

**Whitewater Township  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Minutes for Regular Meeting  
October 10, 2022**

**Call to order 7:23 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Cosgrove, Melton, Voice  
Absent: Butler, Hubbell

**Set / Approve Agenda:**

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:**

Public comment began at 7:26 p.m.  
Connie Hymore  
Public comment ended at 7:27 p.m.

**Approval of minutes:**

**MOTION** by Cosgrove, second by Melton to approve September 12, 2022, meeting minutes.

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

**MOTION** by Melton, second by Voice to approve the October 2, 2022, meeting minutes.

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

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

Amber Voice new member.

Hi Pray Park playground recommendations email to the board for their October 11, 2022, meeting.

Whitewater Twp. Park playground inspection.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Hi Pray Park dug-outs are complete and final inspection has been completed. Discussion of a possible springtime, community, grand opening, free, fun day.
2. Whitewater Township Park Playground got three nice trees planted at the playground as recommended in the inspection. The last thing to be done on the list of inspection issues are the decals and they have been ordered.
3. Battle Creek Natural Area (BCNA) & Lossie Road Natural Trail (LRNT) – Discussion of October 2, 2022, meeting findings and next action items. At BCNA there are downed trees that were not removed. Not all sections of the trails at BCNA are walkable right now. Gues-timating that there are about another 20 trees that need to be cleared. The Board will need to determine if the project was done per the bid. The trail to the right, toward the water, and the trail around the pond were not completed. Did Parshall Tree Service do any of the inventory or removal work in 2015? Upon looking at the map and tree inventory that was approved by the Board Parshall did not include all of the BCNA trails in the inventory. The Board did not request input from PRAC regarding the inventory map before the project was approved. The trail maps and signage cannot be completed. Look at completing the loop at the time that the trails are completed. Add this to the Board's November agenda.
4. Lossie Trail wetland and improvements. Steve Largent of the Conservation District was not able to make the connection with EGLE for the preconstruction walk through, scheduling/approval. The Lossie Trail tree removal looks very good.

The very rough gues-timate / assessment of \$140,000 for the boardwalk from Largent includes 1600' of wetland work. A board walk would require maintenance.

The crushed concrete and road gravel are significantly lower.

The foot bridge is a separate \$8,000.

Looking at all of this for grant opportunities.

5. Hi Pray Park playground action plan presented for the October 11, 2022, Board meeting. At the September meeting the board did not ask questions of Melissa to get the Hi Pray Park playground action plan completed during the month of September. It is on the meeting agenda for tomorrow.

There are funds left over from the trail clearing.

\$3,770 base bid plus option 1, 2 or 3. Totals as presented: Option 1 = \$4,582, option 2 = \$4,120 or option 3 = \$3,970.

If it is approved by the board tomorrow, October 11, it can be completed this fall.

The red tape has all been ripped down at the Hi Pray playground. The large closed sign is still there.

6. Lossie/BCNA trail signage. Can use a temporary, laminated paper sign at the kiosks and include something that says "Portions Closed". Can the entrance sign be updated? Would a school person or boy scout want to do the project?

Looking to include the whole trail enhancement as part of a whole grant opportunity.

7. Whitewater Township Park information regarding restriction of the Park generated fund. Clerk did some investigation and inquired of the two previous clerks. There has been a separation of the Park funds for at least 22 years, likely back into the 1970's according to a previous clerk, Sandy Beckwith.

The Trustee Glenn has a motion on the agenda for the October 11 meeting to move all Park funds into the General Fund. There is no explanation in the packet regarding the rationale or purpose of the funds balance move.

8. Board response to top projects to pursue, from the July meeting – no updates, so far.

#### **New Business:**

1. Bylaws – meeting dates. The PRAC meetings do not line up well with getting information to the board for business items.

**MOTION** by Cosgrove; second by Melton, to request a change in the bylaws to change PRAC regular meeting date to the third Tuesday of the month, if approved by the Board it would begin in December.

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

Melton will get a markup of the bylaws for inclusion in the November Board meeting.

2. Grants – a subcommittee could be created for the grant writing opportunities. This is a regular process that the PRAC has always been doing with the Capital Improvements list in the Rec Plan. There are a lot of funding opportunities happening lately and opportunities coming in the future. The township does not have the staff.

Supervisor Popp mentioned that an idea for a smaller project would be for bleachers at the ball fields.

The wetlands area is a larger project. Lossie Trail options would be \$150,000 for the boardwalk and bridge.

The boat launch could be the large one.

Sue Moody expressed interest in helping to write grants.

Amber and Melissa will help make up the grant writing committee.

BCNA tree removal and complete the loop as the small one for \$42,000.

Lossie Trail as a medium request at \$150,000.

Additional work at the boat launch for bathrooms would be the large request. F&V have grant writers.

There is a continual erosion problem at the park beach and could be something for a different grant / grant cycle.

**Next regular meeting:** Monday, November 14, 2022, 7 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Public comment began at 9:35 p.m.

Connie Hymore

Vicky Emerson

Vicki Beam

Public comment ended at 9:40 p.m.

**Adjournment: 9:41 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lois MacLean

Recording Secretary