

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION
OCTOBER 11, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

ROLL CALL:

Andrea Voorheis, Township Board Liaison
Kathleen Aseltyne, Vice-Chairperson
Rhonda Grubb
Alexandra Schillack

Absent:

Merrie Carlock, Chairperson

Also Present:

Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
Hannah Micallef, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Member Voorheis, seconded by Member Grubb, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote: (4 yes votes).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of September 13, 2023

MOTION by Member Grubb, seconded by Member Schillack, to approve the meeting minutes of September 13, 2023 as presented.

The motion carried with a voice vote: (4 yes votes).

CALL TO PUBLIC

Jessica Jameson and Maddie Nelson, Lakeland High School, were present and stated they were students from Mr. Howe's AP Government class.

NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Discussion: Trunk-or-Treat – October 21, 2023

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the event sub-committee met a few weeks back. The event was next Saturday at Fisk Farm from 6 P.M. – 8 P.M. The parking would be different from last year. There were 40-45 cars participating, and participants were still welcome to sign-up. The gates would open at 6 P.M. for Trunk-or-Treat, games would be in the barn, and refreshments would be served as well. Ruggles Farm Market was providing cider and donuts. Volunteers were welcome as well.

Members Aselyne and Grubb would be in costume as “host witches” for attendees with questions and to provide direction.

Staff Planner Quagliata stated volunteers were also needed for set up on Thursday, October 19th. The event was free, and there would be tickets given to participants in order to receive refreshments. Pets were not allowed at the event. The event would go on, rain or shine. Clean up was predicted to go fairly quickly as well.

Member Voorheis said she unfortunately would not be able to attend this year’s event.

B. Discussion: Millage Proposal – 2024

Staff Planner Quagliata presented comparables of surrounding communities parks and recreation millages. Based on the comparables, the Township was on the low end of parks and recreation millage rates. The average millage was 0.4426, and the median millage was 0.3662 (Commerce). The Township would not be out of line to request an increase based on other surrounding communities’ rates. The current millage was six years, and it made sense to make a recommendation for another six-year millage or possibly a 10-year millage. Currently, approximately \$420,000 per year was collected from the millage. If the millage was renewed and restored at .30 mill, an estimated \$474,920 would be collected in 2024. If the millage was increased to .40 mill, the estimated collection would be \$633,226 in 2024. If the millage was increased to .50 mill, the estimated collection would be \$791,533 in 2024.

Member Aselyne asked if there was a plan to share information about the millage with the community. Staff Planner Quagliata said there were various citizen groups that could get the information out to the public.

Consensus of the Committee was to make a recommendation to the Township Board at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. 2024 Meeting Dates

Staff Planner Quagliata stated the meeting dates would remain scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month. He added the Township was considering changing the start times of meetings from 7:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. or 6:30 P.M. The general consensus from the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals was a change to a start time of 6:30 P.M.

Member Schillack said February 14th was Ash Wednesday, and she would not be present due to her obligations at her church.

MOTION by Member Grubb, seconded by Member Voorheis to approve the 2024 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Dates.

The motion carried with a voice vote: (4 yes votes).

STAFF REPORT

Staff Planner Quagliata stated an amendment to the grant agreement for Stanley Park was approved. The grant agreement was amended to remove a sledding hill from the project scope that should not have been included to begin with based on the design. Stanley Park Phase 1 improvements would be rebid this winter for Spring 2024 construction. The Tree Lighting Festival was scheduled for December 1st at 6 P.M.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Member Communications

Member Voorheis stated the bladders for the Vetter Park irrigation well were replaced. The sprinkler system would be winterized on October 17th.

Member Aseltyne was happy to see students in attendance this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Member Grubb, seconded by Member Schillack, to adjourn at 7:37 P.M.

The motion carried with a voice vote: (4 yes votes).

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, November 8, 2023