

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., ROSELLE PARK, MEETING ROOM
1010 GRAND RIVER DR NE, ADA, MICHIGAN**

1. Call meeting to order/roll call

Present: Crosby, Haga, Levick, Terwilliger, Nowak, Schmottlach

Absent: Jacobs, Roe, VandenBerge, Damstra, (Steketee arrived at 8:52 am)

Staff Present: Fitzpatrick, Ferro, Winczewski

Public Present: 2 members

2. Approval of agenda

Terwilliger moved to approve the agenda. Crosby supported. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting

Terwilliger moved to approve the minutes as written. Crosby supported. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Roselle Park North Trails Project Update

Paul Warnick of OCBA presented. Mr. Warnick stated they reviewed all 4 areas as shown in the board packets. The biggest change is the deletion of work in area #2 as it has been decided that the trail alignment can be shifted to higher ground closer to the river bank, and thereby avoid the need for a culvert. This work can be completed by Township staff. Overall, there is an expectation of higher costs due to grading and bringing up the trails to the levels they need to be. Native seeding has been deleted and replaced with perennial rye grass.

Board discussed the costs and Crosby mentioned the questions RAISED ~~raised~~ at a previous meeting whether the value of the project justified the costs. Fitzpatrick stated that this project has been a part of the long-term goals and thousands of dollars have been invested so far. This is a project on floodplain and needs to be managed as such.

Haga stated that the estimated costs are coming back higher every time. Fitzpatrick stated that it is due to DEQ changes and new construction and consultant costs.

Mr. Warnick stated that the last bid took place in June and that was the worst time to bid because of the wet terrain. The bids might be more in the Township's favor if done now for 2020 construction.

Fitzpatrick stated it needs to be dry at construction time so construction mats are not needed. Mats would be an added cost.

Terwilliger moved, Levick supported, to recommend to the Township Board to re-bid the project with a timeline for completion in 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Review of Draft RFP for Leonard Field Park Master Plan Process

Board reviewed the Draft RFP as presented in the board packets and discussed the timeline for completion.

Terwilliger moved, Steketee supported, to recommend to the Township Board to approve the Draft RFP as written for the Leonard Field Park Master Plan Process. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Preliminary Scoring of DNR Grant Application

The Advisory Board reviewed the grant application scorecard as presented in the packets. Fitzpatrick noted that our score from the DNR could potentially increase if we address all their comments.

Haga recommended reaching out to our local representative as a liaison.

7. Board Member / Staff Comments

Fitzpatrick stated that a citizens group called “Preserve Ada Committee” and the Trails Committee have recommended hiring a consulting firm, Nelson Nygaard, to assist in updating the Ada Trail Master Plan. They will be looking at mobility and access throughout the township. The costs for hiring Nelson Nygaard are around \$59,000. 75% is being funded by the citizens' group and 25% is being funded by the Township. The updated trail plan will help with the millage renewal.

Haga stated 4 proposals for a Space Needs Study have been received and interviews will take place next week.

Fitzpatrick stated that the trail system crack-sealing bids came in low so additional sections may be added.

Crosby stated that she likes the white backdrop behind the entry sign at Grand River Dr. & Knapp St. Crosby also encouraged more discussions in board meetings around preservation and open space. It is important that we educate landowners, particularly around the river, about saving sensitive natural features. Fitzpatrick agreed and suggested adding ‘Preservation and Open Space’ as a line item on future agendas.

McCormick updated the board on baseball league activity. McCormick also congratulated Chair Schmottlach on completing a triathlon in Traverse City.

Terwilliger requested an update on the Engler property.

Fitzpatrick summarized his Director’s Report as presented in the board packets.

8. Public Comments

Mike Reese, Director of Landscape Architecture at Troyer Group, introduced himself to the Advisory Board. Mr. Reese stated he moved here a year ago, loves the area, and has a personal and professional interest in the area.

9. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Ada Township Clerk