

**Whitewater Township
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Regular Minutes for Monday, October 8, 2018**

Call to order 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Butler, Hubbell, Leach, Melton

Absent: Cosgrove

Also in attendance Recording Secretary MacLean, Clerk Goss and Anthony Rupard and Steve Lagerquist of the GT Regional Land Conservancy.

Set / Approve Agenda: Set

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

Public Comment. None

Approval of September 10, 2018, Regular meeting minutes. Postpone

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence: Anthony and Steve: The Conservancy is here to help localities with projects and secure grants. Interested in helping upgrade the trails. Doing a lot of projects around the chain of lakes. Can help gather volunteers to help with projects. Share expertise. Do not hesitate to reach out to the conservancy for help.

Currently we have no signage and property and trail markings. The two trails we have are very natural. Not much in upgrades has ever been done. Some areas are very marshy. Battle Creek Natural Area (BCNA) trail was destroyed a couple years ago with the storm in August 2015. The short trail to the lake is non-existent now. The Eagle Scout bench is still there but is difficult to get to.

Whitewater Twp. Park has been designated a trail head for Paddle Antrim. BCNA is designated as a rest stop. It would be nice if we could get that trail open so the bench would be easy to walk to.

Discussion of wants and needs :

Need a kiosk at both ends of Lossie Trail.

Signs needed.

Benches at Whitewater Twp. Park trails.

Mapping needed at BCNA and the Twp. Park. GeoTracker: GPX file

Plan for spring trail projects. Need some expertise on where and what signs should be placed, and inventory. What type of signs are best? "You are here" signs. Will send some trail signs. Where would benches be best placed?

Wet trails = reroute or build a boardwalk. A boardwalk would require a plan to maintain / rebuild in 10-20 years.

Driveway, parking lot and signs at BCNA entrance. Approximately \$1000 for the kiosk. Will send samples.

We need to let people know about accessing the trails.

Loop trails are popular by users.

Anthony and Steve would like to come back in the spring to walk the trails and make some plans.

In the future take the next step to enhance with educational signs for students / schools. Interpretive signs. Helps get volunteers.

Partnership with the school for Lossie Trail. Get a biology or other science teacher involved.

There are people in the data base of the conservancy to get people involved in the projects.

Go forward with the basics right now and look at the big goal picture of making a full out educational trail.

Are there other ways to work with the wet areas than the board walks? Engineer ideas? DEQ has worked really well with the conservancy.

What kind of support is available? (Anthony will connect with the clerk)

Unfinished Business:

1. Hi Pray Batting Cage. Start at 9 a.m. on the 13th! Need volunteers!!
2. BCNA: Appendix map updates. GeoTrack GPX file. Melissa will walk the trail.
3. Whitewater Twp. Park Playground equipment: Work bee completed September 15. Install new swings in the spring. Merry-go-round, base is in. The rest of the parts need to be assembled. Install this fall. (Brandon) Will get a playground inspection in the spring. Use or return the left over bags of concrete.
4. Other projects:
BCNA & Lossie Trail signage. Signs for the fall for Lossie Trail: Respect Private Property - Stay on Trail.
Schedule a walk in May with the conservancy.
Hi Pray berms have been cleaned out and parking lot has been raked and graveled.
Dugouts: What are the next steps?

New Business:

1. Start evaluation of budget recommendations for 2019.
2. Projects to apply to DNR for grants?

Next regular meeting: November 12, 2018

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois MacLean
Recording Secretary