



**ADA TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 29, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.**

A Special Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., at the Amy Van Andel Library Community Room #1, 7215 Headley Street SE, Ada MI.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Leisman at 4:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Trustees Carter, Jacobs, and Proos, Supervisor Leisman, Treasurer Moran

Members Absent: Trustee Hurwitz, Clerk Smith

Also Present: Township Manager Suchy, Planning Director Said, Planning Administrative Assistant Buckley, and Parks Director Fitzpatrick

Trails Members: Sheri Leisman, Jim Ferro, Jeff VandenBerge, and Bob Proos

Moore & Bruggink staff: Steve Groenenboom, Kelly Place, and Greg White

Community members present: 0

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Jacobs, supported by Proos, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

V. NEW BUSINESS – JOINT WITH TRAILS COMMITTEE

Supervisor Leisman explained that the idea of the joint work session with the trails committee was to have an informal open discussion and to update the township board with what is going on with the trails work.

Manager Suchy referred to the feasibility review summary that was included in the last board packet and he invited Steve Groenenboom to provide updates on several trail locations.

Steve Groenenboom, Engineer with Moore & Bruggink, went over various trail details pointing out options of trail locations, types of improvements/size, points of connectivity, railroad issues, costs, and goals of construction dates or completion dates.

There was discussion among the township board and the trails committee regarding each trail item as summarized below:

a. Feasibility Review Updates

1. Knapp St. Bridge Pedestrian Trail

Groenenboom explained that the Knapp Street Bridge trail would connect Grand River Drive and Grand Valley Estates. He said he met with the road commission and bridge engineers and was working with MDOT for funding of a TAP grant (Transportation Alternative Program). He said the

job was a \$5,000,000 project, but the total cost depended on funding. Suchy explained the process and timelines for a TAP grant and said it was possible that we could secure \$1,000,000 in TAP grant funding and \$300,000 from the road commission and estimated the township share would be approximately \$3,700,000. Groenenboom said he was awaiting three different cost options from the engineers and depending on funding his goal was to begin construction in 2024.

Leisman shared the history of funding for the trails and said the township board approved a \$15,000,000 bond to be spread over the next five years. There was discussion about the breakdown of costs spent vs. costs of future projects and the priority of projects.

2. Spaulding/Fulton St. Crossing

Groenenboom explained the different connections that have been discussed; east/west corridor that follows Fulton Street from Grand Rapids Township to Carl Drive and connects with the trails at Grand River Drive, however, Grand Rapids Township had no plans to build their section for 2-3 years.

Groenenboom said he discussed possibilities with MDOT. He said a possible option would be a tunnel crossing Fulton, but that would cost \$5,000,000. There was discussion on where/how to run the direction of the trail; north/south direction and the different costs, and other Consumers Energy and railroad trail connection options. Trustee Proos shared that he thought a bridge, not a tunnel, had character and would be an inviting gateway to Ada Township.

In the effort to keep agenda items within a certain time restraint, Leisman concluded that the trails committee should consider the input from the discussions with the board and the meeting continue with next agenda item.

3. Rix Street Trail

Groenenboom said that he spoke with the railroad and he explained some of the options for location of the Rix Street trail with options possibly using Headley or Bradfield. There was discussion about complications of right of ways, easements, different sizes/widths, drainage, and shared concerns with dealing with the railroad and awaiting answers. The tentative construction date was to begin build in 2023.

b. Potential Projects 2023

1. Rix Street Trail – discussed previously.

2. Legacy Park to Fulton St. Bridge – Groenenboom went over details on the screen projection of the location of the trail and the possibility of running it through the new Village East development. Parks Director Fitzpatrick said he would continue to work with the DNR to discuss options; encroachment of easements, logistics of re-routing with River Street trail, and property line clarifications.

3. Pettis Ave. Phase II (Chief Hazy Cloud to Vergennes) – Groenenboom shared that the project was going very well and Suchy invited anyone to join him for a walk-through. Steve explained some issues of connectivity to Chief Hazy Cloud due to steep grades, low powerlines, and options of keeping the trail on the river side. He gave rough estimates on trail location costs; trail on south side, \$6,000,000 vs. north side, \$3,000,000. He said he would update the board after a cost study was received. His goal was to start construction in 2023. Trail Committee Chair VandenBerge explained that the next two projects were a priority for 2023,

however, that may shift as additional information unfolds and prioritizing dates and/or projects may change.

