

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Hawley Park Pavilion, 7527 Highland, White Lake, MI 48383
June 14, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

Acting Chairperson Aseltyne called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

ROLL CALL: Andrea Voorheis, Township Board Liaison
 Kathleen Aseltyne
 Merrie Carlock, Chair (arrived at 6:16 p.m.)
 Rhonda Grubb
 Alexandra Schillack

Absent: 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, 4 yes votes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Voorheis moved to approve the minutes of April 12, 2023 as presented. Member Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 4 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Earley (5925 Pine Ridge Ct) was in attendance to comment on the May Township Board meeting about a person who spoke in public comment about pit bull problems. At the end of their talk, they noted they were opposed to pit bulls. She noted Trustee Smith spoke in defense of pit bulls, and interrupted the speaker. It was Mrs. Earley's personal opinion pit bulls were bred to fight, and Trustee Smith was hellbent on having a dog park. She stated the Parks and Recreation Committee had not been in favor of a dog park, and she was opposed to a dog park. She was offended by Trustee Smith's comments.

Supervisor Rik Kowall was in attendance to thank the Committee for doing their job. He said recently Committee members may have wondered about their purpose, but he valued everything they did and so did the Township Board. He said we could not do all of the things and meet all of the needs all the time without having groups like this. He was delighted to have Alexandra as a new Committee member. He said we build parks for tomorrow, and a younger perspective was important. There were a lot of things happening right now and in the planning stages, especially with the new town center district. He would like to have a farmer's market and to have the ability to enclose it and hold events. There would be desire from the public to have more amenities.

Steve Woodard (953 Schuyler) stated the DNR had started a two-and-a-half-year study of the water quality on Brendel Lake. They started a baseline measurement and set up traps and collected samples. They were out last week for fish samples and found two new species. They had a contact through the subdivision association and the DNR; he would report back to the Committee as he got information or vice versa. The DNR recently electro shocked the fish.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Summer Event at Fisk Farm – August 5th

Staff Planner Quagliata stated there would be an event at Fisk Farm, Rockin' the Farm, on August 5 from 5-11 p.m. This was an outdoor concert with two-three bands. The Township would pay for the stages and the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce would pay for bands. There would be a gate charge of \$5 per person, with kids 12 and under admitted free, and the gate fee would be split with the Historical Society. When feasible, the Township would like to hold this event at Stanley Park. Kickstand Brewery would have beer, wine, and seltzer available to purchase and served in the barn; only individuals over the age of 21 would be able to enter the barn. Dickies' BBQ would be there as well, with them and Kickstand Brewery being food vendors. There would also be a kids' area. The event used to be held at Multi Lakes by the Chamber. Staff Planner Quagliata apologized for not notifying the Committee about the event sooner, but there was short notice to plan and participate with the Chamber.

B. Site walk

After the meeting was adjourned the Committee would walk the park to see what maintenance was needed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A new student member, Alexandra Schillack, was appointed to the Committee by the Township Board for a three-year term or high school graduation date, whichever occurred first. She was a voting member. The Committee members welcomed Member Schillack and stated they were happy to have her.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Staff Report

Staff Planner Quagliata presented a memo from the Township Attorney regarding authority of the Committee. The Stanley Park Phase 1 plans and bid docs were approved by the DNR, and the project was advertised with bids due July 11. This was a bad time for bidding because contractors were busy. Any contract award request had to go to the DNR and Township Board for approval. Per the Professional Services Agreement with Beckett & Raeder, they would manage the construction and the Township would manage Beckett & Raeder. He stated the Committee would meet outside for the July meeting. Trustee Voorheis suggested meeting at Bloomer Park or Fisk Farm.

b. Member Comments

Trustee Voorheis reported the Civic Center project was moving forward. The boardroom and senior center would be downstairs, with a movable partition for overflow. The first floor would contain the offices, and mechanicals would be on the upper floor. Staff would be able to look out and see Stanley Park. She gave kudos to Steve Woodward for the shrink-wrap recycling program. Mr. Woodard stated Supervisor Kowall asked Lakewood Village to collect for everyone in the subdivision and have one vehicle come through for Hazardous Waste Day.

Member Aseltyne asked to hear from Member Schillack about why she was interested in joining the Committee. Member Schillack explained her interest in parks. She stated she spoke with some friends about what they would like to see in the parks.

Chairperson Carlock had seen some communities do a “walk in the park.” In many areas such as Indian Springs and Highland Rec, people did not like to walk on their own. She represented the Township at the Hess-Hathaway sheep shearing. Every Thursday in June Hess-Hathaway had concerts and food trucks.

Member Grubb noted the Committee did not often move forward with ideas for events and she wanted to think forward a lot further for events, such as thinking about next summer’s events now. Staff Planner Quagliata noted there was a subcommittee for events, it just needed to be utilized. He added the Committee should discuss Trunk-or-Treat at its next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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