

WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING  
August 8, 2022  
7:00 PM, Whitewater Township Hall  
5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690  
Phone 231-267-5141/Fax 231-267-9020

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88455933591?pwd=UHhnTDU3NnFueXBVNGVBWFBxRVVLQT09>

Meeting ID: 884 5593 3591

Passcode: 606479

Dial in

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

1. Roll Call of Committee Members
2. Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. **Public Comment:** Any person shall be permitted to address a meeting of the committee. Public comments shall be carried out in accordance with the following rules and procedures:
  - a. Comments shall be directed to the Committee, with questions directed to the Chair.
  - b. Any person wishing to address the Committee shall speak from the lectern and state his/her name and address.
  - c. Persons may address the commission on matters that are relevant to township Parks and recreation issues.
  - d. No person shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same matter.
  - e. Public comment shall be limited to 3 minutes excluding the time needed to answer Committee members' questions.
5. Approval of June 13, 2022, and July 11, 2022 regular meetings minutes
6. Correspondence: Slopsma correspondence with Largent of GTRLC
7. Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments:
8. Unfinished Business:
  - a. Hi Pray Dug-outs, verbal update on permits update and new schedule
  - b. Park Playground, verbal status update on changes needed based on inspection
  - c. BCNA & Lossie Trail tree removal verbal update/timeline
  - d. Lossie Trail wetland and improvements verbal status update and next steps
  - e. Hi Pray Park playground verbal update on motion requesting to have inspection
  - f. Lossie/BCNA trail signage: Steve Largent of GTRLC said to wait until after tree removal is complete
9. New Business:
  - a. Live recap on board meeting for discussion: thoughts/response to board
  - b. Response from board on top projects we can/should pursue for future budget/grant consideration
10. Next Meeting September 12, 2022
11. Public Comment
12. Adjournment

Whitewater Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend. Contact the township clerk at 231-267-5141.

From: **Linda Slopsema** <[lindaslopsema@gmail.com](mailto:lindaslopsema@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 10:32 PM

Subject: Walking path through wet areas - Whitewater Township Lossie Trail

To: Steve Largent <[slargent@gtcd.org](mailto:slargent@gtcd.org)>, Melissa Melton <[mammelon@gmail.com](mailto:mammelon@gmail.com)>, Linda Slopsema <[lindaslopsema@gmail.com](mailto:lindaslopsema@gmail.com)>

Steve -

I was recently in the Suttons Bay area and saw a very effective elevated walk in Leo Creek Preserve using 6x6" treated timbers and then a combination of hand built and dock sections as the surface. Pictures attached

I am wondering if a similar approach could be used on the Lossie Trail wet area that you reviewed with Melissa Melton? Could this be done without EGLE and/or DNR permits since there would be no filling of wetlands? I believe you also would not need a building permit since the total height above grade was less than 12".

Let me know what you think

Linda Slopsema  
Whitewater Township Parks and Recreation Committee Member  
[lindaslopsema@gmail.com](mailto:lindaslopsema@gmail.com)  
517-614-4887 (cell)

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**Whitewater Township  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Minutes for Regular Meeting  
June 13, 2022**

**Call to order 7:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Butler, Cosgrove, Hubbell, Melton, Slopsema

Absent:

**Set / Approve Agenda:** Set

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:**

**Approval of minutes:**

**Motion** by Cosgrove, second by Butler to approve May 9, 2022, meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Hi Pray Park dug-outs: Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) is to provide the engineered drawings for presentation to the county for construct code approval. Materials have been paid for.

2. Park Playground: Work has been completed with the equipment set, soil and grass seed has been put in. There is money in the budget for landing zone material. There is room for a future slide, benches and possible tables. We can put in trees around the edge.

Landing zone materials. ADA does not allow sand as a landing zone material. ADA surface and equipment has been and continues to be financially impossible for our budget at this time. Since the goal was not to be ADA we can use the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines approved sand or wood chips. Extensive discussion of the PRAC's understanding of depth and maintenance of sand and wood chips. Extensive discussion of ADA compliance and regulations.

Before any decisions can be made we need to get answers to possible questions for the attorney or landscape engineer: Does the existing structures have to be ADA compliant? Does a new structure have to be ADA compliant in an existing playground? Can an infant swing be put up next to a regular swing?

3. BCNA & Lossie Trail tree removal: The township received seven bids that are in the board packet. The bids range from approximately \$35,000 to \$194,000.

A lot of ARPA funds are being designated for local parks and upgrades.

If there are any funds left from the tree removal project would that go back to the recreation fund for use for projects?

If the board goes with the lowest bid there could be up to \$16,000.

4. Lossie Trail wetland, bridge improvements: No movement. If the GT Conservation gets the bid for the tree removal they may be able to do more evaluation and give more detailed information on the wetland and bridge improvements.

5. Hi Pray Park playground cleanup, sand, results, slideshow presentation. Hi Pray is a highly used facility in the community.

Discussion of batting cage use. Is there any way we can do on-line reservations for the batting cage?

**New Business:**

1. Popp's agenda item for the meeting Tuesday is for a motion to close Hi Pray playground. The playground has not been closed in the past as indicated in the board packet. Discussion ensued regarding guidelines vs requirements vs suggestions. The park was not intended to be ADA compliant.

The Supervisor can communicate with the PRAC to get questions and concerns addressed.

Does the PRAC want to present an official statement to the Board for the meeting? Yes. Include specific reasons of guidelines, standards and compliance.

We, as the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee, make the point:

a.) CPSC guidelines, section 1, 1.1 the fifth paragraph, because many factors may affect playground safety the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPC) believes that guidelines, rather than a mandatory rule are appropriate. The guidelines are not a mandatory standard.

We would encourage the board to read the handbook for public playground safety.

<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/325.pdf>

b.) Sand is an approved landing zone material according to the CPSC guidelines in the handbook for public playground safety.

c.) ADA section 35.150, existing facilities, read A-general, does NOT necessarily require a public entity to make each of its facilities accessible. . . Also note the undo expense.

[https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII\\_2010/titleII\\_2010\\_integrated.htm](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/titleII_2010_integrated.htm)

d.) The US Dept. of Justice has made it clear that not necessarily every existing site needs to be made accessible and they quote the above referenced ADA section 35.150.

e.) The township has not received any complaints of safety incidents or injuries.

f.) Also did an annual safety and maintenance inspection checklist. No concerns were found.

2. Resolution to change the appointment request submittal/approval process. It is concerning that people have applied for PRAC appointment and they have not been presented to the full board for approval. Will have to look at Ordinance #48 that established the committee.

Table and discuss next month. Provide members with a copy of or link to Ordinance #48.

3. Popp's agenda item for motion to hire new position for parks, a deputy park administrator. Why has this come up? The park administrator position is pretty much a full year position with a lull in November and December. The park administrator position decision needs to be addressed in the fall. The concern is that the two longest standing park rangers will eventually retire and we need a plan of succession.

Melton notes the stated preference of being fire and EMT trained.

Melton also notes the amount of money for the position (\$35K-\$45K) but there are not funds available for any recreation projects. The township has also never gotten the needed handyman position filled.

It is not a standard deputy position in that this deputy would be under the purview of the board not the head Park Administrator. The Park Administrator makes the day to day, general work decisions.

4. Grants – postpone

July newsletter article about the cleanup and park update.

**Next regular meeting:** July 11, 2022

**Public Comment:** Dan Belanger, 26 year member of the community, worked at the park for 16 years. It's great we work on playgrounds. The biggest playground is the waterfront. Real concerned about the major issues that are problems at the campground park and boat launch at the pavilion, port-a-johns, boat launch falling apart and the roads falling apart. The park is completely funded by the campground. Elk Lake is the big community "play ground". The

Board needs to look for leadership for the park administrator. The board needs to listen to what is happening. Challenge the township to look at the monies that have been earned at the park over the past 10 years. Very unhappy with the board who thinks they are going to circumvent the park administrator or the park rangers in the middle of the season. Very disappointed in the direction the board is taking on the campground.

Lorie North, supportive of what Dan said. Daughter, Kinzie Gallo, was a park ranger for two years. Kinzie loved the park and wanted to see the park flourish. Would like to see the trails cleaned up and is willing to help.

**Adjournment: 10:08 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois MacLean, Recording Secretary

**Whitewater Township  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Minutes for Regular Meeting  
July 11, 2022**

**Call to order 7:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Butler, Cosgrove, Melton

Absent: Hubbell

One unfilled seat

**Set / Approve Agenda:** Set

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:**

**Approval of minutes:**

**Motion** by Butler, second by Cosgrove to approve June 13, 2022, meeting minutes as amended.

Discussion regarding packets, agenda and minutes on the website.

Butler rescinds the motion and Cosgrove rescinds the second.

Bring the minutes back to the next meeting with the added reference links.

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:** Discussion regarding adult league play at the ball park. Youth softball league presented the township with a \$650 for the advertising banners. It more than covers the cost of the lights used for night play.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Hi Pray Park dug-outs: Discussion regarding the drawings, sealed drawing was received today and will be uploaded to Grand Traverse County using the same permit. Bartosik will be able to work on the dugouts as soon the county approval comes through.

2. Park Playground: Another inspection has been done. Passed inspection, approved to be open for use. Made a couple recommendations (in the board packet) regarding sign placements, "playground equipment may be hot", want a shade area developed and cleanup of the landing zone sand, removing sticks, rocks and weeds.

Discussion ensued regarding ADA playground equipment, landing zone material and overall ADA access.

The 2019 Hi Pray playground inspection was vague.

The intent was to get the playground equipment taken care of this year but the funds, approximately \$8,000, were not approved during budget. The Board has voted to close the playground.

3. BCNA & Lossie Trail tree removal: Steve Largent of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy was going to be providing the contract to the Supervisor.

4. Lossie Trail wetland, bridge improvements: Would like to work with Steve Largent about getting an update, possibly an estimate on what it would take to address the wetland area. Melton will contact Largent and remind him.

5. Hi Pray Park playground

**MOTION** by Cosgrove second by Butler to request the township board hire a Michigan licensed inspector to get the Hi Pray Park playground inspection.

Butler-yes; Cosgrove-yes; Melton-yes; Hubbell-n/a. Motion carried.

6. Lossie/BCNA trail signage: Should we wait until the cleanup is done just in case the trail moves like it did last time. Signage would be for mileage markers, kiosk information and trail signs.

**New Business:**

1. Grants: DNR grant cycle does not coincide well with the township budget. Goss mentioned the new SPARKS grant and will send the link information to Melton.

Make sure the PRAC gets the approval of the Board before putting months' worth of work in on specific projects.

Discussion regarding grants, grant writer and which direction to go.

Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation project dashboard has most of the GT County townships listed but not Whitewater. Not sure why. Local funding is available through the Foundation. Melton would like to investigate getting our township on their listing and find out if there is anything we can get help with.

**MOTION** by Cosgrove, second by Melton, to request the township board review page 27 of the park recreation plan capital improvements schedule in relationship to page 40, the park and rec survey and please give us the top five projects for the committee to work on.

Roll call vote: Cosgrove-yes; Melton-yes; Hubbell-n/a; Butler-yes. Motion carried.

**Next regular meeting:** Monday, August 8, 2022

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment: 9:07 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois MacLean, Recording Secretary