

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting

White Lake Township Annex - 7527 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383

January 12, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL: Rhonda Grubb
Andrea Voorheis, Township Board Liaison
Kathleen Aseltyne
Merrie Carlock, Chairperson
Deb Deren, Vice Chair

Absent: None

Also Present: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
Sherri Barber, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Member Deren moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2021 as presented. Member Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Beckett & Raeder design/engineering services proposal for Stanley Park

Brian Barrick and Caitlin Jackson were present via Zoom to discuss the proposal for Stanley Park. Staff Planner Quagliata noted preparation for construction would occur in 2022 with plans and specifications and begin construction in 2023. He discussed the proposal. There would be a virtual kickoff meeting with staff and Supervisor Kowall. There would be a wetland survey done along with geotechnical work. Eighty percent of the work would be done by Beckett & Raeder and overseen by staff. Staff Planner Quagliata discussed the fees. Member Deren asked staff how soon the kickoff meeting would occur. Staff Planner Quagliata stated potentially by March 15, 2022 if the Township Board approved the proposal.

Member Voorheis moved to recommend to the Township Board approval of the Beckett & Raeder consulting services agreement for design/engineering services for Stanley Park, not to exceed \$125,000. The motion includes a recommendation to the Township Board to allow Supervisor Kowall to sign the agreement. Member Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote: Grubb – yes; Voorheis – yes; Aseltyne – yes; Deren – yes. (4 yes votes) Chairperson Carlock abstained from the vote.

B. Hunting-Prohibited Areas

Staff Planner Quagliata presented a map showing the areas of prohibiting hunting in the Township. The last update to the map was in 1988. A proposed update would prohibit hunting in Township parks. Steve Woodard noted sometimes duck hunters' boats on the lake did not maintain the proper distance. Chairperson Carlock would like to see an updated map. Staff Planner Quagliata stated he would work on an updated map and present it to the Committee for consideration at a future meeting.

C. Hawley Park Geocaches

Staff Planner Quagliata stated an individual placed a geocache in Vetter Park over the summer and would now like to place two geocaches in Hawley Park. The Committee was okay with this and it was at her risk; the Township would not be responsible for maintaining the geocaches.

D. Summer Event – Hawley Park

Staff Planner Quagliata stated Member Aseltyne has volunteered to help staff plan a summer event. He asked the Committee to start thinking about what it would like to do and pick a date. He offered June 25, 2022 as the tentative date. The Committee discussed if the event could be combined with the police open house. Member Voorheis noted the police open house was usually held on a Sunday and this should probably be a separate event. The Committee discussed some potential activities for the event. Member Aseltyne noted bands could be expensive and should be booked soon. Food trucks, face painting, etc. were suggested. Member Aseltyne would come up with a proposed budget. Staff Planner Quagliata thanked Member Aseltyne for her efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Election of Officers

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the Committee bylaws required an annual election of officers.

Member Grubb moved to nominate Member Carlock as Chair and Member Deren as Vice-Chair. Member Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (5 yes votes)

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Staff Report

Staff Planner Quagliata reported the Township had submitted an application for a grant for \$25,000 for an invasive species control treatment project (Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed). Member Aseltyne asked staff if the application was only for Stanley Park. Staff Planner Quagliata confirmed. Member Aseltyne noted she was against some of the chemical treatments. Chairperson Carlock had been part of some other types of removal and she was worried about the spread of the phragmites. Staff Planner Quagliata noted the Township had been more active on the invasive species front in the last few years than it had in many, many years.

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the Township Board approved the fee increases for park pavilion and field rentals.

b. Member Comments

Member Voorheis noted there was a White Lake Township resident who turned 100 years old in December and she was honored at the December Township Board meeting. There were new promotions at the Fire Department. Staff Planner Quagliata reported according to the 2020 Census, the Township had 30,950 residents.

Member Deren asked staff about phase 2 of Hidden Pines Park. Staff Planner Quagliata stated the project was no longer under consideration but may be revisited in the future. Member Deren stated she would like to see the pathways along M-59 better maintained. Staff Planner Quagliata stated the paved shoulders were in the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) right-of-way and they had not been receptive to the Township clearing those paths. He added Senator Runestad's office was pursuing funds for a trail from Highland Rec Area to Pontiac Lake Rec Area.

Member Grubb wished everyone happy new year.

Chairperson Carlock reported there was a bill in the legislature to take \$150,000,000 and divvy it out to local governments for parks and recreation. Staff Planner Quagliata stated some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money may be eligible for park and recreation expenditures. Chairperson Carlock asked staff if the Committee would meet outside in the summer. Staff Planner Quagliata confirmed, and added he would determine locations at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.