

**Whitewater Township  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Minutes for Rescheduled Regular Meeting  
August 16, 2022**

**Call to order 7:04 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Cosgrove, Melton, Slopsema, Hubbell (late)

Absent: Butler

One unfilled seat

**Set / Approve Agenda:** Set

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:**

Vicki Beam, Baggs Road, commented on Hi Pray Park playground.

**Approval of minutes:**

**Motion** by Cosgrove, second by Slopsema to approve June 13, 2022, meeting minutes.

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

**Motion** by Melton, second by Cosgrove to approve July 11, 2022, meeting minutes.

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

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

Slopsema correspondence with Largent of the Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD).

Pictures provided from a trail just south of Suttons Bay, the Leo Creek Preserve. Simple laying of repurposed wood, such as sections of dock and new materials. (Northshore Dock in Kewadin takes in a lot of old dock material.) The wet area will require a DNR/DEQ/EGLE permit. \$25,000 requested in the budget for Lossie Trail was removed during budget time. This is an option to look at when we move forward with this project.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Hi Pray Park dug-outs, verbal update on permits and new schedule. Construction permit has been applied for. Bartosik has been contacted, changes have been made to the drawings and have been submitted.

2. Whitewater Township Park Playground, verbal status update on changes needed based on inspection. Signs will be placed and trees will be planted. Melton will add the park playground inspection to the September packet.

3. BCNA & Lossie Trail tree removal, verbal update / timeline. Largent indicates that the BCNA trail is finished. They have been working on Lossie Trail and may be done as of today, 8/16/22, and will do final cleanup. Some of the township trees fell on the adjacent property owner's property. The property owner will deal with all trees on their property. They have found an invasive tree, Tree of Heaven, which is a host to the invasive "spotted lantern fly" that feeds on fruit.

4. Lossie Trail wetland and improvements, verbal status update and next steps. Once the trails are completed Largent indicates that he will be giving an update on the Lossie Trail. It is up to the board to determine if it will be a walking boardwalk or for motorized vehicles.

Discussion of property owner access on the trail.

Popp and Vollmuth investigation of Lossie Trail has not been complete.

Questions: Which property owners touch the Lossie Trail? Which owners want access? Which owners require an easement?

It has been suggested to look into allowing motorized vehicles to the open area where vehicles could park which could

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be of benefit to the property owners and to trail users.

Discussion of mowing east of the wetland ensued. Maintenance funding for clearing of the trail to eight feet was removed from the budget in 2022. Tree removal process may address some of the trail clearing.

5. Hi Pray Park playground, verbal update on motion requesting to have inspection. The playground has been closed. A detail inspection has been ordered at a cost of \$376 and is planning on August 20 or 27. A PRAC member is welcome to be in attendance at the inspection.

Clerk has been contacted by people who are not happy that the Hi Pray playground is closed.

6. Lossie/BCNA trail signage. Steve Largent of GTCD recommended waiting until after tree removal is completed. Discussion ensued. We can show Largent the old BCNA trail map that shows the trail to the water / Boy Scout bench. Steve Lagerquest indicates that there may be a way to get to the water but not likely the old trail.

**New Business:**

1. Live recap on board meeting for discussion: thoughts/response to board. Melton recommended no discussion.

2. Response from board on top projects the PRAC can/should pursue for future budget/grant consideration. Would like to know the board's top five projects that the PRAC can work on that the board would support. No information has come from the board on projects. Request to have top project input on the September board meeting. SPARKS grant process is in the works. The Battle Creek bridge and the wetland would be something to look at for a SPARKS grant. Not all of the SPARKS grants require matching funds. Possibly get some estimate(s) from Largent.

What does the Board want the PRAC to do? Is PRAC going to be involved with the township park?

The Deputy Park Administrator position has been advertised.

Amber Voice appointment was pulled from the agenda at the August board meeting when she couldn't be present for questions.

**Next regular meeting:** Monday, September 12, 2022, 7 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

No name given commented on funding, Hi Pray Park playground, funding and grants.

Heidi Vollmuth commented on the Hi Pray Park sign, landing material, Lossie Trail parking lots and budgeted project funding.

Vicky Beam commented on funding, inspection, park playground closure sign, thank you to the members.

**Adjournment: 8:58 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois MacLean  
Recording Secretary