



**ACME TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 26, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: H. Yamaguchi (Chair), S. Feringa, M. Guy, O. Sherberneau, M. Timmins

Members excused: None

Staff present: W. Kladder, Township Supervisor
T. Henkel, Parks Supervisor
N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary

Limited Public Comment:

John Kennedy, Wellington Farms, born and raised on Bunker Hill. He expressed concern about a recent visit to Bayside with his grandson. He was alarmed by the dogs roaming around and in the water. Twice this week it was posted at Bayside the high E-coli rating and one was warn not to have contact above the waist. Henkel explained the testing that is done by the County Health Department twice a week as part of a grant from the Watershed. Kennedy suggested in our planning for the parks that we set aside an area for dogs only to swim and roam.

Virgina Tegel, 4810 Bartlett Rd, commented that she always likes to provide solutions. She talked about the Champion tree project, Black Willows. This project was formed in 1996 in Northern Michigan to essentially archive genetics. Black willows are a tree that extract mercrics, heavy metals, dixoxins and the really bad stuff out of water and soil. They will filtered out more toxics then anything manmade. Tegel also mentioned the "Little Free Libraries" taking root. She said there was a nationwide website. This would be a neat thing to have in our parks. Also in planning ahead for next summer she would like to see a BIG celebration for our parks. Some communities have a yearly event.

A. Approval of Agenda

Yamaguchi noted two additions to the agenda. Under New Business d. Two county parcels on Bartlett Road/Kladder and e. Placemaking update/Marcie Timmins.

**Motion by Feringa. Seconded by Sherberneau to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion carrried.**

B. Consider approval of the [01-19-12](#) meeting minutes:

Motion by Timmins. Support by Guy to approve the minutes of 01-19-12 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

C. Presentation:

Henkel said after 25 years road ends and boat launches are slowly deteriorating. He said Bunker Hill launch was shallow, Dock Road is high and dry and at Sayler Park the payment is broken but still being used.

He said the parks are busy, we are testing the E. coli levels twice a week. Henkel said we recently ordered 10 more tables and benches for Bayside. He commented on the tree that branches broke on and now has been cleared out. Henkel expressed concerns about the willow tree in front of the Hoxsie house. He believes once the house is moved it will be the demise of the tree.

D. New Business:

Lee Maynard, Trail planner, and Julie Clark, program director of T.A.R.T. Trails. Clark said the TART trails system currently consists of seven multi-use trails in Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties as well as a cross-town bike route. The nearly 60-miles of trails vary in length, surface type and difficulty. TART trails offers a wide variety of programs promoting safe and active non-motorized transportation. Clark reviewed all the trails that are currently available. Current programs include; Volunteer, Trail ambassador, Recycle-A-Bicycle, Smart Commute, Risk watch pedestrian & Bicycle safety and Connected communities/complete streets. Donations

Grooming of beach and access to beach in Sayler Park

Yamaguchi referred to the e-mail from Vreeland regarding the Sayler Park Littoral Drift Study. The township has long had some preliminary plans for a boat launch improvements at Sayler Park. Many have wished for the township to move ahead with requesting a state Waterways engineering grant towards final engineering and construction of same, and finding any matching funds needed. At Sayler Park, the improvements would be within the park boundaries and not on the existing road end. Before proceeding township administration has wanted the question answered as to what true annual dredging costs might be, and how they would be funded.

It was suggested seeing if we could partner with Hans VanSumeren and his Fresh Water Institute students at NMC to do the studies for us as part of their coursework or a special project to get us more detailed data that may be needed to answer the question. Yamaguchi said a meeting has been scheduled with VanSumeren next month.

Henkel said the waterfront in Sayler Park has developed quite a fair amount of natural Shoreline vegetation. There is an open sandy area adjacent to the water, but one must cross lots of weedy stuff to get there. Back about 8 years ago Henkel use to mow it on a semi-regular basis without any required DEQ permits. This stopped when fuses were being made about such behavior on commercial beachfront properties. Now some citizens who like to swim are wishing for some level of grooming. Henkel is asking if the township should seek a permit to re-institute some beach grooming at Sayler Park.

Motion by Sherberneau, Seconded by Feringa to ask the township to apply for a grooming permit for a more formal swimming area at Sayler Park. Motion carried.

Vreeland also raise some concerns about Dock Road boat launch. The launch site there is a

Road Commission-owned road end. In the past the township went in, without seeking permission from the Road Commission or any required permits from DNR/DEQ/ACE and put in the existing concrete ramp. Now the water levels are so low that the entire concrete ramp is far enough above the water line that most who do launch there need to go past the end of it and are getting stuck in the sand.

Kladder handed out a map showing the Erickson owned VASA contiguous property. Kladder said that Acme Township owns the blue section on the east side of the creek. The north side is owned by the county and the township has an option to buy it as long as the county is not using it as a park for \$78,000.00. There are about 40 acres. Kladder's interest in this is a possible future parkland for the existing subdivisions. Kladder said the real estate agent stopped by the township offices. He did say that the zoning would have to be changed. Kladder commented that about a year or so ago this same proposal was presented to the Advisory and they chose not to exercise the option.

Motion by Guy, Seconded by Timmins to ask the township staff to evaluate the property, which includes an easement, gather information and present to township Board. Motion carried.

Timmins filled the advisory in on what has been happening with the Placemaking Leadership team. She represents the Parks & Rec advisory on the leadership team. There is a website dedicated to this project.. www.acmeshores.com. One can find the information from the meetings held so far. The next scheduled leadership team meeting is August 9th at 1:30 pm.

Events ordinance and Parks Ordinance 2009-01 as they relate to Acme Parks

Yamaguchi said the intention of the Trustees is to enact an Events Ordinance that governs events that occur in the Township. The current draft of the events ordinance talks about events on private property, and refers to an amended Parks Ordinance for rules governing events on parks and other public properties. The advisory has been given the charge to come up with ideas on what might be permissible on our parkland, and what might be in an ordinance governing such events. We are using the Traverse City Public Land Use ordinance as a guide. So far the Trustees has been asked to rule on a request for setting up a weekend BBQ concession in our new park and also having a yoga class there. There are two parts to our task. We will take the Traverse City Public Land Use policy ordinance and read it and then mark it up by marking "yes" or "no" on what would apply to Acme Township. This will give the Trustees an idea of what we think of what TC did and what may be good for Acme. The second part is for us to a) come with ideas on what kind of events might be permissible in our parks and public lands and b) in which of our properties might such events be appropriate. The deadline for submitting to the office is on or before Thursday, August 9th. Yamaguchi and staff will compile the results for our August 23 meeting, at which point we can create a recommendation for the Trustees.

Yamaguchi reminded the advisory that there are still two openings to serve on the Parks and Rec Advisory committee. We are looking for dedicated, passionate people who want to DO things for our Parks. Please submit their names and contact numbers to Kladder.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 23, 2012, at 7:00 pm