

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 21, 2014**

Meeting called to order by Mr. Scott Gerlach, Secretary at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:     Scott Gerlach, Chairman  
                  Paul Peters, Vice Chairman, unexcused absence  
                  Jennie Urtel, Secretary  
                  John Bell  
                  Jason Bibby  
                  John Hicks  
                  Carl Towne, unexcused absence  
                  Laura Haynes  
                  Julie Foley  
                  Chris Doozan, McKenna representative

Approval of July 24, 2014 meeting minutes:

Voice vote:   Ayes   Unanimous  
                  Nays   None

Approval of Agenda:

Voice vote to approve agenda with the following additions and deletions; add item 7c – Sean Morgan, Disc Golf

Ayes   Unanimous  
Nays   None

Announcements and Communications:

- None

Presentations:

7a. Donna Folland – Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Senior Planner

- The 5 year Recreation plan was approved in 2013 and now working on 10 year Master Plan for all county parks, including Lyon Oaks County Park – information packet distributed
- The Master Plan is a 6 phase process that takes approximately 2 years to complete. Highlights of the phasing are:
- Public input and connecting to local community to determine park and community relationship

- Launching public engagement including park surveys. Over 300 surveys are received back from the public with very good information. OCPR will share the results of the survey with the PAB. The goal for regional park amenities is to not duplicate amenities with local parks
- Internal concept development of the park and facilities which also includes another phase of public input. Currently there are 4 county parks going through this process.
- Budgeting
- Starting in the spring of 2015 the planning for the golf course will begin
- Summer of 2015 the park survey will begin
- There is a big interest in park illumination to extend the dog park and park hours
- Wanting to connect more with local businesses. Businesses interested in the local area's quality of life to attract and retain employees. Parks play a big part in that.
- Some PAB comments and ideas; More utilization of Lyon Oaks clubhouse rental for events. There is a business expo hosted by the South Lyon Area Chamber of Commerce at the high school. Lyon Township would like to host similar event in the future but does not have the space. Perhaps reduced rates for Lyon Township to rent the clubhouse for such events could be a benefit.
- Signage a big concern – don't always see the park as the signage is sparse leading to park.
- Business development; planning, recreation programming, park operation are areas to develop partnerships
- Collaborating with OCPR can be beneficial for acquiring grants.

7b. Adam Smith – not in attendance

7c. Sean Morgan – Disc Golf

- Sean is part of the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDA)
- Great sport that anyone can do
- Disc golf course costs less than a tennis court, can have up to 100 people on the course at a time, very cost effective overall.
- Was thinking of Elkow Park as a possible location but after learning the trees are part of a nature preserve and very dense it would not be an appropriate location
- Atchison Park a possibility, will take a look around
- There are currently 23 courses in a 20 mile radius around Lyon Township, none within 7 miles. Lyon Township would be a good location for a course
- A mix of open and treed area for a challenging course
- Disc golf courses are low maintenance, no need to mow weekly. Garbage cans throughout course would need emptying
- Good source of revenue
- Typical acreage needed for a disc golf course is approximately 1 acre per hole (18-20 acres total)
- Hole post needs to be buried approx. 2 feet deep. Due to the dump requirements we can only dig 18 inches into the ground.
- Sean will investigate Atchison Park and report his findings at the September PAB meeting

Call to Public:

- None

Reports:

9a. SLARA update:

No update

9b. Community Center:

No update

9c Liaison Reports

9ci. DDA

- The bike path will be grubbed / cleaned in Atchison Park. It will open up the path and will be adding some benches.
- PAB comment – focus on the Northwest corner of the park bike path. The hill is dangerous for bikers due to speed and limited visibility