4. Honey Creek (Cranecreek to Conservation) – There was brief discussion about what side of Honey Creek to put the trail; east vs. west, trail would allow access to neighborhoods on Honey Creek, and creating a loop to the northern end of the township. Steve said the trail would be about one mile long and the project was estimated at \$1,000,000. This project priority may change.

5. McCabe (Conservation to Downes) – Steve said this project would cost up to \$1,200,000. There was discussion about the connectivity; Downes north to 2 Mile Road to connect with Honey Creek as part of the ConnectAda plan and it would serve about 90 parcels to connected trails. This project priority also may change.

6. Knapp St. Bridge Pedestrian Trail – discussed previously.

Suchy summarized the trail projects and said we have the bond money for 5 years but every year we are still building up the capacity of funds on hand, so if projects are not done, it does not mean we stop production, there would still be room to complete in the future.

There was overall discussion on which trails were prioritized for immediate budgeted funds and whether to possibly connect with private donors or other fundings. Trustee Proos said the township board needs more information for the best solution, and pricing structure and timing, to be able to know what direction and how to pursue them.

Trails Committee Chair VandenBerge summarized options from the township board and concurred that trails would do more research on specific cost options and report back to the board. The township board concurred they would consider the more expensive options, depending on exactly what costs were proposed.

c. Trail Communication/PR

1. Discuss PR Services related to Ribbon Cuttings/On-Going Trail Communication

Suchy said he was working with VandenBerge on PR ideas for communicating awareness of the trail committee work and has received a proposal from Seyferth for their services; sustain community interest, build long-term investors, grand opening and/or ribbon cutting and social media.

The township board concurred to keep the communication going but hold off on any movement with PR obligation. A ribbon cutting will be held to open the Pettis Avenue trail once complete and involve county and regional leaders to help with Roselle bridge discussion.

d. General Updates

1. 2023 Maintenance Projects

Fitzpatrick gave a brief update on maintenance projects; Ada Drive trail repairs.

2. Wayfinding Signage

Suchy gave a brief update and said that the Wayfinding Signage bid due date was July 1st and proposals would be reviewed with the trails committee and then presented to the township board.

Leisman concluded the trails portion of the joint meeting at 5:31 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – TOWNSHIP BOARD

a. Resolution R-062922-1: A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Approximately 14.9 Acres of Real Estate at 7535 Fase St. and 7567 Fase St. for Recreational Purposes

Suchy explained the history of the intent to purchase the Fase Street property on the riverfront. He said a resolution was created to purchase the property (referred to as Parcel A) for \$200,000.00 with a \$5,000.00 deposit and the board reviewed the purchase papers.

There was substantial board discussion regarding the terms of purchase; specific contingencies, the 4-year closing condition, the option to add a clause regarding the master deed, and other concerns with conditions of purchase agreement/memorandum of understanding/closing.

Moved by Proos, supported by Moran, to adopt Resolution No. R-062922-1, which is a resolution to purchase real estate at 7535 and 7567 Fase Street for recreational purposes; with the condition that paragraph 1 of the resolution read, "The Township Supervisor and Township Clerk are authorized and directed, on behalf of the Township, in accordance with the terms of this Resolution, to sign the MOU, and also in consultation with the Attorney, to execute....."

Motion carried with a roll call vote: Yes – Moran, Proos, Carter, Jacobs, Leisman; No – 0; Absent – Smith, Hurwitz. Resolution adopted.

XII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

The board members welcomed Dan Carter to the Ada Board.

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Ferro, retired Planning Director, shared how happy he was to see the township acquisition of the property on Fase Street. He said it had been a goal for 20 years.

Parks Director Fitzpatrick shared that the riverfront purchase was a great opportunity for trails.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jacobs, supported by Moran, to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Ada Township Clerk

rs:eb