

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**
Regular Meeting

White Lake Township Annex, 7527 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383
September 14, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Carlock called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

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

Absent: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Member Deren moved to approve the minutes of August 10, 2022 as presented. Trustee Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Beckett & Raeder – Stanley Park Design Discussion

Brian Barrick from Beckett & Raeder (BRI) was in attendance. He provided an overview of the presentation he was going to share with the Committee.

Much of the spring and summer were spent on the grant administration process. U.S. Fish and Wildlife identified endangered species at Stanley Park. This was elevated to a formal review. BRI drafted a biological assessment (BA). U.S. Fish and Wildlife went through the BA and issued an opinion, which was essentially a permit for the work. This fall or winter the Township should receive a project agreement from the National Park Service (NPS) through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The goals of the park design were to preserve the natural features with some subtle improvements for access and activities. He discussed the phasing of the project. BRI had conceptual designs based on updated topographic and wetland surveys.

Construction costs had escalated between 30 and 40 percent since the first estimate was done 18 months ago. The Phase 1 cost estimate was \$1,687,954.58. He provided some options for deferring some of the costs, which could result in a new project estimate of \$1,350,000.

The next steps were to continue design development, geotechnical investigations, preliminary engineering, and discuss budget strategies.

Trustee Voorheis was concerned with the number of trees being removed. She asked for more information about the trees being proposed for removal, and if the Committee could design around trees. Brian stated most of the trees slated for removal were by the roadway. BRI tried to design around the trees for minimal impact.

Member Aselyne was impressed. She asked about the proposed boardwalk materials. Brian stated there were many material options. In an effort to be cost conscious, treated lumber was proposed.

Member Deren stated if the exercise stations were costly, a few of them could be eliminated. She added the pier was 55 feet and asked if it could be reduced. Brian responded the pier needed to go out to about three to four feet deep water.

Steve Woodward (953 Schuyler) stated the water was currently about as low as it gets and suggested examining the current lake level.

Kim Turner (971 Schulyer) noted if the pier went too far, it could impact the travel pattern from Mud Lake. He added the floating dock would need to be removed at the end of the year.

Staff Planner Quagliata stated if the Committee was supportive of the design direction, staff and BRI would move ahead and come back to the Committee with updates at a future meeting. The Committee was supportive of proceeding in the direction discussed.

B. Hunting Area Control Ordinance – Amendment

Staff Planner Quagliata discussed the previous map versus the proposed map showing prohibited hunting areas. He stated the purpose of the amendment was protection of Township property.

Nick Hubbard (795 Bonita Drive) noted people could not currently hunt in subdivisions and hunting was regulated by the State. Member Aseltyne stated she encountered someone near her property who had an app they used to figure out where hunting was allowed.

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the Township property on Elizabeth Lake Road and Hitchcock Road needed to be added to the map.

Steve Woodard (953 Schuyler) would like to see the red line moved 450 feet into Mud Lake. Staff Planner Quagliata stated this may be possible in a future amendment.

Member Aseltyne moved to recommend to the Township Board the amendment to the hunting area control ordinance as presented by staff. Trustee Voorheis supported and the motion carried with a voice vote, 5 yes votes.

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the amendment would be placed on the October 18 Township Board meeting agenda.

C. Fisk Farm Halloween Event – October 15, 2022

Staff Planner Quagliata stated he and the Supervisor's Office were working with the Historical Society to help with the event. The Township planned to handle the trunk-or-treat portion of the event, which would lead into the rest of the Historical Society activities at the event. Member Aseltyne would like to see more recycling; she said many plastic bottles, etc. were thrown away at the Fisk Farm Festival. Staff Planner Quagliata stated there had been some discussion about a movie at the event, but both the Historical Society and Township agreed there was already enough planned for the Halloween event; a movie night could be a separate event in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the Township received a request for a Hawley Park rental and the individual wanted to know if they could have a video game truck. The Committee did not have a problem with it.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Staff Report

Staff Planner Quagliata reported the Township Board would approve the Capital Improvement Plan at its regular September meeting. He was at the Fisk Farm Festival with a tent set up to obtain input on the 5-Year Recreation Plan update. There were approximately 420 survey responses. He added about 40 to 50 people stopped at the tent. He stated field rental revenue had increased for baseball/softball fields. Staff Planner Quagliata stated the Supervisor approved some maintenance projects at Hawley Park, Stanley Park, and Vetter Park.

Staff Planner Quagliata would like the Committee to hold a meeting on October 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to meet with Groya regarding the 5-Year Recreation Master Plan update. He added the Township was considering applying for a grant for the renovation of the current building at Stanley Park.

b. Member Comments

Trustee Voorheis did not have anything to report.

Member Aselyne reported she was impressed with the Fisk Farm Festival. She thought the Committee could have something later on in the day with a band, etc. – or maybe this was redundant with the Family Fun Day event. Combining the two events may be a good idea. Member Grubb liked the idea but thought getting people more familiar with the other parks was the reason for hosting events elsewhere. Staff Planner Quagliata noted the ultimate goal was to have one event per season, to go along with the Four Seasons Playground motto.

Member Deren had no report.

Chairperson Carlock reminded everyone to promote the Hess Hathaway events and to take part in those events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

A special meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
The next regular meeting is Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.