9cii. Planning Commission

- Stoneleigh East – 50 units
- Reviewed condo documents for Riverwood which is North of 10 mile and Currie
- Non-residential, Henrob submitted phase 3 of their development
- 217 permits to date
- Traffic discussion regarding 11 mile & Milford Rd, traffic lights being installed at 10 mile & Napier and 10 mile & Griswold.
- Can Township ask War Dog Memorial not to park on Milford Rd? It is a traffic safety hazard.
- Discussion regarding what is needed to install traffic lights. 11 Mile & Milford Rd intersection is hazardous and has numerous accidents. According to the Township based on studies the intersection does not qualify for a light. Township will take another look. Highly recommended residents attend Township Trustee meeting to voice concerns
- RCOC – Road Commission of Oakland County will take complaints online and phone. The more voices the better.
- Traffic needs to meet a set number of “warrants” established by the County

9ciii. Board of Trustee’s

- Police and fire millage passed
- Ashbury – Grand River near Kent Lake is looking for a path to cross Grand River, currently being investigated
- Orchards of Lyon has a path through their subdivision which will eventually link to Arbors of Lyon
- Medial Office special land use approved
- Text amended for brew pubs
- Spring Meadows in New Hudson is starting development process
- Reinvigorate capital improvement plan
- Invocation to start Township Board meeting – voted down at this time

- General plan for money from millage this is now available will go to the park fund. PAB should look at projects and cost.
- There is money in the PAB budget for South Lyon Junior League to partner with for field improvements

9d. Lyon Township items from Rose Case

- No update

9e. PAB Subcommittee Report

9ei. Sports Subcommittee

- Panther's is going a good job of maintaining field
- SLJL is planning on fall baseball, need agreement
- Assuming Panther's contract sent to Lannie Young for signature

9eii. Field/Pavilion Fee Structure Sub-committee

- No update

9eiii Park Illumination Subcommittee

- Handed out plan for illumination. Looking at pavilions to see what is needed. Will report findings in September
- Hoping to implement March – May
- Requested to have a 30 minute workshop at the September meeting to look at overall park options
- Misc discussion regarding an ice rink. It has been looked at before. May be something to look at in the future.

9eiv Movies in the Park Subcommittee

- No update – Subcommittee put on hold

9ev Trails and Non Motorized Pathways subcommittee

- There is a meeting in Howell on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Jason will most likely be able to attend
- Initial discussion and inventory existing trails in process
- Sign update – DDA will pay for 1 sign only. Need Township Board to approved cost of 1 sign. Minor verbiage change – passed out to PAB for comment / discussion

Motion to approve new park signage verbiage

A voice vote was called: Ayes Unanimous

Nays None

## 9f. Event update

- Zombie run – net \$8,000.00 to PAB but some given back as event organizers did not need full days of set up and tear down. 1 day refunded.
- May come back next year with different timing (avoid fireworks, etc)
- May also hold other types of events in the park
- Currently working with LEO for next year
- Kitefest – not sure of exact money raised. Wade Shows did not make their goal. May split carnival and Kitefest. Rethinking details needed

## New Business:

### Item 10a – Michigan Arbor Day Alliance

- Lyon Township has sparse tree canopy
- Arbor Day has grants available
- Challenge tree planting – try to collect coins during the months of January through April. The team that raises the most is awarded tree planting. Something to think about for next year as this year's application deadline has passed

### Item 10b – Economic Development Corporation Crowdfunding Michigan

- Local residents are part of development. Raise funds through online crowdfunding. There are matching grants available from MEDC up to \$100,000.00
- Patroncity creates campaign to solicit donations. Can look at crowdfunding.com
- Oakland County Conservancy has seedlings in the spring available

## Old Business:

### Item 11a – Status of park map

- Complete
- Look at options throughout park, could a high ropes course be built, disc golf, etc
- Schedule a 30 minute workshop during September's PAB meeting to brainstorm different ideas. What would be concurrent with Master Plan what could go into commercial zoned northeast corner.
- Sledding hill or ski activities?
- There currently is no dedicated park manager, could be a benefit to have a part-time position to help overall management and operation of park.
- Add Sean Morgan to September agenda

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:17 p.m.

A voice vote was called: Ayes Unanimous

Nays None

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer Urtel

PAB Secretary