

**Whitewater Township  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Minutes for Regular Meeting  
January 23, 2024**

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

**Roll Call:** Melton, Cosgrove, Hubbell, Voice, Buczkowski, Fran Butler

Absent:

Also present: Recording Secretary MacLean, Parks Manager Andrew Butler

**Set / Approve Agenda:** Add Ballfield signage procedure

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:**

Denise Peltonen

Lois MacLean

**Approval of minutes:**

**MOTION** by Melton, second by Voice to approve December 19, 2023, meeting minutes.

On voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:**

Email correspondence:

DNR Grant Webinar notification February 7. It would be great if the PRAC could get someone to write grants.

Denise Peltonen communication – part of New Business

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Lossie Road Nature Trail (LRNT) wetland/bridge update. Melton did get an email from the Gosling Czubak engineer. Their first step will be the access. It will need to be reviewed through legal. They will review the information but it would still need to be reviewed by the Township legal team. Can the documents be sent directly to legal from the Clerk's office? What rights do we have? Is it truly, or deemed as non-motorized access? Is the trail where it is supposed to be? The Gosling work is to address the wet area and the bridge. It can be evaluated from an engineering perspective regarding the bridge.

The management plan indicates it is a non-motorized trail. The Township Board has to assess and determine the motorized / non-motorized status of the trail.

PRAC can request the Township Board investigate and/or request the Township Board move it forward to legal for interpretation.

The Clerk has the full binder of the BCNA / LRNT that can be reviewed. Melton will request the documents.

There was a survey done of LRNT about 10 years ago. The survey marked the center line then PRAC and board members marked the 66' width.

Run it up to the Board first.

Action item: Gather all of the information and then send it to the Board.

There is an ongoing question of the property, walking trail vs. vehicle use property.

Mr. Oosterhouse spoke at the January township board regarding his property and his access rights.

2. Grand Traverse ARPA agreement update: Melton did get a copy of the township signed agreement. Melton created a timeline. Will need to review the timeline and detail dates. The final, actual end date is December 2026.

3. BCNA trail design, the loop trail design review: Buczkowski created and shared a Google Earth map with multiple options. It was also sent to Steve Lagerquist of the GT Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC). Steve has indicated there

may be some opportunity for funding.

Buczowski has marked the trail with yellow flags.

Melton will gather information from the county regarding the road easement and reach out to the property owner.

Discussion of the current trail and the options laid out. A boardwalk may be optimal for the low area. Will need to review how wet it is in the spring.

Discussion of getting additional Lagerquist input with Buczowski in the spring.

The trail to the lake and viewing platform discussed briefly.

4. WWT park playground toddler equipment addition update: Engineering services PO has been issued to Gosling Czubak for their review in the spring.

5. 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Goals – completed last month.

### **New Business:**

1. Meeting Resolution for 2024/2025 fiscal year.

**MOTION** by Cosgrove second by Melton to adopt Resolution PRAC 24-01, Meeting Dates for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Roll call vote: Melton-yes; Cosgrove-yes; Hubbell-yes; Voice-yes; Butler-yes. Motion carried.

2. Election of Officers

**MOTION** by Cosgrove, second by Hubbell to keep the officers the same for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Roll call vote: Cosgrove-yes; Hubbell-yes; Voice-yes; Butler-yes; Melton-yes. Motion carried.

3. 2024/2025 Projects and Budget: Andrew Butler notes that there are budget items for maintenance and basic update. Melton has gotten information for mowing at the trails. Would like to budget for the flower beds at Hi Pray and possibly at the township hall.

The board is investigating purchasing the equipment to bring township lawn mowing and maintenance in-house.

Maintenance around the ball field fence needs to be addressed. Need to budget to get the big stuff cut and ground.

Bleachers need to be addressed. Request a budget for the bleachers, possibly metal cap the wood. Cosgrove will check the pricing of metal caps. Sand and paint the metal frames of the bleachers.

Campground playground equipment. Brandon will get an updated quote including freight and installation.

Budget monies for Lagerquist and SEEDS work. Buczowski will get an update for a high-level budget. Local ARPA funding was originally approved for that project.

Nail down the list next month for the board budget work.

4. Discussion of Peltonen correspondence.

Cosgrove apologizes for speaking out in frustration at the November meeting. The whole PRAC spoke out in frustration.

There was no intent to move any formal accusation forward to the Board regarding the liaison.

A question that could be asked is “Why is the PRAC frustrated?”

Discussion of the timing of the County ARPA contract.

What are the duties of the Board Representative to the PRAC? Is it addressed in the PRAC bylaws? What is the board’s interpretation of the Board Rep duties?

Communication would go a long way to working together and getting thing accomplished.

Consensus to continue to do the minutes in the detail format.

5. Added item: Ballfield signage procedures:

Amber Voice, baseball field banners, speaking as a baseball/softball representative. She has been doing this for years.

Supervisor Popp has indicated that he cannot get it on the February agenda.

Vollmuth (from the audience asked, “What was the process in the past?” Recommends Voice submit the completed request, including the motion, etc.

Is the baseball field banners something that the parks manager has the authority over or in his purview?

Is it something that PRAC can approve? Not as an advisory committee.

Get all of the documents together with the motion for the February board packet.

**Committee Comment and Discussion:** None

**Next regular meeting:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

**Public Comment:**

Heidi Vollmuth

Denise Peltonen

**Adjournment at 9:09 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lois MacLean

Recording Secretary

