

**Whitewater Township
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Minutes for Regular Meeting
December 19, 2023**

Call to order 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Melton, Cosgrove, Hubbell, Voice, Buczkowski, Butler

Absent: Glenn

Also present: Recording Secretary MacLean, Parks Manager Butler

Set / Approve Agenda:

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

Public Comment: None

Approval of minutes:

MOTION by Hubbell, second by Cosgrove to approve November 21, 2023, meeting minutes.

On voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Welcome Gary Buczkowski. Gary indicates that he spent 40 years in a professional career in local Parks and Rec, park planning, registered landscape architect.

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:

BCNA Google Earth map - Buczkowski

Unfinished Business:

1. Lossie Road Nature Trail (LRNT) wetland/bridge improvement. Purchase Order and communication have been made to Gosling Czubak to get started on the engineering plan.

Melton did a brief run through of the history of the project for Andrew Butler and Buczkowski.

Future ideas would be to add benches, signs, education signs, change the parking lot, plus.

Discussion of non-motorized vehicles, resident requests, easements and survey stakes.

Hubbell will get the survey quote on the east side and the property owner line.

2. Grand Traverse ARPA agreement: Re-vote December 12 approved.

3. BCNA trail design, the loop: Melton did a brief run through of the history of the project.

Discussion of easement rights, neighboring property owner and survey estimate to create a loop that would benefit the public and work for the property owner.

Can also just make the loop tighter and completely miss the property owner. Need board approval for about \$2000 to get an estimate, tentative plan from Lagerquist of the GT Regional Land Conservancy to make it more natural and lower maintenance. We have not gotten approval from the board.

Discussion of the BCNA trail to the water.

4. WWT park playground toddler equipment addition. Board voted yes to contract with Gosling Czubak for \$1740 to produce plan drawings. Working to get a PO issued to get this work scheduled. Township insurance company offers grants for playground landing zone upgrades.

Andrew notes that the park playground wouldn't even pass inspection with the weeds growing. Discussion of spraying or digging it up and pulling the roots.

Buczkowski notes to plan the engineering to add more equipment, pieces, etc.

Andrew will get another bucket swing for the swing set.

Discussion of landing zone.

New Business:

1. What we've accomplished in 2023 and goals for 2024

2023:

We got the GT County ARPA grant, dugouts got finished, Hi Pray Park playground concerns got addressed and reopened, boat launch. It was a very rough year. A lot of volunteers pulled things together.

Voice shared information on closing up the ball fields.

2024:

Do not lose the ARPA money, LRNT.

Township allocation / designation of the local ARPA funds.

LRNT finalized RFP and possibly start construction.

Get park playground equipment.

Address the Rec Plan for completion by April 2025. Get a quote on a paid Rec Plan. "What you need to know not what you want to hear".

Trails, trail maintenance, signage.

Walking trail at Hi Pray, possible DNR grant.

BCNA loop.

More money – grants, DNR, insurance company.

Committee Comment and Discussion: None

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, agenda: 2024/2025 Meeting Resolution, Bylaws, officers, budget.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment: 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois MacLean

Recording Secretary