

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2017 MEETING**

A meeting of the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at the Roselle Park Building, 1010 Grand River Dr. NE, Ada, MI.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairperson Roe.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Crosby, Damstra, Haga, LeBlanc, Nowak, Roe, Schmottlach, Steketee, Terwilliger

Members absent: Jacobs and VandenBerge

Staff present: Fitzpatrick. Ferro

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Haga, seconded by Terwilliger, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8 2016 MEETING

Motion by Terwilliger and supported by LeBlanc, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting as presented. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18

It was moved by Terwilliger, seconded by Steketee, to approve the proposed meeting schedule as presented.

DISCUSSION/INPUT REGARDING FY 2017-18 BUDGET

a. Options for Tennis Court Surface and Fence Repair/Replacement

Fitzpatrick summarized input he had obtained from contractors regarding options and approximate costs for different approaches to upgrading of the tennis courts at Ada Township Park, ranging from surface crack sealing to complete re-construction. Fitzpatrick described options for addition of pickleball striping and nets to the courts, noting there is a high level of interest and participation in this sport.

(Note: Damstra arrived at 4:20 p.m.)

Steketee commented he has had lots of experience in dealing with court repairs, and his experience has been that cracks in court surfaces will return soon after inexpensive sealing repairs are completed.

Fitzpatrick noted that he was anticipating receiving additional input from contractors within the next two weeks that would result in better information regarding a recommended method of repairing the courts.

Crosby commented that we need to determine where the tennis courts fit in our overall priorities before deciding on what type of repair to pursue.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by Crosby, that we budget funding for the "Guardian" crack treatment on the front courts, and an inexpensive crack fill on the rear courts, with conversion of the rear courts to pickleball, and that we recommend to the Township Board that authorization to seek bids for this work be approved.

In discussion of the motion, Damstra stated he does not support committing to this yet, until we complete an overall needs assessment and evaluation of our available financial resources.

LeBlanc commented that the courts could be closed for safety reasons while we assess our overall direction regarding the courts.

Fitzpatrick indicated his costs estimates for budget purposes would be refined within the next two weeks.

Haga withdrew the original motion, and Crosby withdrew her second of the motion.

It was then moved by Terwilliger, seconded by Damstra, to postpone action regarding the matter of tennis court repair/replacement.

Motion passed unanimously.

Haga moved, seconded by Smottlach, that the Township pursue retaining a consultant to conduct a recreation needs assessment.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Installation of Boardwalk to Replace Eroding Riverbank Trail at Grand River Nature Preserve

Fitzpatrick stated that joint discussion between Ada and Cascade Township's has resulted in consensus that the most cost-effective solution to the continuing bank erosion in close proximity to the existing paved trail is to re-locate the trail away from the eroding bank. He noted that the re-routed trail would extend for some distance through wetland area.

It was moved by Haga, seconded by Smottlach, to pursue development of a plan for re-routing the paved trail in the Grand River Nature Preserve away from the eroding river bank.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Update of Roselle Park Master Plan

Fitzpatrick presented a proposal from Wes Steer, at O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, to assist the Township in updating the overall Master Plan for Roselle Park, for a lump sum fee of \$5,775.

Following discussion, it was moved by LeBlanc, seconded by Terwilliger, to approve engaging the services of OCBA as set forth in the proposal.

Motion passed unanimously.

(Note: LeBlanc left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.)

PREPARATION OF 2017 PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Fitzpatrick stated he and Ferro were continuing work on the new Plan document, and that there remained substantial work to complete. It was agreed that the plan sections would be sent to all members by email, prior to being placed on the web site for public review.

PARK DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fitzpatrick summarized his written monthly report on department activities.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Crosby reported that according to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, the balance in the Ada Fund that is maintained by the Conservancy for projects in Ada Township is \$60,350.

Damstra reported that the Advisory Board may be approached soon by Kent County Parks regarding our interest in partnering again with the County in providing local matching funds for another DNR grant application for funds for further land acquisition of riverfront land on Pettis Ave.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk