

**Whitewater Township
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes for Monday, July 14, 2014**

Call to order 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Mouser, Melton, Leach, Knapp, Board Rep. Benak

Absent: Hubbell

Also in attendance: Recording Secretary, MacLean and committee alternate, Donkers.

Set / Approve Agenda, include May 12 minutes for approval. Donkers approval of adjusted agenda, second by Knapp, all in favor.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest None

Public Comment None

Approval of Minutes of 5/12/2014: *Motion to approve minutes by Leach, second by Melton. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Approval of Minutes of 6/9/2014: *Motion to approve minutes with addition of h. under old business "Removal of barbed wire fencing" by Leach, second by Melton. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments:

1. Board Rep, Benak:

- A. Current hayfield management agreement for review which is good through 2015. South end of the area south of Angell Rd. has a lot of old brush growing, appears that area has not been mowed for a couple of years. There may be some wet spots that keep them from getting in to hay it all.
- B. Check list for playgrounds from the township's risk management / liability insurance company. This is the type of information that can be used when applying for grants. A lot of the playground equipment in our parks meets the criteria as "dangerous or questionable".

Motion to recommend a regularly scheduled inspection be done on the playground equipment (if it is not currently being done) by Knapp , second by Melton. All in favor. Motion carried.

- C. June 10, 2014 , Township Board minutes indicate that Leach is supposed to contact the Kourson's. Leach has contacted and then was told via email to stop pestering them.
- D. June 10, 2014, stakes can go into Lossie Trail. Benak recommends contacting the Clerk and get a purchase order to get the stakes, including the flush mount stakes. How many do we need? Request the PO and get it done. Popp had talked to property owners about using the flush mount stakes. Mouser: Once the materials are made available we, the PRAC, can schedule to get the work done almost immediately.
- E. Popp has been provided with the map of where the parking lot at Petobego is. We have the quotes for materials for the fence – whole rail fence with the gate is what is in the management plan and was discussed at the township board level. The discussion regarding getting the materials was done at the township board but is not in the meeting minutes. The monies have been approved, allocated, budgeted. Popp seems to be holding up trying to get the materials. PRAC does not care what the materials are, if the township will get the materials we, the PRAC, will put the fence in. Hopefully, prices have not gone up too much in the last year or two since the quote was done and approved. **Schedule a work bee for Saturday, August 2, with materials delivered that day or it can be picked up the day before.** Discussion regarding the materials in the quote. The 16' gate is planned to be installed by Apple Fence. Mouser will get the drawing with dimensions and the gate quote to Benak who will speak with Supervisor Popp Wednesday.
- F. Gun range by the DNR being proposed for Whitewater Township. DNR scheduled meeting July 22. Contact Supervisor Popp for details. Leach's only concern is the trash that is left at shooting ranges.
- G. Three volunteers are working through TBA, with Whitewater Township. Work plan being arranged through Supervisor Popp.
- H. Long time park ranger, Edie Devereau, was released in January. Information in the June 10 minutes. There was no discussion of such through the Township Board. Supervisor Popp and Clerk Goss are acting park administrators.

2. Chair, Mouser: None

Correspondence: Knapp submitted letter of resignation from this committee. Resignation letter given to Benak for presentation to the Board. He indicates he has enjoyed working with everyone on the committee and will work on the work bees. Include letter in the minutes, attached. Frustrated with the lack of moving forward and the limitations on the advisory committee when we have taken the proper steps, such as the PR Master Plan. One of Knapp's original goals was to get the plug removed at Battle Creek and work on the Lossie Trail.

Motion by Leach to recommend the Board accept Knapp's resignation and move Donkers from an alternate to a full committee member and fill the alternate slot, second by Melton. Further discussion: Melton would like Mouser to also let the Board know there is frustration in this advisory committee that things are not moving forward. Melton's personal testimony to that her initial focus was to work on the ball field, parks and activities to help our younger community members. "It is a frustration to me as well that we have no say, we have no ability to make any kind of movement forward, our hands are tied." Phil is not the only board member who has stepped back for that same reason. All in favor. Motion carried.

Benak: As members of this committee Benak recommends everyone take advantage of the public comment at the Board meetings. Management of our township's park land is more than one person can handle and putting this group together was a phenomenal idea. As the township board representative, I feel your frustrations. The majority of the Township Board seems to not put as much credence in this committee as they do in the other Commissions and Boards in the township. Very sad to see you go, Phil.

Old Business:

I. Status of Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Benak recommends Mouser contact Supervisor Popp about getting it on the Board agenda. It is currently not even on the list for follow up.

Motion by Leach to have Mouser request having the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Draft on the Board agenda, second by Donkers. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Review Field trip to Petobego: Tabled discussion to next meeting.
2. Discuss email and services available from GT Conservation District: Invasive Species Coordinator (1:17) read email. Invasive Species Network (ISN) should be able to provide 8 hours of work, free of charge. Mouser is asking the township board for permission to work with the ISN.

Motion by Melton, second by Donkers to request that the township allow the PRAC contact GT Regional Conservancy and the Invasive Species Network to schedule and perform a FREE invasive species survey. All in favor. Motion carried. Copy of email given to Benak for presentation to the Board.

Committee comments:

Next meeting August 11, 2014.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois MacLean

Recording Secretary