

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 25, 2014, 6:00 p.m.  
Acme Township Hall

Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Timmins (Chairperson), Challenger, Feringa, Guy, Kaetchen, Yamaguchi, Goss  
Members absent/excused: Kerns  
Staff present: Henkel (Parks Supervisor)

Limited Public Comment: None.

The August 28, 2014 Minutes were approved with one change: Henkel said concentrate, not consecrate, under the Autumn Olive section.

Timmins motioned to approve the agenda, but move Restructuring the Parks and Rec Committee to #1 under New Business. Kaetchen seconded. Approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Therefore, she wants to delegate ownership for guiding and monitoring the current projects to a committee member and a township project manager that is appointed:

1. Saylor Park Boat Launch is the furthest along - Jean Aukerman has taken the lead on that, with committee members Guy, Challenger, and Goss.
2. Biking/Hiking Trails work has started with consideration of loops and natural areas within the township. Grand Traverse Town Center is amenable to use and trails. Mark Guy has taken the lead with support from Kaetchen.
3. An Autumn Olive working session was discussed. Challenger has talked with Sergeant Paul Scott about the work crew from the jail. Apparently, their funding has been cut, so we would need to have someone get trained and then be responsible for them while they work. We would also feed all the volunteers and workers lunch. N. Kaetchen volunteered to get trained.

Timmins reported that Eric Ellis and Brian Bordage suggested not rushing into the autumn olive eradication too fast, as even government agencies are delaying their efforts due to the labor intensive/costly process. LaPointe shared reluctance of conservancy groups in the area to get involved -- it's too overwhelming and too much work. He sees 3 choices that we have:

- 1) Let it grow wild (Yuba Natural Area)
- 2) Identify all vegetation you want saved, then eradicate autumn olive, and follow up with plantings that will fight the return of autumn olive. An alternative is to level the upper bench completely but do hand cutting on the lower bench (Yuba plan).
- 3) Forget saving anything; level all vegetation with mechanical equipment (Ken Engel has equipment; Ruffled Grouse do it.) If you plant and maintain a crop, you won't see autumn olive return. Brian Kelley shared that he'd prefer leaving it alone to recreating agricultural land.

The original rules for the Yuba grant were questioned and should be researched to see what can and cannot be done to that parcel. A November WORK/PLAN DAY with Eric Ellis was proposed with a "walkabout" on the property in October sometime. LaPointe volunteered to organize and set it up with Eric Ellis. Additional participants may be invited to join us.

Kathleen Guy - Update from the Shoreline Committee concerning land donation

Phases 1, 2, and 3 of the Shoreline acquisitions are complete and a hiatus is suggested. We now need to develop park amenities, with sensitivity to merging opportunities -- one of which has occurred. In October, a property next to the MDOT park (149 feet of shoreline) is being purchased by the Conservancy on behalf of the township and will be gifted to the township at a future date, perhaps as a matching grant opportunity.

LaPointe reiterated that he'd like to see improved aesthetics and manicuring along our park shoreline. He wondered if others shared this feeling.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jean Aukerman - gave a Saylor Park Boat Launch update. She suggested we ask the township for a loan so the boat launch can be completed in 2015. She plans to apply for possible grants that would allow us to pay the township back in a timely manner. She asked that we consider moving ahead with the request at the next township Board meeting and get our township engineer to forward plans and get permits started now.

Extended Park Hours - Brian Kelley shared that he'd made use of the extended hours and appreciated them. He observed a few others using the parks and no difficulties. Feringa cautioned to continue to watch how 24 hour access is working.

Jay reported the preliminary points for the Bayside Park grant have risen to 370/500. The BlueWater Trail and demolition of the Hoxsie House raised the grant score.

Timmins announced there would be no October meeting. Instead, she would check with members by email.

Motion to adjourn was approved and Guy seconded.

Submitted by Margy Goss, Recording Secretary for Parks and Recreation Committee