

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2020 REGULAR MEETING
8:30 A.M., VIA VIDEO/AUDIO CONFERENCING**

1. Call meeting to order/roll call

Present: Schmottlach, Levick, Terwilliger, Steketee, Crosby, Haga, VandenBerge, Roe
Absent: Nowak, Jacobs, Damstra

Staff Present: Ferro, Fitzpatrick, Ergang, McCormick
Public Present: None

2. Approval of agenda

Roe moved, Haga supported, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Approval of minutes of the July 9th, 2020 meeting.

Steketee moved, VandenBerge supported, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. OCBA proposal - Roselle Park Shelter/Picnic Area/ Parking lot project

Fitzpatrick presented an overview and referred to summary of details in the packet. He noted that this was a revised proposal from OCBA after a DNR grant was not awarded last year. The new proposal was for \$55,900.00, up from the earlier proposal of \$44,800.00. The new design proposal was for two years and included additional services of engineering, soil testing and electrical. Haga added comments on getting board approval for the two years and Fitzpatrick to get this report to him by Monday 8/17/20 for the Township Board 8/24/20 meeting agenda.

Haga moved, Schmottlach supported, to recommend approval of the OCBA proposal for \$55,900 service for Roselle park project for over 2 year period. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

5. House adjacent to Ada Park – Potential Purchase

Fitzpatrick gave an overview on a property and house at 1022 Buttrick now available for purchase. The lot is surrounded by Ada Park. Purchase of this property meets the long-range goals of the Community Recreation Plan and Ada Park Master Plan. Haga, Ferro and Fitzpatrick met with family members on Wednesday to talk about the procedures for, and interest in, the purchase of this property. The family is working with their lawyer to review an option to purchase agreement. The owner of the property suggested a purchase price over \$300,000 but a price was not determined yet. A purchase price would go into the option to purchase agreement. The family also requested that the house not be taken down and would like to get this sale done by the end of October. The Township would need to get an appraisal of the property and inspections. We need the PRLP Boards approval to get this going. Fitzpatrick noted this is a short timeframe to act, but due to the passing of a family member, the family wishes to process the sale of the house quickly. Fitzpatrick noted potential uses of the house included housing parks administrative services and storage needs

Crosby moved, Schmottlach supported, to approve taking steps to secure an option to purchase the property. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.

6. Committee Report and updates

a. **Facilities/Program Committee** – The group had not met so no updates.

b. **Trails & Connect Ada Committee** – Ferro stated that with the passing of the Trail millage in the August election, the trail committee will next get busy on project planning and finance needs for next year.

c. **Stewardship Committee updates** – Ferro stated that he has talked with Norm Byrne’s office, owner of property in the Chase lake area, and that he is waiting on some dates to meet. Crosby stated she was in touch with Jim Vogt, a river property owner on Pettis north of Knapp, and in the process of closing his business and retiring. He is willing to talk to Joe Engle from Land Conservancy of West MI to preserve the property. They will be discussing this matter more in September.

d. **Rules Committee** – Fitzpatrick stated have not met yet. Focus of next meeting to be on updating the park rules and setting the facility use pricing and guidelines for Legacy Park.

7. Directors Report

Fitzpatrick provided an update on projects, programs and facility use and referred to his report for more details. Fitzpatrick stated that due to COVID-19, we continue to have a decline in park rentals and that the room at Roselle Park is still limited to 10 people for inside rentals. He stated early estimates for lost revenues in rentals, where last year Roselle had \$17,000 and this year, we are at \$7,500. Also, for Ada Park, rentals are down from \$11,000 last year to \$1,400. A more complete report is being prepared. He also noted that we have put on hold hiring the Recreation Program Assistant and Intern positions until further notice.

8. Board Member Comment

Haga stated that the Board of Trustees approved a contract for Julius Suchy as the new Township Manager. He will be starting September 14th. Haga will be starting part-time in September as well with the Water Utilities responsibilities being contracted out. McCormick provided an update on softball programs noting a late start this year due to COVID-19. He noted that we had 15 teams for summer league, we just started our fall league with 17 teams and 4 tournaments were held this summer where normally we have 7. He is working on getting a youth league set up for this fall.

9. Public Comment – None

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Ada Township Clerk