

**Whitewater Township
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes for Regular Meeting
November 21, 2023**

Call to order 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Melton, Cosgrove, Hubbell, Voice

Absent: Butler, Glenn

Also present: Recording Secretary MacLean

Set / Approve Agenda: Add quote for park playground equipment

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

Public Comment: None

Approval of minutes:

MOTION by Hubbell, second by Melton to approve October 17, 2023, meeting minutes as amended.

On voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence: Email correspondence:

BCNA land easement research documents

LRNT engineering request to Board

GT County ARPA agreement document submitted for board approval and signature request

Board meeting November 14th recording: <https://whitewatertownship.info/2023-whitewater-township-board-meetings/> (main key points for our PRAC items starts around 2 hours and 20 mins)

Unfinished Business:

1. Lossie Road Nature Trail (LRNT) wetland/bridge improvement. Board approved hiring Gosling Czubak for initial engineering work of \$6,800. Purchase order has been requested. This will lead to a full engineering package or an engineering package including a building package. The main things are the big / main wet area and the bridge.

2. Grand Traverse ARPA agreement: the board voted to NOT sign the agreement at the November 14 meeting. There were comments about the general reporting for reimbursement and insurance requirements. The project is in the Board's hands. There were no questions regarding any of the things that the PRAC has any input or control over. Nothing regarding the actual project was discussed.

Can Glenn's actions be perceived as malfeasance? He had no questions, no comments for the PRAC or GT County, even though the contract was made available weeks before the PRAC meeting, two weeks before the board meeting and there have been no questions presented since their meeting.

It seems very difficult getting input from Glenn.

As an advisory committee we do our due diligence and present to the board.

Melton tried to appeal to the supervisor to get this resolved.

Popp did call Alger at the county for answers and Popp indicated he would contact other supervisors. The communication he got with the county said the contract would not be amended. Other supervisors said they had no questions about any insurance issue. Popp also indicated that maybe the county would allow it to be a day later.

Melton contacted Glenn regarding not having any communication before the no vote. Glenn indicated that he would need to have his questions answered by the county. He would not communicate with Melton.

Do we want to ask for a different board rep? Glenn has presented a vote of no confidence. Maybe we do not

understand his role here at PRAC. Way before the day of the vote at the board, any concerns should have been brought forth. It appears there was conversation between Popp and Glenn with nothing brought forth to the PRAC. Why were there no comments and no questions brought forth prior to the vote?

Melton's hope is that Popp has gotten his questions answered. There may be a special meeting.

General consensus is that communication with our rep has been lacking even before this issue.

Melton is hopeful that it will be brought before the board again.

3. BCNA trail design: Discussion of easement rights and neighboring property owner. We have a 66' easement. Melton will continue communication with the property owner. The plan could be a loop back that wouldn't even cross the property owner's property.

Do we want to suggest a property survey of the BCNA as noted in the management plan? That could help the Conservancy with the actual boundaries and easement. If it has been done previously the markers are no longer visible.

Discussion of the 66' easement.

Discussion of a loop back that wouldn't even cross the other property.

Discussion of different parking area.

Maybe we can do the survey only on the east and south sides in this area.

The township board won't even allow the conservancy to give us a plan.

Do we need to have the property owner's permission to evaluate options?

Get a quote for a survey? Brandon will get the quote.

4. WWT park playground toddler equipment addition. Quote received today from Gosling Czubak.

Have a conversation with Andrew. Have a conversation with the township insurance rep.

Melton will present the Gosling Czubak engineering quote to the board for approval at their December meeting.

New Business:

1. Michigan DNR Grants: Get funding from DNR for a path to the water, to the bench at the BCNA.

Until other issues are cleared, we can't really request funding from another entity.

Committee Comment and Discussion: There is a lot of discouragement. Being very hopeful that things will move forward on the county ARPA funding. No clarity on township ARPA funds.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 7 p.m.

Public Comment:

Denise Peltonen

Adjournment: 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois MacLean

Recording Secretary