

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2016 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Ada Township Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at Ada Township Hall, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

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

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Bergman, Crosby, Damstra, Haga, Roe, Steketee

Members absent: Ladd, LeBlanc and VandenBerge

Staff present: Planning Director Ferro, Parks Director Fitzpatrick

Parks Committee members present: Craig Smottlach, Wayne Nowak, Norm Rhoades

Public present: Eileen McNeal, Seyferth PR

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14 MEETING**

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the January 14 meeting as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

**REQUEST FOR MATCHING FUNDS FOR KENT COUNTY GRANT APPLICATION TO MICHIGAN DNR, FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND ON PETTIS AVE. TO EXPAND CHIEF HAZY CLOUD PARK**

Ferro presented the request from the Kent County Parks Department for renewal of the Township's commitment from last year for \$300,000 in matching funds to be used as local match for Kent County's application to the Michigan DNR for grant funds to acquire the riverfront portion of the former Rieth Riley property on Pettis Ave for expansion of Chief Hazy Cloud Park.

Ferro noted that the County is proposing total matching funds of \$922,500 toward the grant, \$300,000 of which would come from Ada Township. He stated that if the grant is awarded, acquisition of the property and the Ada Township expenditure for local matching funds would not occur until the summer of 2017 at the earliest, in Fiscal Year 2017-18. He noted the Open Space Preservation Fund will have a balance at the end of the current fiscal year of about \$918,000.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by Roe, to recommend that the Township Board commit \$300,000 in funding from the Land Preservation Fund as local match for the Kent County application to the DNR for grant funds to acquire 145 acres of land between Pettis Ave. and the Grand River for expansion of Chief Hazy Cloud Park.

Motion passed unanimously.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

Farrell Agricultural Preservation Easement with Kent County

Ferro reported that the property owner had decided not to pursue the Purchase of Development Rights transaction with Kent County. As a result, there is no longer a request for matching funds from Kent County pending for this project.

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.

Carl Creek Crossing Preserve/Country Homes of Ada Irrigation System

Ferro reported he has not yet been able to prepare a letter to the Country Homes of Ada Condo Association regarding the Township's expectations regarding activities the Association undertakes in the easement area that may be subject to DEQ permitting requirements.

**PLANNING SESSION FOR MILLAGE RENEWAL BALLOT PROPOSAL AND  
PARKS/OPEN SPACE PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION (JOINT SESSION WITH PARKS  
COMMITTEE)**

Board members discussed alternative millage renewal strategies in join discussion with members of the Parks Committee present. The consensus of those present was that a combined millage for Parks, Recreation and Open Space in the amount of .65 mills, which is the sum of the original separate "Parks and Recreation" and "Parks and Land Preservation" millages, be pursued, with a millage time period of 10 years.

Ferro was requested to prepare projections of future revenues, expenditures and fund balance for a combined Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation fund, to be reviewed at a meeting of the millage renewal subcommittee on March 18, at 8:30 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk