

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

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

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

Absent: Hubbell

**Set / Approve Agenda:** Set

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:** Vickie Emerson lives on Park Road. Hikes the park trails regularly, has seen the park progress over the years. The park is a diamond in the rough. Concerned about the dusty roads, the brine material last year just didn't last. Consider a different company or material for brining this year. Since most traffic on Park Road is going to the park, maybe the Park can be a good neighbor and help pay for extra brining of Park Road. Slow the traffic down in some way, at least starting at the park property. Does not believe the road can handle the additional boat launch traffic. The park staff does a great job. Is there a procedure for opening and closing? The picnic tables are being left down flat, getting green and black mold and moss growing on them.

The beach area, erosion control fabric is showing. Need the beach area fixed up.

Pit toilets. Fix them.

Split rail fences around the park are falling apart.

The overlook deck is getting nasty.

The stairway that goes to the overlook deck is covered with leaves. (Vickie is willing to go blow the leaves out but would only do it if she had specific permission.)

The road trail off to the left, she would be willing to help with the road with her tractor.

The trail system has so many broken limbs. There is so much dead debris it is not appealing. Chip up the dead and use them on the trail. Vickie will have chips to donate.

A friend is offering to write grants for free. She can work with work groups and get donations and help and . . . This lady's husband runs the Platte River Campground. He would be willing to help, advise, give ideas.

Melton notes that the trail maintenance is something that does fall by wayside.

**Approval of minutes:**

Postpone to May meeting.

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:** Melton attended a trail system webinar regarding funding for trails. Grants are available to be applied for trails – maintenance, stewardship training and research. On-line grant application due by the end of the week.

There is no budget for the trails this year. Discussion of funding and projects. We seem to be in a "use it or lose it" position now. Park funds and Rec funds are separate. Slopsema would like an answer to the question of what are the actual regulations that keep the Park fund only for Park use and not able to be used throughout the rest of the funds.

The tree cleanup monies are coming out of the Rec fund monies.

The only way the PRAC is going to be able to get money allocated is to get grant money to help cover the tree removal, thereby alleviating some of those funds.

We did get the DNR approval on the plan!!

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Hi Pray Park dug-outs: Aerial view of the plan for the dugouts. Lynn Bartosik is going to try to get the numbers

together for the Board meeting on Tuesday. F & V have been contacted about creating the engineered drawing. The increases are going to make it difficult to get the full project done. Eliminate the concrete and/or the fencing if need be. The kids start practice in mid May, games start in June.

2. Park Playground dimensional site plan provided including the minimums - everything exceeds the minimums. Slide is just a holding spot for now since we don't know what size it will be.

3. Park pit toilets, letter in the packet regarding the pit toilets. Will include a ramp style entry to the toilets.

**New Business:**

1. Projects for 2022, maybe we can work on the BCNA and Lossie Trail signs, maybe have the two trails on one sign using the same sign for the two trails. Keep the kiosks updated with current information. Trail markers on BCNA and one on each end of Lossie. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) needs an official request for assistance from the township to the conservancy to get help from GTRLC. (October 2021 meeting minutes)

Melton is going to connect with Steve Largent and Brandon Hubbell for the walk through and evaluation of the Lossie trail wet area on May 2.

The autumn olives are taking over some of the meadow areas.

2. Proposal to change meeting dates. Possibly the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Amber Voice has put in her application for the PRAC.

**Next regular meeting:** May 9, 2022

**Public Comment:** None 8:45 p.m.

**Adjournment: 8:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois MacLean, Recording Secretary