# Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

February 26th 2019

#### CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Senkewitz called the regular meeting of the Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Ross Township Hall.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Gail Hurn

Zach Klipsch Alex Harris

Donna Joslin Tellam

Absent: Peggy Sattler

Diana Langshaw Ross Township Trustee (Committee

Also Present: Advisor)

Dave Senkewitz — Ross Township Trustee (Committee Advisor)

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pat Frohnapfel commented she was "here to see what's going on."

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. History of Committee \*please see attachment\*
  - Reviewed Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee Historical Timeline compiled by Senkewitz and Langshaw
  - Reviewed Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVT) update email from David Rachowicz
  - Discussed scorecard results for grant application Michigan Recreation Passport Grant Program, Application was submitted in 2018 for an automated gate at the township park.

#### 2, Park Plan

Senkewitz began discussion by stating the Historical Timeline is an outline of where the Committee has been, now it is up to the current Committee to decide where to go from here. He noted the Board is considering allocation of a separate fund in the township budget dedicated to park revenues and expenditures, and special projects will need to be presented to the Township Board for approval.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 1. Meeting Dates

For FY2019 meeting dates Will be held the first Thursday Of the month beginning at 6 p,m,

March 14

April 4

May 2

June 6

July-no meeting

August 1

September 5

October 3

November 7

December — no meeting

#### 2. Committee Officers

The Township Board would like to look for two more people throughout the community to join the parks committee. There needs to be a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Members to consider whether they would have interest in contributing in any of these roles.

#### 3. Goals (short and long term)

Brainstorming session - Elevate the park by: Paint the Bathrooms, New Picnic tables & buoys, discuss a community event such as Trucks Tunes, Drill a new well, Fix the erosion of the beach, update the Ross Township recreational masterplan (due Feb I<sup>SE</sup> 2020) to be eligible for DNR grants, Make access to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, communicate with the public via quarterly "Ross Township newsletter" to forward the purpose of the group.

The topic of Trucks <sup>f</sup>n Tunes event(s) was tabled for consideration by the entire committee at the next regular meeting since this will require agreement and commitment from all members.

#### 4. Budget

Reviewed Ross Township Parks and Rec. Past Income/Expenses 16/17, 17/18, 18/19. \*please see attachment\*

From the income/expense report, Hurn noted the park Masterplan cost about \$8,072, and questioned how much money is left over for the park. Langshaw noted there is a balance of approximately \$7,000.

Regarding grants, Tellam inquired how we can be more eligible to receive grants, and noted she has looked at various municipalities and their success with grant improvement to Parks. Langshaw noted each DNR grant opportunity has requirements for a Recreation Master Plan.

#### MEMBER'S TIME

Hurn noted the well needs to be replaced. She informed the Committee it has been 30 years and is long overdue.

Klipsch observed the difference between revenue and expenses is around \$9,000, He asked if the Committee has the availability to spend this (not to spend all of the money but to make some improvements within the mission statement for Ross Township)? He would also be interested in setting some aside for special projects, noting that historically we know the park will roughly break even or end in positive territory.

Langshaw explained that in the past the township has set money aside and saved for bigger projects. She also reminded the Committee to get three bids during the quoting process.

Senkewitz expressed support for receiving new public opinion, and shared that the main focus of the Board, currently, is to put the park we have back into good conditiom

Harris asked for the township Board to discuss the designation of funds, to fairly support the park just like the cemetery,

Tellam observed there are a lot of things that can be done to maintain the park. She mentioned John Kruezer, a waterfront professional, has suggested to cut V's into the beach to reduce erosion, She also knows a well driller-

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8'14 p.m.

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Ross Trip Park + Comm.

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#### Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee Historical Timeline

The following is a compiled list of milestones completed with respect to Ross Township parks} beginning with the creation of the Ross Township Recreation Plan by the Planning Commission. Details were taken from meeting minutes of various Ross Township entities, and so rely on the accuracy of those minutes. This isn't meant to be an endorsement of activities, or to provide direction for future activities, It's only meant to provide a history, Sources are cited after each item (B - Board of Trustees, PC = Planning Commission, PR = Parks and Recreation Committee).

