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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 38383
December 8, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Visitors: 1

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ms. Workman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Erlich supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. October 27, 2015

Ms. Erlich moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2015 as corrected. Ms. Workman supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Carlock opened the discussion to the public for comments on items not listed on the agenda, but none was offered.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Workman moved to approve the 2016 Meeting Dates. Ms. Grubb supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)

b. Bogie Lake Road Pathway Grant

Mr. Iacoangeli shared a Powerpoint presentation with information on TAP grants. The deadline is April 1, 2016. MDOT receives the federal funds, but White Lake Township would go through SEMCOG, because they have more control over membership in southeast Michigan. Statewide TAP dollars is \$26 million, at which SEMCOG gets \$4.8 million. ACT 51 agencies are allowed to apply, but since White Lake is not an ACT 51 agency, we would have to partner with Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) to apply for these funds. There is 20% minimum match for the grant that comes from non-federal funds, i.e., state grants or non-profit grants.

Bogie Lake Pathway would be an eligible project under the guidelines and they are asking that all projects be discussed with SEMCOG and MDOT prior to submitting an application. Mr. Iacoangeli noted that SEMCOG already has our map in their transportation plan and they will be the agency to review our grant application. They consider many elements when reviewing applications, i.e., connectivity, access, environmental, etc. There were 39 projects that were awarded funding last year, awards ranging from \$80k to \$1.2 million. A 20-75% match is typical and White Lake tries to match 50%.

Mr. Iacoangeli noted that last year a grant application was put together for Hidden Pines Park, and he may change course next year to focus on the pathway grant application, since we only have the capacity to go after one major grant per year. He may require outside help and there are costs involved with engineering and developing a plan. J&A looked at this in 2007-2008 and at that time, it was projected to cost \$1.2 million based on the need for water crossings and retaining walls in some spots. This item will be discussed again after the first of the year.

Ms. Carlock noted that the grant applicant is already complete and she thinks it could be submitted again. She feels this should be a priority.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Hidden Pines Grant Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that he has a list of all communities that applied for the grant in 2015. There were 27 applications asking for a combined \$2.2 million and only \$1.2 million was awarded. Since this park is not a trailhead on a regional pathway, and the median household income is above the upper one third in the state, we lost points when determining criteria. Final recommendations from that state have not been made, but he is doubtful this project will get funded. He will look at resubmitting the application next year.

b. Fisk Farm Master Plan Update

Mr. Iacoangeli reported that the Steering Committee met on November 3 and held a charrette. They did a walk through, and all buildings were looked at inside and out. They looked at a summary of issues and opportunities. Some of the items for discussion were making the park user friendly, having shared parking with Walmart, enhancing visibility of the farm from the road, having a structured outdoor gathering space, handicap parking, pedestrian and non-motorized access, and limits of the property. The planning and design response portion was to lay out maps sidewalks and parking, and whether to move the old Township Hall (which the consensus of the group was that they do not want the old hall in the farm area). Possible removal of the chain link fence and replace with something more pleasing was also discussed, as well as moving the picnic pavilion so it could be utilized outside the fence to open more space inside. There were many things shared and learned by both sides. The consultants will put the comments into design options with a narrative on how to achieve. The committee will meet again in January to go over the results.

Mr. Loew added that there was concern with merging, security and additional work on the part of the volunteers.

Mr. Iacoangeli felt the group may have a draft document in April to be able to share with the Board of Trustees.

OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Staff Report

Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that development projects in the township are slowing at this time and the department is working on some housekeeping items.

He was contacted by a woman from Six Rivers Land Conservancy, who will be holding a casual question/answer meeting at Biggby Coffee on Tuesday, January 19 from 9-10 a.m. if anyone would like to stop by. He will forward more information via email.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Workman questioned whether there had been any more vandalism since the cameras were installed. Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that most people that go to the park do not vandalize, and there has been nothing significant since the cameras were installed. Recordings are scanned every few weeks, and then archived. She asked what the top priority was at Fisk Farm based on the comments from the charrette. Mr. Iacoangeli responded that Security topped the list.

Mr. Loew showed a brief video of his personal walk from the playground at the Fisk Farm into the subdivision across the street. There is already a walking path, but he feels it could be enhanced. Ms. Carlock felt this would be a nice project by itself, but not associated with the Fisk Farm project. Mr. Loew asked whether this could be a project we could plan for 2017. Mr. Iacoangeli will look into adding this to the 2017 list of projects for consideration.

Mr. Loew referenced the millage renewal, and stated his friends want to know what it brings them. He has mentioned Bloomer Park, etc. but there is not a good picture of what the committee has done. Ms. Carlock indicated that we may be able to do a brief video and writing about what we've done and post it on the websites and Facebook page, but she would rather continue to do a few more projects with the funds that are left before going out or another millage. Mr. Iacoangeli noted that the last time we went for a millage, it was during a mid-term election and it wasn't advertised, only put on the ballot. If it were to be considered again, it needs to be on the 2016 presidential election with both parties voting.

Ms. Workman indicated that when we talk about what the committee has done, the videos are helpful for people who have not visited some of the parks and the farm. Mr. Iacoangeli stated that when the weather turns better, we can showcase a few movies of our parks on Facebook and possibly the cable access channel.

Ms. Voorheis stated that at the last board meeting, the Cooley Lake residents were opposed to having the lake treated. There was also a lengthy discussion about the township sewer system.

Ms. Grubb would like to see the Bogie Lake pathway project going.

Ms. Erlich asked whether the committee could utilize the township email roster to get information out. Mr. Iacoangeli indicated that the Supervisor's office has a robust list for residents who want to receive emails from the township. He doesn't see a problem with this and will check into it.

b. Next Meeting Date: January 26, 2016

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.