

MINUTES

WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP JOINT MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE Regular Meeting November 23, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Lilley called the joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and Parks & Rec Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called for the Township Board: Mr. Kowall and Ms. Burkart were absent. Chairperson Robinson called roll for the Parks & Rec Committee: Ms. Kowalski was absent.

ROLL CALL:	Steve Anderson	Mike Kowall, Supervisor - Absent
	Greg Baroni, Board Liaison	Terry Lilley, Clerk
	Merrie Carlock, Vice Chairperson	Forest J. Brendel, Treasurer
	Debby Dehart	Mike Powell, Trustee
	Deb Deren, Secretary	Todd Birkle, Trustee
	Shirley Kowalski - Absent	Greg Baroni, Trustee
	Caryn Robinson, Chairperson	Carol Burkart, Trustee - Absent
	Jean Shiloff	
	Bill Sweeney (Consultant)	
	Andrea Voorheis	

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

Visitors: 12

Mr. Lilley reported that the Township Board met for a special meeting (minutes attached) to discuss enhancements to Vetter park and the development agreement for Bloomer park, and to also discuss signage at the parks. The intent of tonight's meeting is to offer the board's suggestions and recommendations to the Parks & Rec committee.

Ms. Robinson noted that this evening the Parks & Rec Committee could only take suggestions on Bloomer Park, but would like move ahead with Vetter Park.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Anderson noted there were certain issues not addressed by the board that he would like added to the agenda this evening. Mr. Lilley stated that typically special meeting agendas could not be changed, but Ms. Robinson noted that the open issues pertaining to irrigation, signage, the M-59 pathway, and the removal of benches on the soccer field directly relate to both parks and could be discussed this evening.

Mr. Baroni moved to amend the agenda to add a presentation by the White Lake Township Garden Review. Mr. Powell supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Robinson moved to amend the agenda to include open issues with regard to irrigation, signage, the M-59 pathway and the removal of benches at the soccer field. Mr. Anderson supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Robinson opened the discussion to the public for comments on items not listed on the agenda.

Jeremy Meyer, a resident on McKeachie Road, wanted to submit a proposal for disc golf at Indian Springs Metro Park. He feels it would bring income to the community. Ms. Robinson noted that the Parks & Rec Committee did not have jurisdiction over metro parks and she suggested he contact them directly.

Representatives from the Mountain Biking Association expressed their interest and support for multi-use trails. They were present to hear the discussion regarding Bloomer Park.

New Business:

a. Bloomer Park Redevelopment

Mr. Lilley reported that he, Mr. Brendel, Supervisor Kowall and David Smith met at Bloomer Park. The vision was to keep the park natural and to consider the possibility of putting a shelter up. It was discussed that the Boy Scouts could be utilized to help take care of the area.

The old road was recently cleared by Mr. Brendel to allow people to walk through the park. There was discussion regarding erecting a sign reflecting that this is a cooperative effort of the Board and the Parks & Rec Committee.

Mr. Lilley read a letter to the audience that he had sent to Supervisor Kowall regarding Bloomer Park. After listening to stories of how the park was years ago, he stated he was enlightened and impressed with the ideas, where he was previously opposed in the past.

There was discussion on the grant award and whether the numbers could be adjusted. Originally, the projected cost for park renovations was \$750,000 and the grant writer at the time thought the match was 10%, but it was later found to be 53%. The project costs have since been reduced to \$465,000 and the goal is to have the numbers adjusted by the state accordingly.

Discussion continued with everyone agreeing that the park should be kept as natural as possible, perhaps adding a shelter and/or fishing pier. Ms. Carlock noted that the dock should be planned and built professionally and reminded that any enhancements must be ADA compliant. She asked the board members to work through this grant and pass a resolution to accept it. Mr. Iacoangeli will acquire a copy of the old plans from the state.

Temporary signage was discussed. Ms. Carlock noted a temporary construction sign could be erected, but it would have to eventually be replaced with a permanent sign indicating that trust funds were used for the park. She urged the board members not to turn the grant down, as it would hurt future requests from the township.

Mr. Lilley noted there are concerns with upcoming millages not being renewed. The board has projected \$15,000 from the Parks & Rec fund for the next 5 years that could be set aside for these purposes. Mr. Anderson noted that the Parks & Rec has been taking care of all the expenses relating to the parks.

There was discussion on how to get the information to the board. Mr. Anderson indicated the Parks & Rec communicates through minutes, through the board liaison, and through meetings with the supervisor. It was determined the process would be to have the supervisor's office put items for discussion or action on the board agenda, and that the board liaison could speak on behalf of the committee.

Discussion continued with Ms. Carlock wanting to negotiate further with the state to reduce the project number to reduce the township's match. She noted that Bloomer Park falls under rules and regulations and she urged the board not to do any enhancements to the park until this is passed by legislature.

The Parks & Rec Committee was asked to provide a priority list for both parks at which it will do as soon as possible. Communication will be done through minutes and with the board liaison, who will convey information back to the committee.

b. Vetter Park Renovation

Mr. Lilley reviewed the minutes of the September 18 special board meeting. At that meeting they looked at irrigation, grass, re-grading and leveling, improvements to the dugout, extending the fencing area and redoing the infield area. The board also discussed the possibility of having a half court basketball court, removing the existing shed, and building housing for the well tank and electrical equipment, which could also be used to store bats, balls, etc. and allow food sales. Improvements to pavilion could include painting, new roofing, the addition of a walking path, and the creation of a soccer area.

Ms. Robinson stated the committee discussed enhancements to the park back in July and had hoped the project would have been started back then so the field could be ready for use in the spring.

Ms. Carlock feels the list of enhancements is fine, with the exception of the basketball court. Mr. Anderson referenced the proposed soccer field by the township board and note from his past experience, soccer fields in conjunction with ball fields do work. He would like to nix the idea of a soccer field and concentrate more effort on the ball field. Further, Mr. Anderson noted the township has two soccer fields at Hawley Park that could be used assuming the park bench that was installed on one of the fields be removed. Discussion continued with regard to a soccer field at Vetter Park. Mr. Brendel reviewed the blueprint and found there was enough room for a 60' x 100' field. Mr. Anderson will review the site and give his opinion on the soccer field option.

Ms. Deren suggested having an area at the park for bocce ball and creating a sidewalk to connect the subdivision to the park.

Mr. Lilley stated that after discussions at the township board level, the board felt the main priorities for Vetter Park were to dig out the current infield and place appropriate material; re-grade and re-level; having something more permanent to allow for the storage of ball equipment; and put in an area for a concession stand. They also discussed having a maintenance-free building with decorative block and a steel roof. Mr. Birkle stated he is not in favor of concession stand.

It was determined that the Parks & Rec would prepare a priority list and send it to the supervisor's office. Ms. Robinson will make the call to have it put on the board agenda.

c. White Lake Community Garden

Pastor Ken Foutz of the Calvary Lutheran Church gave a brief history and overview of the White Lake Community Garden project. Colleen Thompson, project manager for the Community Garden, gave a powerpoint presentation reflecting the success of their first year with the garden. They held focus groups and joined the Huron Valley Optimist Club to meet the needs of the community. Copies of their presentation were distributed.

Adjournment

Ms. Shiloff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Ms. Deren supported and the motion carried with a voice vote.