta asked what the turnaround time would be for the sign. Staff Planner Quagliata said 2-3 weeks.

Member Aseltyne asked if the sign would have contact information. Staff Planner Quagliata said the park rules sign that was already installed had Township contact information on it.

Member Aseltyne moved to support the purchase of the Stanley Park temporary sign. Ms. Deren supported, and the motion CARRIED with a roll call vote: (5 yes votes)

(Aseltyne/yes, Deren/yes, Grubb/yes, Bratta/yes, Carlock/yes)

b) Geocaching in Vetter Park

Staff Planner Quagliata said he received communication from someone who would like to place a geocache in Vetter Park. He added he would work with this person to find a good location, and this person would maintain the geocache. The Parks and Recreation Committee was in favor of the geocache.

c) Recommendation on DLZ proposal to design the Triangle Trail

Staff Planner Quagliata said the trail was discussed last summer. Half of the trail was already installed from past commercial developments. The design cost was \$55,000. The Township was provided a Ralph Wilson Jr. Legacy Fund grant in the amount of \$50,000. The remaining \$5,000 would come from the Park Fund. He added next year another grant could be applied for from a different pool of money from the Ralph Wilson Jr. Fund for development of the trail. Another \$600,000 would be needed for construction of the pathway.

Member Bratta moved to recommend the Township Board approve the expenditure of \$5,000 from the Park Fund for the design of the remainder of the Triangle Trail. Ms. Grubb supported and the motion CARRIED with a roll call vote: (5 yes votes)

(Bratta/yes, Grubb/yes, Deren/yes, Carlock/yes, Aseltyne/yes)

d) Dog Park Study

Staff Planner Quagliata presented a packet with a study on dog parks. He added the Township did not have staff for a dog park, and dogs were allowed on leashes in Township parks.

Member Grubb said the Township would need an employee to monitor activity, since there was liability.

Member Aseltyne thanked Staff Planner Quagliata for his research. She said she read on dog parks herself, and there were a lot of variables in regards to a dog park and they required monitoring and staffing.

Member Deren said she called local veterinarians for their opinions on dog parks. The veterinarians and technicians told her kennel cough was spread through dog parks, and dog parks lead to increased injuries and vet visits.

Member Bratta said a dog park would increase maintenance costs, and there was liability with injury on Township property. There was an established dog park at Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. He added the amenity was already in the area, so the Township was not lacking.

Staff Planner Quagliata said he would draft a document similar to a resolution to reaffirm the Parks and Recreation Committee's opinion on dog parks. The Committee was unanimous in their opposition to a Township dog park.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Summer meeting schedule

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the July, August, and September Committee meetings would be held outdoors. Tentatively, July's meeting would be at Bloomer Park, August's meeting at Stanley Park, and the September meeting at Judy Hawley Park.

b) Consideration of donation for running event

Member Deren said the run was scheduled for August 7th and would begin at Hawley Park. The runners would travel through the northern part of the Township. The run was sponsored by Renee Ratliff. There would be water stops along the route.

Member Aselyne moved to recommend Supervisor Kowall approve a \$500 donation from the Park Fund for the Renee Ratliff running event. Member Grubb supported and the motion carried with a roll call vote: (5 yes votes)

(Aselyne/yes, Grubb/yes, Deren/yes, Bratta/yes, Carlock/yes)

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Member Comments

Member Grubb said the Planning Commission had a meeting on June 3rd. The development on Union Lake Road and Hutchins Road, Preserve at Hidden Lake, presented an amended final site plan and amended planned development agreement. The Planning Commission approved the amended final site plan, and recommended approval of the planned development agreement to Township Board. There was also a conceptual discussion regarding a new commercial development on the southwest corner of Elizabeth Lake Road and M-59. Member Grubb thanked Staff Planner Quagliata for his work on the dog park study.

Member Bratta said he liked the new Stanley Park temporary sign, and Staff Planner Quagliata's idea to repurpose it for the beach in the future.

Member Deren acknowledged the communications received about pickleball courts. She asked if the basketball courts at Hawley Park could be repurposed. Staff Planner Quagliata said the basketball courts were used frequently, and the court sloped to the center so it may not be ideal for pickleball. Member Deren said she was aware of the demand for pickleball, and wanted to find a place for it.

Chairperson Carlock said Hess-Hathaway Park started their summer concert series.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Deren moved to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Member Grubb supported. The motion CARRIED with a voice vote: (5 yes votes).