

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

White Lake Township Annex, 7527 Highland, White Lake, MI 48383
February 8, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Acting Chairperson Aseltyne 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
 Rhonda Grubb

Absent: Merrie Carlock, Chair
 Deb Deren, Vice Chair

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Voorheis moved to approve the agenda as presented. Member Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 3 yes votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Voorheis moved to approve the minutes of January 11, 2023 as presented. Member Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 3 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Earley (5925 Pine Ridge Court) stated she did not want the liability of any dog parks in the Township.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Presentation - Huron River Watershed Council

Kris Olsson from the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) gave a presentation via Zoom. HRWC was founded in 1965. Their website was HRWC.org. They protect and restore the river, there were 1,000 members and 500 volunteers and White Lake was in the headwaters. The watershed was 900 square miles and located in seven different counties. It contained 90 species of fish and 34 species of reptiles, some of them protected. There were several different types of mussels. Any development had to be over 125 feet away from the river. Kayaking and other sports could be done along the river.

Massasauga rattlers had their last strong hold in Michigan in the watershed. There was a lake monitoring program. They looked at biological and habitat (bugs), chemistry and flow monitoring, natural area assessments (upland parts of the watershed). There was average to high insect diversity and abundance in White Lake. Their current grade for dams in the watershed was F. Kris worked on green infrastructure. HRWC wanted to protect natural areas – recreation, drinking water, property values, wildlife habitat, and storm water control. The river provided many dollars in annual economic output. Local government could have property tax funded preservation and ordinances could be developed to protect land and water quality. There was a conservation millage toolkit available. HRWC worked to avoid the risks of coal tar-based sealants. There was a Change Makers Boot Camp February 23, 2023 or March 15, 2023.

David Gian (9315 Steep Hollow) asked if the river level was controlled. He had questions about the river being low lately. Kris stated there was a lake level control act which set lake or river levels. He also asked about getting information about water testing. Kris said such information was available on the HRWC website.

Steve Woodard (953 Schuyler) noted there was a manmade dam on Mud Lake that was not effective. Did HRWC get involved with removing dams? Kris said if the community was interested HRWC would be happy to provide resources and get involved. Mary Woodard asked about the general overall quality of the watershed. Kris said it depended where on the river, and information was available on the HRWC website. The headwaters in White Lake were good due to the amount of natural area.

Randy Kushner (46 Croutty) lived on Oxbow Lake and was a member of some groups that did testing of the water. She asked if HRWC would be interested in the results? Kris provided an email for the HRWC staff member who ran lake monitoring program.

Member Aseltyne asked what was the number one issue for the watershed. Kris said there were three or four main problems: the loss of natural areas, pollution or pollution run-off, lack of green infrastructure (rain gardens, natural roofs, natural swales, etc.), and climate change. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

John Earley asked Kris how many beaver dams were in the watershed. Kris was unsure of the number, but said there were more than one thought. In general, beaver dams were good for the ecology of the river system.

Staff Planner Quagliata said the presentation was great and thanked Kris for her efforts and time.

Member Aseltyne suggested the lake representatives get together.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Staff Report

Staff Planner Quagliata reported the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was submitted to the State. The Ralph Wilson Foundation grant application for the Triangle Trail was submitted. He said the Township would know the outcome of the Spark grant application any day. He stated there was high demand for the Spark grant funds.

b. Member Comments

Trustee Voorheis thanked everyone for their support at the Township Board meeting regarding dog parks. The Winter Carnival was cancelled due to the weather.

Member Aseltyne had no report.

Member Grubb had no report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.