

**Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, Mi. 49083
269-731-4888
Ross Township Park & Recreation Committee Meeting
January 7, 2021, 6PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Donna Tellam, Committee Chair, called the regular meeting of the Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 6:04 p.m. at the Ross Township Offices. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL

Present: Donna Tellam, Chair
Cathy Knauf
Peggy Sattler
Gail Hurn
Diana Langshaw - Ross Township Trustee (Ad Hoc Committee Advisor)

Attending via phone: Christopher Gottwald

Absent: Lynn Harmon

APPROVE AGENDA

Diana moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Gail and passed.

MINUTES FROM November 5, 2020

Minutes from the November Park Committee meeting were reviewed, and Chris moved to accept them as presented. Seconded by Cathy and **passed**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report will be delayed until the February Meeting to allow Donna and Diana to complete a review with aid from Linda Walters and Syndee, and to match the report with Township records. We should have about \$15,000 to start Summer 2021. Our CPA, Jeff Root, will examine the Park's financial records sometime around the 3rd week in January, with the help of Donna, Diana, Lynn, Linda and Syndee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. The draft of Park Rules is now with Township Attorney, Rob Thall, for his review and any needed rewrites.

B. The Gate Report is tabled until February 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Budget

The Committee reviewed the 2021-2022 Budget Report as currently put together by Donna and Diana.

Normal Operating Expenses for the Park this coming summer should be around \$24,358.18. Though we will not have to spend as much as the 2020 summer for playground installation, and repairs (e.g., bathrooms, sewer), we anticipate needing to bring in three loads of sand, any table repairs, and possibly a new grill (about \$204.00).

Projected repairs to the beach for beach erosion and to make it accessible will be sought through a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In order to qualify for that grant, we must have 50% of our project's cost in savings in the bank. We estimate that the cost will be about \$100,000 to \$150,000. Donna noted that we should be eligible for three different types of grants through the DNR. The deadline for applying for a DNR Grant is April 1 of each year.

Wrightman and Associates gave us a report with erosion remission requirements in 2019. Donna will send out a copy to all Committee members. We plan to save for the grant match through Park Visitor fees, if we have a busy season, without the emergency repairs we had in 2020. Chris volunteered to look for donors, as well. Dave Flook, a member of the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club, from the township, is also interested in the project.

Projected \$34,000 take plus start fund. Diana thinks Township should contribute if budget allows, though times are tough.

2021 Park Operation

Donna advises hiring a fewer number of Park Attendants, with an eye to returning employees who have been dependable. The Township has also identified a person interested in the Park Manager position.

The Township has determined that the Park cannot collect visitor fees from employees or guests walking over from MSU/KBS, because the Ross Township Park fee is only a parking fee, not a walk-in fee. Therefore, there will not be a need for neighbors to have an entry card. The Committee did recognize that the charge should include motorcycles, but not bicycles.

New Park Signs

Per grant agreements from 2020, the Park will need to add a sign honoring grant funding for the new Playground. We also need signage for Park rules. Gail and Chris volunteered to get examples and bids for permanent signs. The Park has worked with Printex in Richland (Julie) in the past. We will need to obtain at least two bids. Gail and Chris will look into that as well.

Gail suggested that we could add a list of most of the new rules (such as no smoking) to the existing sign by the entrance building. The Playground sign will need to be substantial, probably

about 2.5 feet x 3 feet, with 2 x 4 studs. There may also be a way to combine listing grant info and park rules

Other Actions

Donna announced that a new request has been made to place another memorial bench down by lake this summer.

The slate of Park Committee Meetings for 2021 is as follows:

January 7, 2021	August 5, 2021
February 4, 2021	September 2, 2021
March 4, 2021	October 7, 2021
April 8, 2021	November 4, 2021
May 6, 2021	December No Meeting
June 3, 2021	January 6, (2022)
July No Meeting	

MEMBER TIME

East Gull Lake Drive Traffic

Speed limits along East Gull Lake Road near the Park are increasing to 40 mph, which is concerning because of the likelihood that cars will be parked at the side of the road this summer due to continued COVID visitor limits. In addition, children from the neighborhood are likely to be crossing the street to get to the playground. East Gull Lake Drive is very curved on both sides of the Park, offering very limited sightlines to drivers.

Donna noted that Rick King, when he consulted on the Playground project, recommended getting signs along the road warning about pedestrians. Making reports and connections with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission would help to raise their awareness of this problem, noted Gail. We could lobby to get the Road Commission to negate 40 mph speed limits near park because of these conditions/concerns.

COVID Measures

We will be informed in the spring about the requirements established by the State of Michigan concerning COVID safety measures we will need to use. As long as there are limits on how many visitors are in the park, if there are larger groups of walkers arriving, we may want to instruct attendants to count five people walking in as equal to a car.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

The next meeting will be February 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Ross Township Office.

Respectfully submitted: Peggy Sattler