- May 2013 Recreation Master Plan approved (work was started in 2010). It seems to have been needed in order to obtain grants. Grants require a 5-year recreation plan to be in place, Ross Township's Master PFan is currently past the 5 year timeframe, {source = Recreation Plan}
- Nov 2013 ad-hoc citizens' group was meeting regularly with the goal of moving the objectives
  of the Recreation Plan forward. This was GLAT. (PC)
- Nov 2013 Planning Commission investigated Prairieville Twp Parks Board and suggested a Ross
   Twp Board to formalize support of the Recreation Plam (PC)
- Mar 2014 GLAT continued regular meetings focused on a system of bike paths. Prein & Newhof was hired to produce trail maps, (PC)
- Mar 2014 Twp Board envisioned implementation of the Recreation Plan via 2 avenues: 1)
   citizenbased group working regionally 2) Ross Twp Parks Board responsible for administration and funding of the goals in the plan. (PC)
- Apr 2014 Parks and Recreation Committee bylaws were submitted to the Board for review.
   Revisions were requested. (B)
- Apr 2014 Board agreed a Parks and Recreation Committee would be beneficial for facilitating the development of bike paths. Parks and Recreation Committee was created, (B)
- May 2014 trail map completed by Prein & Newhoff for GLAT identifying preliminary routes and adjacent property ownership. (PC)
- Sep 2014 Nominations for initial Parks Committee members were approved. Bylaws were approved. (B)
- Nov 2014 First meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee was Nov, 13, 2014 (B/PR)
- Nov 2014 Twp supervisor discussed issues at the Park: fa iling wetl & pump, beach decay in swimming area (B)
- Nov 2014 discussion of options to improve the Park: concessions, pavilion, playground equipment. It was noted GL Rotary Club may be willing to donate the pavilion, (B)
- Dec 2014 Parks Committee was developing Mission and Vision statements. Educating the public and fundraising were the main focus. (3)
- Dec 2014—Recreation-Plan-approved-by-the-DNR-(PC)-
- Jan 2015 Township Park badly in need of work and township would like to pursue grant money for improvements. The Park could contribute to the trail envisioned by GLATI (PC)

- Mar 2015 —Twp Supervisor pursuing a grant for playground equipment in the park, also identified that a Parks Administrator is to be hired. (PC)
- May 2015 KRVT raising funds to extend from Galesburg to Augusta, Ross Township trails to connect to Augusta when KRVT is complete. (B)
- Jun 2015 Board discussed a possible Automated Gate at the Park. Also inquired about playgrou
  nd equipment. Application for a grant for the park has been submitted to the state. (B)
- Jul 2015 KRVT asked GLAT to sponsor fundraising efforts of KRVT to Augusta and use possible extension of trail from Augusta to Gull Lake to generate interest, (PC)
- J ul 2015 ice cream social held at the Park to gather public input (it's believed this was actually held at the township hall although the minutes say Park, and no record of results is available) (B)
- Jul 2015 In order to receive grant money for playground equipment, a topographical survey must be completed. Prein & Newhoff proposal for survey was approved (there's no record of this being completed or the amount of the proposal). (B)
- Oct 2015 draft agreement was submitted to the Board for review (between Kalamazoo County, KCRC and Parks Foundation). Agreement was for development, maintenance and operation of KRVT from 35<sup>th</sup> St. to Augusta and Augusta to M". Parks Committee chairman requested Board to adopt a Resolution of Support foc the agreement once it is finalized. (B)
- Nov 2015 Resolution of Support for KRVT was adopted by the Board (source signed copy of Resolution)
- Jun 2016 —Loss of Parks Committee member Suzanne Sippel, who had been a driving force fr GLAT. Parks Committee proposed to raise \$10,000 to hire a Planning Consultant for 12 months to help continue the work on development of the township bike trail (B)
- Jul 2016 -KRVT and GLAT merged. (PR)
- Jul 2016— Board approved \$10,000 for part-time Parks and Rec Planner to assFst township/committee in organizing future plans, grant-writing and fundraising to support Township parks. (PR)
- Aug 2016 —Twp Supervisor sent email to Parks Committee members asking them to create a longterm Vision/Pian for Ross Township Park, Items would include; enhanced entrance, playscape area, current pavilion updates, current infrastructure updates, (PR)
- Oct 2016 Parks Committee reviewed Park facilities and identified areas needing upgrades: landscaping, tree trunk removal, entrance improvements, playground areas, canoe/kayak access, automated access gate, well/pumps. (PR)
- Oct 2016— Parks Committee proposed to develop Park Master Plan using consultant (South Central

Planning). The approved \$10,000 would be used for this. (PR)

- Dec 2016 Suggestion by Parks Committee chair to have trailhead at GLVGC. (PR)
- Dec 2016 Board approved Parks Committee to take bids for development of Ross Twp Park
   Master Plan (B)

- Jan 2017 —Parks Committee proposed to food truck/music events to the Board as a means to draw in more people (B)
- Feb 2017 Parks Committee ranked objectives as: 1) Beach 2) Concessions 3) Parking 4) Garden/
   Playground/ Amphitheater 5) Activities 6) Rentals (PR)
- Feb 2017 Parks Committee agreed to submit park fee increase to the Board (PR)
- Feb 2017 Board approved increased park fees: \$10 daily w/ \$5 rebate to residents, \$25 seasonal fee to residents, \$40 seasonal fee to non-residents (B)
- Feb 2017 Board approved not more than 6 food truck events at the Park for 2017 with agreement to waive entrance fees (B)
- Mar 2017 OCBA was chosen to develop Park Master Plan
- Apr 2017 Parks Committee discussed community survey as an immediate priority to be used as input to Park Master Plan. Sticky-notes were collected at Trucks & Tunes events to gather input. (PR)
- Jun 2017 —Park Planner (OCBA) stated barrier-free access is an important consideration to getting a grant (PR)
- Jun 2011 Three Trucks & Tunes dates set for summer 2017 (B)
- Aug 2017 Attendance at the last Trucks & Tunes event (summer 2017) was approximately 300 people. Committee feedback was that for the event to continue long term, the township should designate someone to organize the event (management of music, sponsors. advertising, food trucks, on-site help, clean-up)/ Also there would need to be a way to fund the event especially if entertainment needs to be paid. (PR)
- Jan 2018 Board gave approval for Parks Committee to move forward witth the Master Plan revisions (from input gathered at Trucks Tunes). The plan needed to be finished before applying for grant money. (B)
- ▶ Feb 2018 Parks Committee discussed first priority of Park project is a gate to generate income.
- Feb 2018 Board approved revised Park Master Plan. Step 1 is to apply for DNR grant for automated gate. This is needed to generate income and decrease payroll. Fee for grant writer is \$5,000. Township loaned \$2,500 to the Park for grant-writing consultante (B).
- Mar 2018 3 Trucks & Tunes dates set for Summer 2018. (PR)
- May 2018 parks Committee recommended No private rentals of Park. Board approved motion to deny private rentals. (B)
- May 2018 Board approved \$5,000 to re-roof the pavilion, (B)
- Jun 2018 New roof instalEed on bathroom facility and new electrical outlets provided for Trucks
   & TUnes events (no explanation why May approval was to re-roof the pavilion but bathroom facility was re-roofed instead) (B)

Feb 2019 - Update regarding KRVT received from Kalamazoo County, Preliminary planning complete for next three segments (35<sup>th</sup> St. to GA High School, GA HS to Fort Custer, Augusta to Gull Lake). Currently in design phase for 35<sup>th</sup> St to GA HS —construction beginning late summer 2019. Starting focused fundraising campaign for GA HS to Fort Custer segment, Once those two segments are complete, KRVT Will pursue the Augusta to Gull Lake segment. Confirmed there are no formal commitments between Ross Township and Kalamazoo County. All parties have expressed an interest in the Gull Lake Connectionp but funding and engineering won't be pursued until KRVT is complete to Fort Custer. (source = Kalamazoo County)

Gmail RE: Facebook Message - Dave Senkewitz

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M Gmail

David Senkewitz < dave4rosstrustee@gmail.com>

David M. Rachowicz <dmrach@kalcountv.com> To: "dave4rosstrustee@gmail.com" <dave4rosstrustee@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 4:56 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Senkewitz:

I received your message below and wanted to prov: dé you with some information anti algo my contact Information for any follow-up or future questions you may have. Kalamazoo County Parks has completed the preliminary planning fot the next three segments of the (RV Tcai\. These include 35<sup>th</sup> St to Gaié\$burg Augusta High School Ggiesburg Augusta High \$ohoot to Fort Custer State Recreation Area. and Augusta to Gull Lake.

The last segment ig the Ross Township piecs. We currently the engineering design phase for the 35<sup>m</sup> St to Galesburg Augusta High School and plan on starting construction tete summer 20490 We arealso stafling focused \*Pita! campaign to construct the geoment from the High School to Fort Custer. The last discussions with the Ross Township Parks Board focused on that once thege segments are completed, we will then pujsue the Gull Lake Connection,

Ross TownshÉp or the Ross Township Board have not formal commitments with Kafamazoo County or the

KRV Trail. The County Parks completed the preiimlnaty plans with fundii±g assistance from the Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County, Jointly. alt parties have expressed an interest in building the Guil Lake Connection but the formal (unding and engineering plan will not be pursued until the next segments are complete.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you hAve any further questions.

Thank you,

David Rachowicz, Director Parks L Expo Canter 2900 Lake Street I Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Phone: 260383.87781 Fax 269.383.3724

2018

## Organization: Ross Township RP18-0129

#### Recreation Passport Development Application Evaluation Worksheet-DNR

Only

	Oilly
Grant Amount Requested	\$22,500.00
Match Percentage	25 0/0
Match Amount	\$7,500.00
Total Project Cost	\$30,000.00
Core Criteria li NEED FOR	

THE

**RATIONALE:** 

INE		Maximum	Preliminary	Final Score
		Possible Points	Score	
	A. Applicant demonstrates a scarcity of parks and recreation services.	30	30	30
	B. Applicant does not demonstrate a general scarcity of parks and recreation services, but demonstrates a scarcity of a specific recreation type which will be provided by the project.	0		
	C. Appåicant does not demonstrate a general scarcity of parks and recreation services and does not demonstrate a scarcity for the specific recreation service type which will be provided by the project.	v		
	FINANCIAL NEED OF THE APPLICANT:			
	A. Bottom 1/3 Median Household Income,	30		
	B, Middle 1/3 Median Household Income.	15		
	C, Upper 1/3 and higher Median Household Income.	0		
	RENOVATION: The proposed project is a renovation of an existing facility that is beyond its life expectancy typically 20 years for outdoor elements and 40 years for buildings,	20		
	PRIORITY: The applicant has submitted only one application or, if the applicant submitted multiple applications, this application is the highest priority.	10	10	10
PROJE	Maximum Possible Points	90	40	40

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Organization: Ross Township

RP18-0129

Recreation Passport Development Application Evaluation Worksheet-DNR O

#### Internal Comments:

Development to install an automated entrance gate \*Mth automated pay station at the entrance and exit driveway of the Ross Township Public Park located at 3800 East Gull Lake Drive to allow for consistent management, payment and access to the park by patrons in vehicles in accordance with the 5 year

- —Master-Plamand-is-the-first-step-in-efforts-toward-parleimprovements. Visitors-will-still-be-able-toaeeess \_\_\_\_\_\_ the park by foot or bike for no fee. Currently Non-Township Residents pay \$10 to enter daily, Township

b

residents pay \$10 with a \$5 refund when bringing pass to township hall, Annual Passes are \$40 for non-residents and \$25 for residents. Currently seasonal employees collect fees at the gate in the summer or an honor box serves to collect fees when not staffed.

Comments to Applicant:

This is the only Township park.

MH' is in the upper 1/3 at \$66,500 source: 5-Year American Community Survey (US Census Bureau)

#### 2. SITE QUAUTY

LOCATION OF THE PROJECT SITE:	Maximum	Preliminary	Final Score
	Possibte Points	Score	
A. The location of the development is appropriate given the natural resources present, the applicant's	10	10	10

A. The location of the development is appropriate given the natural resources present, the applicant's existing park and recreation system, location of similar facilities, proximity to users, proximity to other destinations, accessibility to public and non-motorized transportation, compatibility of surrounding land uses, safety considerations and other relevant factors.

Organization: Ross Township

RP18-0129

Recreation Passport Development Application Evaluation Worksh

B. There are some concerns with the location of the development given the natural resources present, the applicant's existing park and recreation system location of similar facilities, proximity to users, proximity to other destinations, accessibility to public and non-motorized transportation, compatibil ty of surrounding land uses, safety considerations and other relevant factors. C, There are many concerns with the location of the development given the natural resources present, the applicant's existing park and recreation system, location of similar facilities, proximity to users, proximity to other destinations, accessibility to public and nonmotorized transportation, compatibility surrounding land uses, safety considerations and other relevant factors.

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#### EASE OF ACCESS:

A. The site is easily recognizable as a public park and is easy to locate or will have adequate directional signage in place.

B, There is some difficulty in recognizing that the location is a public park, or the location is somewhat difficult locate.

C. Ste is difficult to locate and is difflcurt to recognize as public park.

Maximum Possible Points

10

10

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20

20

20

**Internal Comments:** 

Comments to Applicant:

3. PROJECT QUALITY

QUALITY OF OVERALL PARK AND RECREATION

Maximum

Preliminary

Final score

02/19/2019

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Organization: Ross Township RP18-0129

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	Recreation Pas	sport Develo	pment Application Evaluation Worksh
FACILITY:	Possible	Score	
	Points		
A. Application clearly describes the proposed, existing, and future facilities at the site, including clear ste plans. Expected traffic flow pattern is safe and convenient, access routes are provided to all facilities are placed to have the least environmental impact, layout maximizes groundwater infiltration, and the recreation and support facilities do not negatively impact each other.	10	10	10
B. Application clearly describes the proposed, existing, and future facilities at the site, including clear site plans. However, there are concerns about expected traffic flow, access to facilities, environmental impacts or the impact facilities will have on each other.			
C- The application does not clearly describe the proposed, existing, and future facilities at the site or there are strong concems about the expect traffic flow, access to facilities, environmental impacts or the impact facilities will have on each other.	0		
COMPATIBILITY:			
A. Facilities size and cost are appropriate and development is fully compatible with the size: natural and physical characteristics of the site.	10	10	10
<ul><li>B. There is some concerns about the compatibility of the site and its intended use.</li><li>C, The development has poor compatibility with the site.</li></ul>	5		
PROGRAMMING/MARKETING:			
A. The applicant has a clear plan on how to make the public aware of the project and facilities, including any universally design facilities in the project.	10	10	10
B. The applicant has a partial plan for publicizing the project and facilities, including any universally design	5		
facilities in the project.			

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#### Organization: Ross Township

RP18-0129

Recreation Passport Development Application Evaluation Worksheet-DNR Only

Ci The applicant has no plan for publicizing the project 0 and facilities, including any universally design facilities in the project.

#### **SAFETY MEASURES:**

A. User safety at the site is addressed through project design incorporating the following, as appropriate: maximization of visibility of people and parking areas, adequate lighting, hours of operation are or will be clearly posted, project is monitored at appropriate times and locations as necessary, physical layout clearly defines property lines and provides adequate separation with private spaces if appropriate for development, trails within parks minimize dead ends, public routes are clearly defined, and facilities in fire-prone areas are designed to protect from fire damage.

- B. User safety at the site is addressed through project design incorporating the above design considerations, however some parts of the park raise concerns for user safety.
- C. User safely concerns have not been clearly incorporated into project design.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:**

A. Use of Three or More Environmentally Friendly Materials (must be listed as scope items; see application booklet for examples).

- B. Some facilities in the application utilize environmentally friendly materials and design- (Must be listed as scope items).
- C. No facilities in the application utilize environmentally friendly materials and design.

# UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY OF PARKS AND FACILITIES:

A, The applicant obtained information on persons with

disabilities in their community or the state and gathered comments regarding recreation interests

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#### Organization: Ross Township

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Recreation Passport Development Application Evaluation Worksheet-DNR Only

and accessibility needs. The applicant has documented how the ideas/suggestions gathered from the public input process influenced the design of the proposed project. Documentation of dialogue with an organization or individual with disabilities was

providedzffhe-applieanthas«iocurnented-how-any
applicable ideas and suggestions influenced the

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design of the proposed project. (Please provide documentation)

B, ALL of the proposed facilities incorporate the
Universal Design and are designed beyond the 2010
ADA Standards and current Accessibility Guidelines for
Outdoor Developed Areas,

C. SOME of the facilities incorporate the Universal Design and are designed beyond the 2010 ADA Standards and current Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. Dimensions, preliminary drawings or cut-sheets were provided to demonstrate Universal Design Features.

D. None of the proposed facilities incorporate Universal Design and/or insufficient documentation was provided.

Maximum Possible Points 80 40 40

**Internal Comments:** 

\*\*\*\*\*\*SEE Supplemental for UA and ELIGIBILITY Comments to Applicant:

ENVIRONMENTAL No features identified.

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY: Entrance drive widening for traffic flow and walk/bike in users is not a universal design element.

STEWARDSHIP OF EXISTING FACILITIES:	Maximum	Preliminary	Final Score
	Possible p o ints	Score	
A, Applicant has not closed, sold, or transferred use of a park or public recreation facility for non-public recreation purpose, Or the applicant has never received a grant.	10	10	
B. Applicant is in compliance with all requirements at park sites that have been acquired or developed with recreation grant assistance in the past - including signage requirements. Also, the applicant has complied with DNR procedures on activej open grants (acquisition and development). Do not give points if the applicant has an on-going conversion, but is working to resolve the conversion. Give points if the applicant has never received a grant.	10	10	10

#### MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES:

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4. A. The park and public recreation sites in the

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#### APPLICANT HISTORY

applicants system are appropriately operated,

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maintained (including presence of signs for

grant-assisted sites), and staffed. The park maintenance schedule was provided.

- B. Most parks and public recreation sites in the applicants system are appropriately operated and maintained, and staffed.
- C. Few or no parks and public recreation sites in the applicant's system are appropriately operated and maintained.

#### PAST PER CAPITA GRANT ASSISTANCE:

A The applicant has received no (RP), MNRTF, or 20 20 20 LWCF grant assistance in the past five years, B, The applicant has received below the median of 10 per-capita RP, MNRTF: or LWCF grant assistance in the past five years. 0 C. The applicant has received above the median in per-capita RP, MNRTF, or LWCF grant assistance in the past five years. **Maximum Possible Points** 50 50 50

**Internal Comments:** 

Park is encumbered LWCF 26-01539 (1993), in place.

Application states there was a 2014 Trust Fund Grant, no record exits.

Comments to Applicant:

No grants within the last 5 years.

#### 5. CONVERSION HISTORY

Applicant has a known unresolved conversion of a -20 grantassisted site to a use that does not qualify as public outdoor recreation (applies to all grant programs).

**Point DEDUCTION** 

-20

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**Internal Comments:** 

Comments to Applicant:

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items.

Maximum Points Possible — 240 Total Application Points 150 150

**Internal Comments:** 

SEE SUPPLEMENTAL Comments

to Applicant:

NOTE: The intended purpose of the Recreation Passport Grant Program is to assist local units of government with the development of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. As stated in the Recreation Passport Application Guidelines, page 4: These funds cannot be used to supplement the operational budget for maintenance of local parks and recreation departments. Therefore the Pay Station scope \_\_Item\_is not eligible under this funding source. Please remove the p.y station from Section C2 Project \_\_\_\_\_\_ Details. The entrance drive improvements are eligible.

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