

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2021 REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., ZOOM MEETING**

1. Call meeting to order/roll call

Present: Terwilliger, Schmottlach, Steketee, Levick, Roe, Crosby, VandenBerge, Jacobs in late

Absent: Damstra, Nowak, Leisman

Staff Present: Ferro, Fitzpatrick, Ergang, Buckley, Suchy left at 9:00

Public Present: None

2. Approval of agenda

Terwilliger moved, VandenBerge supported, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with a roll call vote 7-0.

3. Approval of minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting.

Terwilliger moved, Roe supported, to approve the minutes with changes. Motion carried with a roll call vote 7-0.

4. Update on Township Boards & Committee, member terms

Suchy gave an update that the Township Board eliminated some committees and combined others, reducing them from 25 down to 15. Suchy stated that Ross is review an application for the Advisory Board and considering others to replace Nowak. Will have more updates after January 25th. Judy noted need to review Advisory Board leadership and selections process for the end of March. Jim noted that the new chair is to be elected at the first meeting of the new fiscal year.

5. CIP Update & Review – Fitzpatrick presented the 214 Fund budget requests to date that he had submitted to Manager Suchy for review. He noted that for the Fund 208, the fund balance was still under review and closing out the fund this fiscal year is still our goal. Mark grave highlights from the CIP Committee meeting held earlier in the week. Jim presented the Fund 214 CIP tables and discussed fund balances and adjustments in the CIP including moving a trail project for Roselle Park over to the Trails 211 Fund.

Mark noted a request from the CIP Committee to identify specific funding for land acquisition and open space goals. With a discussion and review of the 213 Fund, Steketee made a motion to start that funding source with the projected balance of the current 213 Fund of about \$80,000, after the Chief Hazy Cloud expenditure. VandenBerge supported. Motion carried with a roll call 8-0.

~~Cesby~~ Crosby commented on allocations for the new signs noting concern for the amount and that they had not seen any drafts yet. Others expressed similar concerns. Julius updated folks on the status with the Sign Committee, the intention to share drafts when the they are further along, and that the funding allocation is not finalized yet.

Mark reviewed the details of a new Excel layout for the 214 Fund and how the stewardship and open space allocations are set up in that budget.

6. Committee Report and updates

- a. **Stewardship Committee** — Fitzpatrick noted that the Committee had not met and had no updates at this time. He also noted that there is work being done in the community regarding

stewardship initiatives to reduce high priority invasive plants. These include a grant request by the Kent Conservation District for Ada and Cascade Townships, plus an education initiative by the GVSU Groundswell initiative.

- b. **Facilities/Program Committee** – Fitzpatrick note the Committee had not met. He also noted that they are still working on getting ReCPro recreation software ready to go live, and that a new general email address was set up for the parks: **adaparks@adatownshipmi.com**
- c. **Trails / Connect Ada Committee**– Ferro stated last Committee meeting was held in November and they are reviewing a list of candidates for future trail projects. He noted that the funds from the new mileage will start with the December 2021 tax bill. Ferro discussed options for paying for new trails projects including bonds and “pay as you go” methods and that bonds may take 3-4 months to set up. The Township Board is going to hold work session in the next couple of weeks, public is welcome. Terwilliger asked if he could join the meeting and be sent the invite for it. Ferro stated they are a public meeting.
- d. **Rules Committee** – Fitzpatrick stated the Committee had not met. Also, that we are still working on fees for legacy & library rentals and that we will be coordinating with Ross and Suchy on updating the rules.

7. **Directors Report**

Fitzpatrick provided an update on his Directors report, included in the packet. He focused on updates on the major projects.

For the Leonard Field Park improvements projects, he noted:

-In review of new increased limits for grants applications, we decided to increase the request for the grant so we could include both the river overlook deck and the Covered Bridge Plaza. Mark also provided an update on the relationship of the railroad property and the river access area. Graphics and a revised project budget from RJM-Design was reviewed. Board members noted errors in the graphics to be corrected.

For the Roselle Park Shelter improvement project, he noted:

-That OCBA is still working on working on the final cost estimate and construction documents, and that an application for the EGLE permit has been submitted. He noted that construction for the shelter is phrase 1 and the parking lot is phrase 2. We are planning for a recommendation to go to bid at our next Advisory Board in February.

8. **Board Member Comment** – None

9. **Public Comment** – None

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Ada Township Clerk