

Rik Kowall, Supervisor
Terry Lilley, Clerk
Mike Roman, Treasurer



Trustees
Scott Ruggles
Michael Powell
Andrea C. Voorheis
Liz Fessler Smith

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

7525 Highland Road • White Lake, Michigan 48383-2900 • (248) 698-3300 • www.whitelaketwp.com

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 38383
February 7, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Deren called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called: Ms. Carlock was excused.

ROLL CALL: Merrie Carlock, Chairperson - Excused
Deb Deren, Vice Chair
Rhonda Grubb – Planning Commission Liaison
Jean-Philippe Loew
Andrea Voorheis

Also Present: Jason Iacoangeli, AICP, Staff Planner
Lynn Hinton, Recording Secretary

Visitors: 6

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Loew moved to approve the agenda with the removal of Item 6A: Discussion of Projects and Goals with the Supervisor, since the Supervisor had another commitment this evening, and also move Item 7A: Fisk Farm Pathway Discussion ahead of the Maintenance Fund Proposal. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. January 10, 2018

Ms. Deren moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2018 as corrected. Mr. Loew supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Deren opened the discussion for public comment on items not listed on the agenda, but none was offered.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Maintenance Fund Proposal

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that he had discussion with Treasurer on options for creating or achieving such a fund to allow the township to generate revenue on a yearly basis, so as to get closer to achieving stability in the fund for maintaining the parks. Maintenance of the parks runs about \$45k per year and the income brought in through rental property or interest is \$14k, at which \$7-8k comes from interest on the current park fund. Every year we spend money, the fund balance will drop. There is a Public Act 20 in Michigan that does not allow governments to take funds from taxes and invest in anything other than CD's, Bonds or Money Market and Savings. There isn't really a good way to come up with a maintenance fund other than going out for a millage, which would allow us to sustain parking maintenance on a long-term basis. The idea would be we would ask for same millage as last time, .3 mils. This would capture \$319k in the first year. We would seek a 6 year millage, which has to expire on an even year, so 2024 would be the goal.

Ms. Deren moved for the Board of Trustees to consider the .3 mil language and give to the County by April to be placed on the November 2018 general election ballot. Ms. Grubb supported.

Discussion on the Motion: Mr. Loew would like to see the language include sidewalks too, not just parks. People don't see what has been accomplished with the parks, and he feels pathways and connections would be more visible.

Ms. Deren amended her motion and moved for the Board of Trustees to consider the .3 mil language to give to the County by April to be placed on the November 2018 general election ballot, and include pedestrian connections in the language. Ms. Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

a. Fisk Farm Pathway Plan Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that there was discussion with regard to the location of the pathway to the fence. At that time, the Historical Society asked for a rendering of where the pathway would be located and what it would look like. Other comments were to have pathway flags on the ground so it's visible, at which will be done when the weather permits. Mr. Iacoangeli stated he also met with Johnson & Anderson to discuss how far the pathway is inside the fence and that it should not encroach into the farm property.

Mr. Iacoangeli used Google Earth to sketch the pathway using Johnson & Anderson's plans and shared a virtual depiction with the group. He explained that there is 19 ft. of width from the fence to the edge of the sidewalk and when it gets to the outlet structure for storm water, the pathway changes direction due to the utility pole. It is then 11 ft. off the fence line and the "jog" takes the pathway between the tornado siren and Christmas tree, then on to Dr. Dave's property. The encroachment mainly occurs where it has to avoid the guide wire and siren. Mr. Baroni indicated that the idea is to relocate the fence to the inside of the pathway. The fence is in good shape and it will also save money.

Mr. Loew questioned whether this was the best place on the farm to have the siren. Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that moving utilities is always possible, but cost becomes the issue. He understands that the guide wire cannot be moved. Ms. Grubb asked why the sidewalk couldn't go on the other side of the siren, but Mr. Iacoangeli noted that there is a ditch on that side.

Mr. Loew noted that there was some discussion regarding having a sidewalk on the west side of the road. Mr. Iacoangeli stated the township is meeting with OCRC to discuss this design and how to design the intersection for the mobile home park to connect. Mr. Loew stated he would rather have a pathway on the west side, which would be more useful for the residents in the mobile home park. He feels it would make more sense to do pathways on both sides of the street. Mr. Iacoangeli responded that the reality is that people won't go out of their way to cross the street. They will cross at the closet point. To have the improvement of an intersection, you'd have to cross at the current apron. They envision having landings

on 4 corners of that drive connecting the mobile home park to the Walmart driveway. They will meet with OCRC to see what their design standards are.

Mr. Loew would like Mr. Iacoangeli to discuss with OCRC the possibility of having a west side pathway. Mr. Iacoangeli asked the Historical Society members if they were comfortable with how the pathway looks and whether he should proceed to put together a bid package. He would like to finalize drawings this month and get a bid package for the entire project out next month, and award at the end of March for spring construction.

Mr. Baroni stated they have a general membership meeting tomorrow and they would like to take the drawings and the Google Earth rendering to their meeting. He personally feels this revised pathway is looking palatable than in the past.

Mr. Loew asked about moving the siren and Mr. Iacoangeli stated he would contact Oakland County Homeland Security to see about moving it. Homeland Security might just move it since it is near a historical building. Mr. Baroni added that if the siren were to move, the sidewalk could be closer to the fence line.

Ms. Deren moved to have Mr. Iacoangeli proceed with engineering and getting a bid package together for the Fisk Farm Pathway Project, and also to look at the possibility of relocating the tornado siren. Ms. Voorheis supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

Mr. Loew moved to get an estimate for an additional sidewalk on the west side of the street as a follow up project to the existing Fisk Farm Pathway Project. Ms. Deren supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (4 yes votes)

Mr. Iacoangeli noted that there is an issue with having an additional sidewalk on the west side of the street. This body and the money it is spending are millage funds that must be used for parks. Mr. Loew asked if the money could come from another budget and he would like the Township Board to look into this.

Ms. Grubb stated she doesn't think it's practical to have a pathway on both sides of the road, since this would also involve removing and replacing trees, which is not something that will get done this summer. Mr. Loew indicated that he would like to start the process.

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that he went to the annual Trust Fund meeting to look at requirements for grant applications for this year. The state is putting a high priority on purchasing land and all acquisition grants were 100% funded last year. There may be opportunities for White Lake Township. Also, there are lots of developments coming through.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Grubb reported that at the last Planning Commission meeting, the commission approved two rezoning requests: Cooley Lake Road, where they are looking at attached condos. Residents have concerns with more traffic, but this project could be to their benefit since water and sewer would come in. The other request was to rezone the old trophy shop from LB to GB. The owner has a buyer, who is looking to run a small tile shop from that location. The commission also looked at verbage on ordinances and made a few amendments.

Ms. Voorheis reported that the Library is progressing nicely. Mr. Iacoangeli added that 4 Corners is putting in underground utilities and the Redwood pathway has been approved.

Mr. Loew stated he went cross country skiing last week and encouraged the members to get out and enjoy the snow.

Ms. Deren requested to add to next month's agenda discussion on what project the Parks & Rec committee would like to concentrate on next, after Fisk Farm.

- b. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.