

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
JOINT SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING
WITH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Virtual Special Meeting
7525 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383
February 10, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Supervisor Kowall called the joint Special Board of Trustee Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called.

ROLL CALL: Rik Kowall, Supervisor, Waterford Township
Anthony Noble, Clerk, White Lake Township
Mike Roman, Treasurer, White Lake Township
Mike Powell, White Lake Township Trustee, Florida
Scott Ruggles, White Lake Township Trustee, White Lake Township
Liz Smith, White Lake Township Trustee, White Lake Township
Andrea Voorheis – White Lake Township Trustee, White Lake Township

Kathleen Aseltyne, White Lake Township
Merrie Carlock, Chairperson, White Lake Township
CJ Bratta, White Lake Township
Rhonda Grubb – Planning Commission Liaison, White Lake Township

Absent: Deb Deren, Vice Chair

Also Present: Justin Quagliata, Staff Planner
Sean O’Neil, Planning Director
Sherri Barber, Recording Secretary

Visitors: Brian Barrick – Beckett & Raeder

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Kowall moved to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Smith supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote, 7 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no one with their hand raised for public comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Presentation/Discussion – Stanley Park Final Concept

A. Request to approve Stanley Park final concept

Supervisor Kowall thanked everyone in attendance, including all of the Parks and Recreation Committee members and Board members who had taken an interest in this project. He also thanked all of the members who supported him in the acquisition of Stanley Park.

Trustee Voorheis let the residents know tonight's meeting was about the planning of Stanley Park. The design concept was a master plan to get things moving. She introduced the Parks and Recreation Committee and detailed their lengthy experience and volunteer duties with the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Township. She added the Parks and Recreation Committee did not need to be tweaked.

Supervisor Kowall introduced Mr. Quagliata and thanked the internal staff including Mr. Quagliata, Mr. O'Neil, and Ms. Micallef. This project had been a team effort.

Mr. Quagliata presented the recommended Stanley Park design and Phase 1 on behalf of the master plan committee, which included Parks and Recreation plus Trustee Powell and Trustee Smith. He said this had been a several month project and the priority was making the park accessible and getting down to the water. This was a phased plan, and potentially up to a 10-year plan. The majority of the road as proposed was gravel. The pathway would be paved and barrier-free.

Trustee Ruggles had several questions about the concept. Trustee Ruggles asked about the basketball court sharing space with the upper parking area. Would there be Township buoys in the lake to mark swimming distances? How much improved beach would there be? He had questions about the splash pad. Was the playground fence necessary?

Mr. Quagliata noted the upper parking lot would likely be used during an event. During the day not many people would be parking there so it would be a shared space. The Township would install buoys for swimming. The playground fence was requested by the master plan committee due a safety concern with water and wetlands in the park. While there could be events here, market type activities might be better suited to the Civic Center. Supervisor Kowall noted if we had an event, we would have additional parking. This was all new and a new area of discovery. Parks and Recreation would grow with the Township and would put the policies and procedures together. Supervisor Kowall hoped it would be wildly successful. Supervisor Kowall stated we would look at having water and electricity at the park. One of the advantages for providing utilities was retaining the older structure.

Mr. Barrick noted the beach contained approximately 200 linear feet of frontage. Mr. Bratta said the property contained approximately 500 feet of lake frontage, but mostly towards Mud Lake.

Treasurer Roman thanked the Committee members. The Committee was responsible in terms of spending. He would like to see the road from start to finish in asphalt. He suggested use of Township improvement revolving funds towards paving. Mr. Barrick estimated about another \$300,000 to pave the entire road. Treasurer Roman frequented Highland Recreation and the gravel walking paths were a big mess in the wet weather and couldn't be plowed in winter. He thought there was one chance to do it right. Treasurer Roman checked fund balances and the improvement revolving fund had a little over \$3 million. The Parks Fund had around \$650,000, and it would have \$1 million after tax settlement in April. Mr. Bratta supported Treasurer Roman in paving the road.

Ms. Aselyne stated the Committee talked about asphalt and trying to keep the park natural. More impervious surfaces cause rapid runoff and could cause erosion around the area. We should be looking at rain gardens, etc. She was in agreement with the overall park plan.

Ms. Carlock stated we could look at different pavements, and pave the main road and direct stormwater to rain gardens for filtration. Parking areas could use unit permeable pavers. We could wait to define the road surface until we get the bids for road material. Mr. Quagliata noted the Township was pursuing a Land and Water grant. We could proceed and change road material at the time of bids. Mr. Bratta noted he supported paving, and thought it could be environmentally friendly. Trustee Voorheis leaned towards more green options.

Trustee Ruggles suggested removing asphalt from trails and adding it to the road. Supervisor Kowall stated mobility was an issue. Mr. Quagliata noted the Committee talked about a hierarchy of trails, and there would be natural trails away from the park core. Trustee Ruggles thought paving the entire road was necessary and handicap access was critical.

Clerk Noble was in agreement with Treasurer Roman about paving the entire road.

Supervisor Kowall agreed accessibility was very important. If we made a concerted effort, we could come up with a healthy compromise. With hard surfaces, there was less maintenance.

Trustee Powell was a fan of pavement for maintenance and accessibility. To put all amenities in phase one was probably unwise, this would affect future grants. Let's get the best use by our state funds. He noted basketball was the primary use in the upper parking lot, parking was the secondary use. He thanked everyone for their input.

Ms. Aselyne heard a lot of talk about safety, she thought about safety in the long run. We needed to be good stewards – we were the headwaters and we needed safety for wildlife, etc. and balance with safety of natural resources. She would like to open minds to safety for the ecological system. Supervisor Kowall noted one of the main reasons he went after the property was to preserve it. With preservation came a little cost but it had been destined for over 60 condominiums.

Mr. Bratta noted Lakewood Village on the other side of Brendel Lake had approximately 500 houses with asphalt roads and drives.

Mr. Quagliata noted everyone had a chance to speak. The goal of the Township Board was to vote on the design concept and preferred phase one. This would be a \$500,000 grant, with a \$500,000 match from the Parks Fund and a \$275,000 contribution from the Township Board for Option A.

Supervisor Kowall clarified the \$275,000 from the Township. It would make good sense to make a commitment from public safety of \$75,000 for the road and \$200,000 from the improvement revolving fund.

Supervisor Kowall asked Mr. O'Neil for his comments. Mr. O'Neil noted he was quiet because Mr. Quagliata was capable of handling this. We wanted to ramp up the grant writing portion. We had an April 1st deadline. He thanked everyone involved and all the thoughtful comments. They were all great ideas and the only constraint was money and they had been good stewards of that. Mr. O'Neil thanked Mr. Quagliata and the Parks and Recreation Committee for their work.

Trustee Smith supported paving the entire road. She would like a drive all the way to the waterfront. They were currently dealing with phase 1 and the plan could be changed in the future. She was thankful for all of the ideas and appreciated the Parks and Recreation Committee and was happy to hear from fellow Township Board members.

Trustee Powell thanked Terry Lilley and Carol Burkhardt for their insight many years ago. Clerk Noble concurred with Trustee Powell and thanked everyone on the committee. Clerk Noble added Mr. Quagliata does a great job, he's full of energy and dedicated. He encouraged everyone to get to know him, there was a lot of talent there.

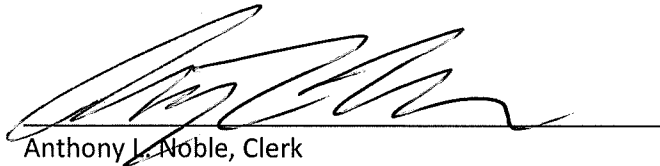
Trustee Ruggles asked who would operate the canoe/kayak launch. Supervisor Kowall said the launch would be for residents to bring their own canoes/kayaks and not be staffed. Trustee Ruggles would like to see the motion include paving the entire road. Treasurer Roman noted it was explained to him the Township could not go back to the State for grant money until 2023 so the asphalt should be done now. Mr. Quagliata stated the Township could request a State grant every year. Mr. Quagliata suggested the motion be phrased for paving the entire road if pricing came back favorable.

Supervisor Kowall motioned to approve Option A with a footnote on additional paving being quoted out and reviewed at that time for its affordability and workability. Mr. Noble supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote: (Kowall – yes; Noble – yes; Roman – yes; Powell – yes; Ruggles – yes; Smith – yes; Voorheis – yes). 7 yes votes.

Adjournment:

8:16 p.m.

I, Anthony L. Noble, the duly elected and qualified Clerk of the Charter Township of White Lake, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the February 10, 2021 joint special Board of Trustee Meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting minutes.



Anthony L. Noble, Clerk
White Lake Township
Oakland County, Michigan