

**WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**
Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road, White Lake, MI 48383
FEBRUARY 12, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Grubb 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
 Rhonda Grubb – Planning Commission Liaison
 CJ Bratta
 Kathleen Aseltyne

Absent: Merrie Carlock, Chairperson - Excused
 Deb Deren, Vice Chair - Excused

Also Present: Sean O’Neil, Planning Director
 Sherri Ward, Recording Secretary

Visitors: 6

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bratta moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Aseltyne supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. January 8, 2020

Ms. Aseltyne moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020 as presented. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Woodward (953 Schuyler) was in attendance from Lakewood Village and they just had a subdivision meeting. He’s wondering now that Jason Iacoangeli is gone, what the timeline is for Stanley Park. Mr. O’Neil noted that we will need a RFQ and RFP and that would begin in the fall. He estimates that they

would spend the winter getting plans in order to look for development grants. Fall is when we will look for public input and Master Planning and design.

Mr. Woodward asked if this is the board to come to with any questions about the development about the park and this is the correct board for that. Ms. Asletyne noted that your participation is critical, you'll be involved and notices will go out. Mr. Woodward is happy to volunteer.

Mrs. Woodward saw surveyors at the site and wondered what that was for. Mr. O'Neil noted that this is for the Civic Development district. The surveyors were looking at topography, etc. Mrs. Woodward asked who ordered the survey, and it was the Township Board. Mr. Bratta noted that the Parks & Recreation Committee makes recommendations that go to the Township Board. Mrs. Woodward said that she's heard the boat launch will be left in. The plan is to let kayaks and canoers launch but nothing is written in stone, we need to Master Plan. Mrs. Woodward asked if the beach and boat launch soils be tested? She will call Trish Pergament in the Supervisor's Office to ask about the soils testing. She asked when the park will be open to the public? Mr. O'Neil noted that we don't know but the plan is to cut trees in the spring, and once the park is cleaned up people could park up top and walk down.

Ed Lively (700 Beachway) noted that he is on the Lakewood Village board and said that he spoke with Jason Iacoangeli previously and he had been a great help. He's representing his subdivision and they want to stay on top of what is going to happen at Stanley Park. Mr. O'Neil noted that we will make sure we're contacting associations and getting the word out.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Debriefing of 2020 MParks Conference

Ms. Grubb reported that we had the opportunity to go to the MParks Conference and they really enjoyed it. Ms. Grubb went to a lecture on grants and playgrounds including two lectures on inclusive playgrounds. The inclusive playgrounds aren't just geared towards children. There is great importance in having a playground where an able bodied child could play alongside a child who isn't. Ken Elwert spoke from Rochester Hills about their Innovation Hills park and that park concept is amazing. They used about 10 different grants to develop this park. Ms. Asletyne said they discussed how children don't really play outside anymore and they need to. A resident asked how they would protect the Township against any injuries and there is probably some type of umbrella insurance that projects the Township. Mr. Bratta said it was a great conference. His main goal for going was to learn about grants and he was able to network with many leaders in the community. The money is out there, it's just having a team in place and meeting the right people. Mr. Bratta would like to see someone go after these grants and try to develop the ITC Corridor. Mr. O'Neil noted that anyone providing grants wants to see that you are serious with any plans you may have. Chris Bundy from Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation told Mr. Bratta that they have funded many of their parks with grants and we could reach out to him. Ms. Asletyne went to a seminar on Belle Isle and they went through all the steps with having a Master Plan and items such as Vision Planning. They demonstrated how they pulled it together over the years, and the Master Plan is very important.

b. Parks Maintenance Discussion

Mr. Bratta asked to put this on the agenda. He was down at Hawley Park and noticed some items that needed updating. Mr. O'Neil will let our Maintenance Department know.

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. O'Neil reported that he has made a few phone calls for an arborist but hasn't connected yet. There are two local arborists that he is trying to make contact with. It should be relatively inexpensive to hire an arborist. Ms. Aselyne would like a report from the arborist to get a little education. Mr. O'Neil reported that they are currently interviewing for the Staff Planner. Mr. O'Neil said that the MParks Conference was his first. There was a retired MSU professor that talked about the great number of grandparents taking care of their grandkids and there should be some focus on them and that made him think about that need in our parks. The conference was convenient because it was in Novi and almost free because most WLT attendees were free.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Member Comments

Mr. Bratta wanted to thank everyone for coming out to the meeting, it's important to have their input.

Ms. Voorheis wasn't able to attend the conference due to her job. The Board of Trustees has been very busy. We have acquired the Annex building now and the Fire Department and Water Department will be located there.

Ms. Grubb noted that at the last Planning Commission meeting they approved 69 units at Lakepoint and it will be attached apartments. Ms. Grubb would like to thank everyone for coming to the meeting.

Adjournment:

8:06 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2020