

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2013

Meeting called to order by Mr. Scott Gerlach, Chairman at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Scott Gerlach, Chairman
 Jennie Urtel, Secretary
 Tim Miner – Excused absence
 Dean Whitcomb
 Rebecca Wilder
 Steve Fletcher – Excused absence
 Carl Towne
 Nancy Kessler – Excused absence
 Paul Peters

Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Tabled until February meeting

Announcements and Communications:

Planning Commission to allow sidewalk funds to be used by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for bike path & repairs

Call to Public:

None

Reports:

Winterfest:

- Approximately 1600 people attended a bit less than last year. Approximately 575 cars were counted.
- Pancake breakfast raised \$400.00; Chili cook-off contest raised \$1050.00.
- New Hudson Inn won people's choice vote and celebrity vote for best chili

Community Center:

- The 3 participating communities' are to appoint 3 people (1 elected official and 2 at large) to create official Community Center Committee

PAB Subcommittee's report

- Park Fees sub-committee to be meeting soon

Approval of Agenda:

- Remove items 10d and 10e
- Move item 10a to 9a

Voice vote: Ayes Unanimous

Nays None

Unfinished Business:

- Currently looking for candidates to replace Rebecca Wilder
- All members need to get priorities list of “Potential Parks & Rec Projects” to Chris Doozan
- Chris D. handed out a plan showing the bike path inventory throughout Lyon Township
- Chris D handed out a plan showing the proposed layout of the DTE property on Grand River. DTE is not looking to “give” property away; they are looking for fair market price. DTE last is still is limited use today for staging

New Business:

Dan Perrault of Kompan and Sean Bahjam, owner of Hometown Bicycle (810-225-2441) present to discuss BMX track

- Presenting the possibility of a BMX track in Atchison Park
- The area of land required for track is approx 2 acres
- Maintenance is minimal; parents of track participants tend to help with maintaining the erosion.
- Participants that use the track tend to be competitors not casual riders
- Track is a structured race track with starting block and finish line. The starting area will have minimal asphalt area then turns to dirt for the completion of the course.
- Question was asked if there are any tracks close to Lyon Township - Closest tracks are in Lansing, Waterford and possibly an indoor track in Detroit.
- Question was asked if they knew the fees Waterford charges for use of their track – not sure of the fees, they do require the track to be reserved ahead of time to allow for proper personnel to be present (someone to raise and lower starting gate). They do however have posted open ride times. Track does need to be staffed during these open ride times as well
- Question was asked if there was a club or group in the area representing BMX racers – there currently is no dominant club in Southeast Michigan but it is a fast growing sport.
- Question was asked if certifications are required – there are no certifications needed for track although if the track is to be used for BMX sanctioned races the AMA (non-motorized motorcross association) will look at track to make sure it meets guidelines.
- Question was asked if BMX and freestyle biking could be combined – BMX and freestyle are different types of bike activities. BMX is racing with a set serpentine type track and freestyle is biking around obstacles (i.e. Ramps, curbs, etc). Suggestion was made if BMX track is created maybe an area near the track could be created for freestyle biking (no personnel required for freestyle biking)
- Suggestion was made that a vendor could be brought in to create track and Parks & Rec receives a portion of fees and / or profits

Dean Whitcomb presented from South Lyon Junior League proposal of Matching Fund Agreement

- S.L. Junior league has been in area for 27 years and has approx. 1000 kids participating in baseball and softball.
- Practices and games are held in community park fields and school fields. S.L. Junior League recently partnered with McHattie Park to refurbish their field.
- S.L. Junior League is in need of more fields for play
- Current fields in Atchison Park are not playable.
- S.L. Junior League installed drain tile in Atchison Park fields before they were abandoned
- S.L. Junior League approved a partnership with Lyon Township (approved agreement passed out to committee members)
- Question was asked if scoreboard is included – No
- Total project budget is \$15,000.00. Lyon Township is asked to provide half of project budget, \$7,500.00. Project to consist of; new and repaired fencing, regrading of infield and outfield with existing and new topsoil.
- Next step is to come to long term agreement; Lyon Township to waive fees for a period of time and S.L. Junior League to mow fields for a period of time.
- Question was asked what type of grass seed is to be used – S.L. Junior League will use what Lyon Township requests. S.L. Junior League will use parent volunteers to seed the fields
- S.L. Junior League would like to use the fields for tournaments as well as they cannot use the school fields.
- There will be open times the fields can be used for other groups for a fee

Carl Towne motions the agreement be sent to the Township Board for approval, Jennie Urtel seconds:

Voice vote: Ayes Unanimous

Nays None

- Chris Doozan recommends a cover letter be sent with proposal and speak with April to get the agreement on the agenda for the Township Board's next meeting

Discussion of changing the meeting date and time: unofficial time and date change to 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Jennie will send an e-mail to all committee members to see if that proposed date and time will work.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:20 p.m.

- A voice vote was called: Ayes Unanimous
Nays None

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer Urtel
PAB Secretary