

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017 MEETING**

A meeting of the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 11, 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, Jacobs, LeBlanc, Nowak, Roe, Schmottlach, Steketee, Terwilliger  
Members absent: Damstra, Haga, VandenBerge  
Staff present: Fitzpatrick, Ferro, McCormick, Schulte  
Public Present: None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Terwilliger, seconded by Jacobs, to approve the agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2017 MEETING**

It was moved by LeBlanc, seconded by Steketee, to approve the minutes of the March 9 meeting as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

**4. STATUS OF RIVERFRONT PARK DESIGN**

Fitzpatrick provided an update regarding the status of design work on the proposed Settlers' Grove riverfront park. He noted that a grant application was not submitted based on concerns that an application would not score sufficient points to be competitive. It was noted that other possible funding options would need to be explored, including a separate millage or bond issue.

Fitzpatrick reported that a site visit to the park site was held by Township staff and consultants with several Advisory Board members and interested residents to review the condition of the river bank, options for stabilizing the eroding bank, and potential impacts on significant trees.

Crosby and Ferro reported on the discussion regarding the schoolhouse and its use that was held at the Ada Historical Society membership meeting earlier in the day. Ferro stated he and DDA Board Chair Kullgren presented information on the Township's proposed re-use of the building for public restrooms and a small multi-use space on a prominent plaza in the riverfront park. It was noted that a private party has proposed using the building for private development purposes at a different location.

Crosby stated that members of the Historical Society Board commented individually regarding their views on the Township's proposed use, but the Board as a whole did not take any action to express a position regarding the matter of who should own the building or how it should be used.

In discussion of the schoolhouse, Nowak commented that he was somewhat uncomfortable with using the building for bathrooms.

Jacobs suggested the possibility of the Advisory Board supporting the location in the park as proposed, without speaking to the use of the building.

LeBlanc commented that having the building located in the park at the intersection of two streets creates a very distinctive visual feature in the park.

Roe commented that she supports the building staying the planned location in the park.

Following discussion, it was moved by Jacobs, supported by Nowak, to recommend that the schoolhouse be located on the proposed park for public use as shown on the park master plan, with the specific use of the building to be determined in the future.

Motion passed unanimously.

**5. BID RESULTS FOR KNAPP ST./GRAND RIVER DR. LANDSCAPE RESTORATION/ENTRY SIGN**

Ferro presented a summary of the bids for the Knapp St./Grand River Dr. Landscape Restoration/Community Entry Sign project. He noted that the low bid of \$30,724 from Knapp Valley Landscaping is well over the pre-bid cost estimate of \$20,229. Ferro referenced the bid analysis table prepared by Viridis Design Group, showing that the \$17,400 cost of the masonry sign wall accounts for the entire amount by which the total bid exceeded the pre-bid estimate. Ferro pointed out that the cost-sharing formula that was approved by the Township Board places the entire cost of the masonry sign wall on the Township General Fund.

In discussion, Nowak suggested looking at the option of placing the masonry sign wall on a pad on the ground surface, rather than pouring a full-depth concrete foundation. Roe commented this seems like a very high price to pay for an entry sign.

**6. INPUT SESSION REGARDING ROSELLE PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE WITH WES STEER, OCBA**

Wes Steer presented an overview of the areas of focus being looked at in updating the Master Plan for Roselle Park.

**9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT - None**

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk