

Ross Township
1086 M-89
269-731-4888

Ross Township Park & Recreation Committee Meeting

Minutes
August 6, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Donna Tellam, Committee Chair, called the regular meeting of the Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Ross Township Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL

Present: Donna Tellam, Chair
Peggy Sattler
Gail Hurn
Dave Senkewitz - Ross Township Trustee (Committee Advisor)
Diana Langshaw - Ross Township Trustee (Committee Advisor)

Absent: Christopher Gottwald
Cathy Knauf

APPROVE AGENDA

Diana moved to approve the agenda. Seconded and **passed**.

MINUTES FROM June 2, 2020

Approval of the June Park Committee minutes was deferred to the September meeting because we did not have a copy of the last Ross Township Board meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

June/July financial report and Park Fund data are not yet available. No action on it was taken, to be deferred to the September meeting.

Park manager and attendant salaries need to be deducted from revenues, and the plumbing repairs and remaining materials for the playground project haven't yet been accounted for.

The cost of emergency sewer repairs in July was \$17,000.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None presented

OLD BUSINESS

a. Playground Budget/Gilmore Foundation Grant

Out of the \$17,000 Gilmore Foundation Grant, we have spent \$15,616.69 so far on the traffic stops, playground equipment and plumbing repairs

Additional park fixtures were considered based on available funding. Products available from Belson Outdoors included an ADA picnic table, bike rack and play equipment for smaller children.

-- Six-foot ADA Hexagonal Table	\$ 715	(\$ 695 with discount)
-- Six-foot Bike Rack	\$ 495	(\$ 475 with discount)
-- Whale Rider	\$ 695	(\$ 660 with discount)
-- Frog Rider	\$695	(\$ 660 with discount)

Priorities for a wishlist for any remaining funds were reviewed. These could include Adirondack chairs or double swing; new park grills, and adult exercise structures.

Carol Snapp, of the Gilmore Foundation, featured an article on the Park project in their 2019 Annual Report. It can be found online at www.isgilmore.org. We will obtain a hard copy to be on file at the township office.

b. Luke Larson Eagle Scout Project

Luke will be supervising workdays at the park on August 15, 21 and 22.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Park Revenue Update

2020 Park Revenue through the end of July, equaled \$33,892.17. \$32,545.58 has been received through gate income.

Don Dybler, president of the Gull Lake Rotary Club, presented Donna with a check for \$5,000, double what we had expected.

The Committee noted that pursuing a future grant from the DNR to build up and repair the beachfront could cost as much as \$50,000. Park funds for matching funds should be a priority.

Three loads of sand were brought in, costing \$260 each. Children seem to be enjoying the sand piles immensely.

b. Park

Park Manager Nick Margol will be leaving as of 8-11-2020. After that date, Rob Baker will open the Park in the morning, and the attendants will close.

A proposal was made to consider keeping the Park open later into September, since many students could take advantage of it if schools do not reopen. Gate payments could be submitted on the honor system.

A volleyball set—net and ball—were donated.

Park Surveys are submitted to Mary Carol. One visitor asked for more ADA accessibility to the beach, which we can address through the DNR grant process.

We will look for ways to increase survey responses, since most have only come from season pass holders.

c. Playground Installation Timeline

The ground for the playground has been cleared. The playground equipment will ship on August 19, 2020.

Deliveries of playground supplies and site preparation:

8/13: Landscape timbers delivered from Mulders

8/15: Rotary Club starts to place and install timbers around playground perimeter (57' x 44")

8/17: Cement delivered from Carter Lumber

8/19: Playground mulch delivered from CC Supply

8/21-22: Playground equipment delivered. Rotary Club to assemble and cement playground pieces in place.

Nolan's youth volunteers will move dirt to areas that need leveling, spread the mulch, and assist with cement.

The ADA table, bike rack and riding toys will arrive four to six weeks after payment is received, about the end of September.

A proposal was made to hold a Playground Opening/Last Day of the Season Party. It would honor the Rotary for their donation, and be free to enter. Perhaps a local restaurant or food truck would cater ice cream and elephant ears. Perhaps at the end of September.

d. Gull Lake Quality Organization

The GLQO did a wonderful piece on our park in their Spring Newsletter. They are doing a follow up article in their next Fall Newsletter which will be out soon.

e. Benches

Three additional benches have been donated.

f. Park Sewer Line Replacement

Due to the unfortunate problem with the Park sewer line, replacement was necessary. The cost of replacement was \$ 17,000.

Member Time

Gail expressed concern about potential plans by the Kalamazoo Road Commission to raise the speed limit on East Gull Lake Drive to 40 miles per hour. This has been noted concerning some heavy trucks on the road. In addition to walkers, cyclists, and Park patrons on the shoulder, there are very limited sightlines due to the many twists and hills on that road.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.
Next meeting will be September 3, 2020.

Respectfully submitted: Peggy Sattler