

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019 REGULAR MEETING
8:00 A.M., ADA TOWNSHIP HALL
7330 THORNAPPLE RIVER DR. SE, ADA, MICHIGAN**

1. Call meeting to order/roll call

Present: Crosby, Haga, Jacobs, Levick, Roe, Steketee, Terwilliger, VandenBerge

Absent: Nowak, (Schmottlach and Damstra arrived at 8:05 a.m.)

Staff Present: Ferro, Fitzpatrick, McCormick, Ergang, Winczewski

Public Present: 1 member

2. Approval of agenda

Terwilliger moved to approve the agenda. Roe supported. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting

Terwilliger moved to approve the June 13th minutes. Jacobs supported. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Roselle Park North Trails Project – Review Bid Results and Recommend Course of Action

Fitzpatrick introduced Paul Warnick of OCBA Landscape Architects. Fitzpatrick summarized the project as outlined in his memo. There are four areas of non-paved trails in the north section of Roselle Park which need fill-dirt and/or culverts. Bids went out on June 5th and only two companies submitted, both much higher than expected. Mr. Warnick explained how the weight of the trucks would potentially damage the wetlands so the fill-dirt will need to be transported to the project areas in multiple batches by small equipment, resulting in higher costs. Staging and getting material to where it needs to be is going to be an issue.

Fitzpatrick stated the areas that need fill-dirt are still under water at this time. These areas have not been dry since July or August of last year. VandenBerge commented that if the trails are wet for such long periods of time, perhaps they are in the wrong locations. VandenBerge asked how much fill-dirt is needed. Mr. Warnick stated 300 cubic yards.

Fitzpatrick stated the bids are much too high for the value and he recommends not accepting the bids, and re-scheduling the project in the fall for 2020 construction.

Damstra stated he is not crazy about the idea of changing the wetlands. Changes may affect everyone on the river.

Terwilliger moved, Crosby supported, to not accept the bids and re-schedule and re-bid the project.

Board discussed possible issues: what if the project areas are still wet in the fall? Mr. Warnick stated that mowing the trails in question may help them dry faster prior to bidding.

VandenBerge suggested a site visit before any decisions are made.

Haga moved, Crosby supported, to amend the above motion to reject all bids and not award the project at this time, and to review the project in more detail before any further decisions are made.

Amended motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on Jeff Engler request for purchase of portion of 8066 East Fulton property

Ferro summarized his email communications with Mr. Engler as presented in the board packets. Ferro had recommended a small land exchange but Mr. Engler rejected it. Board discussed how Ferro's recommendation seems to be the best option for Mr. Engler. Ferro stated he will go back to Mr. Engler and continue to discuss options.

6. Committee Reports – Trails Committee

Ferro stated a list of prioritized candidate trail projects has been created. The Trails Committee is now discussing the possibility of increasing the millage from .5 mills to .8 mills in order to pay for all of the trail projects. The millage is up for renewal in 2020. Ferro will email the list of candidate projects to board members.

7. Park Director's Report

Fitzpatrick summarized items as presented in the Board packets including the upcoming space needs assessment, a recent truck purchase for the Parks & Rec. department, and various updates for each Township park.

8. Board Member Comment

Levick asked for a status on getting new software for program and room rental registrations. Fitzpatrick stated it is still being reviewed. A committee is researching which software program is best for our needs. REC1 seems to be the best and is currently being used by East Grand Rapids and the city of Grand Rapids.

Fitzpatrick stated complaints have been received about the entry sign area at Grand River Dr. & Knapp Street. People are thinking the area is being overgrown with weeds but what they are actually seeing is native plantings. He will look into the situation further. He will also be providing a temporary white backdrop to be installed behind the letters to see if that improves the visibility of the sign, and will inform board members when it is installed.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Ada Township Clerk

rs: aw