

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, February 9, 2017, 4:00 p.m., at Ada Township Park, 1180 Buttrick Ave SE, Ada, MI.

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

1. ROLL CALL

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

Members absent: Damstra, Jacobs, LeBlanc, VandenBerge

Staff present: Fitzpatrick, Ferro

Public Present: Roger Sabine, Kent County Parks Department

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2017 AND JANUARY 24, 2017 MEETINGS

It was moved by Haga, seconded by Crosby, to approve the minutes of the January 12 and January 24 meetings.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. REQUEST FOR LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR LAND ACQUISITION GRANT APPLICATION TO MICHIGAN DNR, FOR EXPANSION OF CHIEF HAZY CLOUD PARK, KENT COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

Roger Sabine, Kent County Parks Director, presented a request for local matching funds from Ada Township, to be used as local match for a Michigan DNR grant application he plans to submit by April 1, for grant funding to acquire additional land for Chief Hazy Cloud Park expansion on Pettis Ave. Sabine stated the acquisition would be an additional 124 acres of land between Pettis Ave. and the Grand River, to the northwest of the land that is planned to be acquired by the end of this year with grant funds that were approved by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board in December, 2016.

Sabine stated he is requesting \$400,000 in matching funds from the Township, toward the estimated \$4 million cost of the project. He stated that if the grant is awarded and the cost of the project comes in at less than \$4 million, the matching funds from Ada Township would be reduced proportionately.

In discussion, Crosby noted that this type of land is our highest priority for open space preservation.

Ferro noted that the goal of a continuous greenbelt corridor along the Grand River north and east of the river has been a goal in our community recreation plans since 1990 or 1995.

In discussion of schedule, Sabine noted that he would like to have a recommendation considered by the Township Board at the March 13 Board meeting, following consideration of the grant application by the County Board's Finance Committee on March 7. He stated the grant application would be considered for authorization by the County Board of Commissioners on March 23.

Following discussion, it was moved by Steketee, seconded by Crosby, that the Advisory Board recommend providing local matching funds of \$400,000 to Kent County for the proposed grant-funded project, comprised of approximately \$60,350 from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan's "Ada" project fund, and the balance from the Land Preservation Fund, subject to the matching funds being reduced proportionately to any reduction in the cost of the acquisition project below \$4 million.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SETTLERS' GROVE RIVERFRONT PARK

Ferro presented draft design development drawings prepared by Progressive AE for the proposed Settlers' Grove Riverfront Park. He noted that the design work is being completed now with the goal of incorporating portions of the project into construction plans and bid documents for construction this year at the same time that Amway is constructing the planned River Street adjacent to the park. Ferro stated that portions of the project that could be constructed this year include the pedestrian plazas adjacent to the street, including a plaza that would be the new location for the school house that has been given to the Township for public use.

6. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Fitzpatrick and Ferro reviewed with the Advisory Board the draft 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan that has been placed on the Township web site. Schmottlach noted ~~that~~ there are problems with the survey results analysis shown on the graphs presented, due to the fact that an importance rating of "Neutral" on several of the survey questions resulted in a "neutral" rating inaccurately inflating the calculated overall importance ratings of different response items.

Staff and Mike Terwilliger indicated they would look into correcting this inaccuracy.

Ferro and Fitzpatrick indicated there would be some continuing refinements of the draft Plan document during the public review period. It was noted that some public input has already been received that will be incorporated into the refinements.

Haga commented that we need to have the refined draft prepared in time for inclusion in the Township Board packet for the February 27 meeting.

Ferro presented a proposed resolution for consideration by the Advisory Board to recommend approval of the draft Plan.

(Note: Steketee left the meeting during the above discussion.)

It was moved by Haga, seconded by Crosby, to adopt the proposed Resolution to recommend approval of the 2017 Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan.

On a roll call vote on the motion, the vote was:

Yes: Crosby, Haga, Nowak, Roe, Schmottlach and Terwilliger.

No: 0

Absent: Damstra, Jacobs, LeBlanc, Steketee, VandenBerge

(Note: Nowak left the meeting at 5:28 pm)

7. PARK DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fitzpatrick summarized his monthly Director's report.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Haga reported that the Township Board's Personnel Committee has recommended the Park Director position be re-classified to a higher compensation level in the Pay Classification System, at a level commensurate with other Township Department Heads. Several Advisory Board members expressed their support for this change.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Terwilliger, seconded by Crosby, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk