

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2016 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Ada Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, August 11, 2016, 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: Betty Jo Crosby, Randy Damstra, George Haga, Paul LeBlanc, Wayne Nowak, Elise Roe, Kraig Smottlach, Rick Steketee, Mike Terwilliger,
Members absent: Catherine Jacobs, Jeff VandenBerge

Staff present: Jim Ferro, Mark Fitzpatrick, Rob McCormick

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE

Haga noted he had taken the oath of office at the Township Clerk's office. Roe noted that Jacobs and Smottlach have yet to take the oath of office.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consent.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

It was moved by Haga, seconded by Smottlach, to elect Betty Jo Crosby to serve as Vice Chairperson.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 14 MEETING

It was moved by LeBlanc, seconded by Terwilliger, to approve the minutes of the July 14 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Board members reviewed election results for the two millage proposals on the August primary election ballot. It was noted that both proposals passed by greater than a 2-1 margin, and that the park, recreation and land preservation proposal passed by nearly the same margin as the public safety millage. Board members thanked members Roe, Crosby and Damstra for their volunteer efforts with the campaign committee. Damstra noted there were financial contributions to the campaign committee that helped make the promotion effort a success.

PROCESS AND SCHEDULE FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Fitzpatrick presented an overview of his proposed schedule and process for completing the new Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan. He noted there are minimum requirements for the plan content set by the Michigan DNR in order to have an approved plan that qualifies the Township to receive Michigan DNR grant funds. He pointed out the plan was to be completed and submitted to the DNR by March 1, 2017, in order for the Township to be eligible to submit a grant application by the April 1 grant application deadline.

Following discussion, it was moved by Terwilliger, seconded by Haga, to accept the proposed schedule and process outline for completion of the new plan.

In discussion of the motion, LeBlanc asked what measures are proposed to be used for public involvement in the planning process. Fitzpatrick stated he anticipated holding a public information meeting on the plan goals and objectives. LeBlanc suggested the possibility of having a booth at special events such as Beers at the Bridge or the Roselle Park River Festival. He noted the DNR likes to see multiple methods of involving the public in the process.

On a vote on the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Damstra noted he had been approached by Roger Sabine, Kent County Parks Director, regarding possible collaboration with Ada Township in acquiring additional riverfront open space along the Pettis Avenue corridor. In discussion, Board members expressed interest in a discussion with Kent County Parks, but also noted that we would need to follow the process in our Rules of Procedure in considering additional land for acquisition, and address it as well in the plan update process.

Damstra indicated he would arrange a meeting of a small subcommittee of the Board with Sabine.

STAFF REPORTS

Park Director's Report:

Fitzpatrick summarized his written status report on park facilities and programs.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

Steketee thanked Betty Jo Crosby for her years of service as Chair of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board, since its creation in 2004.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk