



ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION & LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD FY 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

April 3, 2018

Advisory Board Members: Betty Jo Crosby (Vice Chair), Randy Damstra, George Haga (Township Supervisor), Catherine Jacobs (Trustee representative), Paul LeBlanc (Trustee representative), Wayne Nowak, Elise Roe (Chairperson), Rick Steketee, Kraig Schmottlach, Mike Terwilliger, and Jeff VandenBerge.

Member Changes: Paul LeBlanc resigned from his position as Township Board Trustee just before the December, 2018 meeting. Judy Levick was welcomed onto the Advisory Board for a 4-year term beginning on January 7, 2019.

Staff Reporting: Jim Ferro, Planning Director; Mark Fitzpatrick, Parks Director, Rob McCormick, Softball Coordinator.

Meetings: 8 regularly scheduled meetings and 1 special meeting were held on the second Thursday of the month. *Note that 2 of the regularly scheduled meetings did not have a quorum.* No meetings were held in June, August or January.

Grand River Water Trail Initiative

After a presentation from Natalie Henley of WMEAC regarding the recreational, economic, conservation/environmental, and cultural benefits of water trails, the PRLP Advisory Board recommended that the Township Board support the Grand River Water Trail Initiative. The Township Board unanimously adopted a resolution to support the Initiative on 06/11/18.

Recreation Needs Assessment

A Recreation Needs Assessment process was carried out in June through October, 2018, with a final report delivered by the consultants, Mainstreet Planning Company and RJM Design Group, in November, 2018. Community input was gathered from workshops and online comments. The Assessment provides Ada Township with recommendations for the development of new parks and trails, the addition of recreation amenities in existing Township parks, and a guide for planning future recreation programs and support services. It will also lend support when applying for grant funding.

Standing Committees

Going forward, the PRLP Advisory Board will have 3 standing committees with the following members:

1. **Trails (Non-Motorized Bike Paths)** – Haga, Jacobs, Moran, Nowak and VandenBerge
2. **Land Preservation and Stewardship** – Crosby, Roe and Steketee
3. **Recreation Programs, Services and Facilities** - Levick, Schmottlach and Terwilliger

Temporary Sub-Committee

1. **Rules & Policies** – Haga, Jacobs, Roe, Schmottlach, Terwilliger

The rules committee assisted with updating the facility use guidelines and fee structure for rentals at the Roselle Park building.

Riverfront Park

Major components of the new Township park on the Thornapple River in the Village were completed in 2018, including playground, restrooms, seating plaza, sidewalks, landscaping and river bank stabilization were completed in 2018. Remaining work to be completed in 2019 includes the amphitheater, irrigation, additional sidewalks and lawn establishment. A formal ribbon cutting and naming event is scheduled for May 23, 2019.

Knapp/Grand River Dr. “Gateway” Sign/Landscape Improvements

Katerberg Verhage completed the Ada Township entry sign and landscaping improvements at the corner of Grand River Dr. and Knapp. Consensus from the Advisory Board is that it looks nice but the Ada Township sign and logo are difficult to read. Options for improving visibility of this sign are currently being reviewed.

Roselle Park Improvements

The Advisory Board recommended the Township apply for a MI DNR Trust Fund Grant to cover 50% of a development project at Roselle Park set for 2021. It focuses on the following Roselle Park improvements:

1. Improvements to the south parking lot.
2. A new picnic area with universal accessibility.
3. A group picnic gazebo.
4. Playground and stream access improvements.

The grant application was submitted in March, 2019 to the Michigan DNR. A funding decision on the application by the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is expected in December, 2019.

A floodplain/wetland permit application was submitted to the Michigan DEQ for drainage and trail system improvements on the non-paved trails in the north section of the park. The work is to be completed in summer or early fall of 2019.

Roselle Park Building Meeting Room Acoustics Improvements

Installation of a spray-on acoustic finish to the room ceiling was completed in April, 2018.

Non-Motorized Trails

Repair of several sections of the Township’s trail network were completed. These included repairs to pavement, boardwalks and bridges. Additional work was done on the paved trails in Ada Park and parking lot at Leonard Field Park. The project was left partially incomplete in 2018 with the remaining work, including re-location of a portion of the paved trail in the Grand River Nature Preserve, to be completed in early 2019.

Capital Improvements Plan

The Advisory Board provided input to the annual update of the Township’s 6-year Capital Improvements Plan.

Ada Park Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts

The new tennis and pickleball courts at Ada Township Park were completed in July, 2018.

Kent County Chief Hazy Cloud Park

The Advisory Board and staff maintained communications with the Kent County Parks Department regarding the expansion of their Chief Hazy Cloud Park and our dedicated funds to help support that initiative. Funds are expected to be paid out later in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Roe, Chairperson