

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2016 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Ada Township Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, January 14, 2016, at Ada Township Hall, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm by Chairperson Crosby

ROLL CALL

Members present: Crosby, Damstra, Haga, Roe, Steketee
Members absent: Bergman, Ladd, LeBlanc and VandenBerge
Staff present: Planning Director Ferro, Parks Director Fitzpatrick
Public present: None

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12 AND DECEMBER 10 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Damstra, seconded by Steketee, to approve the minutes of the November 12 and December 10 meetings as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

Roselle Park Resource Building

Fitzpatrick provided an update on the status of construction on the Roselle Park Resource Building, and the status of fundraising efforts. He stated that furnishings are now being selected for ordering. He noted the matching challenge grant campaign is completed, and was successful. He reported on a criminal incident at the building, involving breaking the entry door glass and theft of tools in the building.

Fitzpatrick stated he has started to book non-profit organizations for use of the building this year. He stated the Parks Committee has concluded that building rental for private events should not be accepted this year.

Draft Ordinance and Bylaws for Parks/Open Space Consolidation

Haga noted that follow-up with legal counsel on revisions to the draft ordinance and bylaws has not yet been completed. Crosby suggested the use of a subcommittee from the Advisory Board and Parks Committee to review the draft documents and provide input, before meeting with legal counsel.

There was concurrence on February 4 for a subcommittee meeting.

KENT COUNTY PDR PROGRAM APPLICATION FROM PATRICK FARRELL, 80 ACRES AT 9073 AND 9197 2 MILE RD. – RECOMMENDATION TO TOWNSHIP BOARD

Ferro presented information on the application to the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights program for the Patrick Farrell property at the northwest corner of Two Mile Rd. and McCabe Ave.

Ferro stated the proposed PDR project aligns with our open space preservation goals and priorities. He noted that if the project moves ahead and qualifies for Federal grant funding, the County is likely to request local matching funds from the Township. He stated that the Township previously offered to provide local matching funds in the amount of \$23,800 from the Open Space Preservation Fund for a County PDR acquisition on the Jakeway property, further to the west on Two Mile Rd., but the project didn't qualify for Federal grant funding and was not completed.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by Damstra to recommend the approval of the project by the Township Board.

Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED FY 2016-17 BUDGET.

Ferro presented the proposed expenditure budget for the Open Space Fund for the next fiscal year. He pointed out that funds are proposed in the budget for design of public access improvements at the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve on Alta Dale Ave., installation of a community entry sign and landscaping on the open space site at the corner of Knapp St. and Grand River Dr., as well as a new identification sign at the Grand River Drive entry to the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve.

It was noted in discussion that the existing sign at the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve entry could potentially be re-installed to be perpendicular to the street rather than parallel, with a second face added to it, as an inexpensive solution to improving the sign's visibility.

Ferro noted that the budget also identifies funding for acquisition of open space land, should a priority opportunity present itself in the coming year. It was also noted that personnel related expenditures have not yet been added to the budget.

Following discussion, it was moved by Damstra, seconded by Roe, to recommend approval of the proposed FY 2016-17 budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

Federal legislation for enhanced income tax provisions for donated conservation easements:

Ferro reported on the recent enactment of Federal legislation that gives permanent status to the previous year-by-year status of the provisions in the Federal tax code concerning deductions of the value of donated conservation easements. He noted this change could provide added incentives to property owners to donate conservation easements.

State legislation limiting local government communications to electorate concerning ballot proposals:

The recent enactment of State legislation limiting local government communications to the public regarding pending ballot proposals in the period 60 days prior to an election was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT

It was noted that the next regular meeting of the Advisory Board would be March 10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk