

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**
Virtual Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383
December 9, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Carlock 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
Merrie Carlock, Chairperson
Deb Deren, Vice Chair
CJ Bratta

Absent: Rhonda Grubb – Planning Commission Liaison

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

Visitors: Brian Barrick – Beckett & Raeder
Caitlyn Jackson - Beckett & Raeder
Mike Powell, WLT Trustee
Liz Smith, WLT Trustee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bratta moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote. (Voorheis – yes; Aseltyne – yes; Carlock – yes; Deren – yes; Bratta – yes. 5 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Voorheis moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020 as presented. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote. (Voorheis – yes; Aseltyne – yes; Carlock – yes; Deren – yes; Bratta – yes. 5 yes votes)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeff Doran (8763 Trenton) wanted to share he and his friend Dave Cosman created a Facebook group regarding disc golf and they are interested in the park. The sport has exploded in popularity. Michigan is known as one of the big hubs for disc golf. He doesn't know if disc golf is possible there, but would like to start that conversation.

Dave Cosman (8802 Newport) also wanted to discuss the possibility of putting in some baskets for disc golf in White Lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Beckett & Raeder Presentation

Brian Barrick discussed the Stanley Park survey. Many would like to retain the natural features of the park and trails are a very popular option. Many would like restrooms, picnic shelters, playground and a kayak or canoe launch with a small observation pier. We are trying to strike a balance between the natural feel and maximizing the meaningful public recreation of the park. We want to maximize the natural feel of the park. They talked about more wetland trails. Using the feedback they refined some of the ideas, and Mr. Barrick provided a proposed plan for the park. The parking is broken up to minimize the visual impact of the parking areas. We're looking for flexibility for small group gatherings and social distancing from other groups. A trail network to the north could connect to the Civic Center Development. Ms. Smith commented the parking may not be close enough to the lake for handicap accessibility. Ms. Voorheis suggested a drop off. Ms. Carlock doesn't know if EGLE would allow a drive through the wetlands. Mr. Bratta asked if the wetland pathways would overlook Mud Lake, he stated the lake residents would like to keep that private. The pathways will not overlook Mud Lake. Mr. Barrick presented some ideas for the North amphitheater alternatives. Ms. Voorheis noted she likes the look of the smaller amphitheater, she wondered where people would park. Mr. Bratta likes the smaller amphitheater and keeping the existing building. Ms. Smith would like the larger amphitheater; she doesn't want to limit the number of people who can attend. She also noted we need to see the grade to determine what can be done. Ms. Aseltyne likes the smaller amphitheater and she thinks the stage should be covered. Mr. Barrick stated there are some middle grounds between the two. Ms. Deren likes the middle ground between the two and she wanted to remind the Committee there are residents who are interested in pickle ball. Ms. Carlock likes the amphitheater and thinks it should be at least as big as Milford's. She thinks it would be great to set the Lakeland jazz band up there. Mr. Quagliata thinks the amphitheater should at least hold 1 percent of the Township population. He suggested installing a berm along Elizabeth Lake Road and that could be seating as well. Mr. Barrick discussed park character and different material usages. They are suggesting a trail hierarchy with different widths and materials. Mr. Powell didn't think Stanley Park would lend itself to disc golf, but maybe near the Civic Center Development. The same with pickle ball, it could be better served near the Civic Center Development. Ms. Carlock likes everything that was presented. Ms. Carlock suggested some trail materials she has seen work well before over time in other parks. Mr. Bratta would like the rustic look similar to Bloomer Park. He likes the boardwalk with the cable railing. Ms. Aseltyne commented it was a great job by Beckett & Raeder. She likes the rain gardens. There are benefits and drawbacks to each of the paving systems. Ms. Deren liked the pier and playground ideas.

Mr. Barrick reported at the next meeting we will finalize the conceptual park design, discuss cost estimating and budget/phasing and then develop the grant application. Ms. Smith mentioned she would like to see many benches along with pathways, she would like it to be multigenerational with lots of stops along the way. She would like to see fitness stops as well and greenbelt connectivity is important. She has had hundreds of residents ask for a dog park. She stated this should be as unique and special as possible. Mr. Bratta thanked Mr. Barrick and the team for taking our concerns into consideration. Mr. Powell asked how wide the pathways would be in the wetland areas. Mr. Barrick stated they would be 10 feet. Mr. Powell wanted to note at 6 feet, you may need bump outs to keep the flow going. Mr. Barrick wanted to acknowledge all the help from Caitlin Jackson. Ms. Carlock thanked the both of them. Ms. Carlock asked Mr. Quagliata to get with the Supervisor and see what match money may be available.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. None

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Member Comments

Ms. Smith wanted to comment the rules on the signs posted at Stanley Park may not be lawful and it should be corrected and needs to be addressed.

Mr. Bratta wanted to thank the Township for being able to continue to hold meetings and conduct business despite having to hold them virtually.

Mr. Quagliata wanted to thank everyone who has participated, and the Township has done a good job getting everything done in spite of COVID.

Adjournment:

Ms. Aseltyn moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote. (Voorheis – yes; Aseltyn – yes; Carlock – yes; Deren – yes; Bratta – yes. 5 yes votes). The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.