



MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

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RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

- 1) Meeting Called to Order @ 5:30 pm
- 2) Roll Call: Pete LaRue, Dave Wiegand, Mike Springer
Jason McCarthy, Planning and Zoning Administrator

Absent: Todd Carruth, Dan Adamini
- 3) Approval of Agenda:
Motion: to approve the agenda with the addition of the word Agenda in the title.
LaRue, Moved / Wiegand, Supported **Carried; Unanimously**
- 4) Previous Meeting Minutes – June 28, 2016:
Motion: To approve June 28, 2016 Minutes with the addition of an e for Pete LaRue present.
Wiegand, Moved / LaRue, Supported **Carried; Unanimously**
- 5) Priviledge Comment:
- 6) Public Comment:
 - a) Tony Harry was please that both the Recreation Committee and the Planning Commission supported the using Marquette County ORV Ordinance.
- 7) Unfinished Business
 - a) Lions RA Hockey Equipment Storage on hold until winter.
 - b) The painting of the Pickle Ball Court Lines is in the hands of Manager Girard at this point. Ms. Bonsall needs to get a hold of Randy.
 - c) LaRue is disappointed in the maintenance of the Warming Building. McCarthy offered to type up the checklist and get it to the Committee by the next meeting. Schwemwood Park maintenance was also sited.
 - d) Springer walked the 2014 – 2016 MNRTF pathway trail recently installed at Schwemwood Park. It is a nice hard packed aggregate. The western end of the pathway is still extremely steep. Boulders block both ends to motorized traffic. Wiegand and McCarthy will order two picnic tables and two benches.

Mission Statement:

“Recognize and meet the needs of the Township community.”

Springer noted that motorized vehicles are driving up the backtop pathway. McCarthy recommended boulders. Both trash cans at Schwemwood Park, need to be emptied. Wiegand recommended a daily check of both parks. Schwemwood Park is not even listed on the time schedule. LaRue emphasized that the lack of full maintenance of our parks has been going on too long.

Wiegand doesn't see this as intentional. An out of sight, out of mind awareness. Communicating with the maintenance department may enlist their support for our parks needs. McCarthy noted that if people saw the Township at both parks daily, they would be less likely to damage and dump items.

Springer will come up with a draft maintenance checklist for Schwemwood Park and contact Randy Girard about the trashcans that need to be emptied there.

- e) Springer noted that our 2014/2016 MNRTF commitment calls for educational signage about the wetland and surrounding environment. McCarthy remembers needing three signs total as part of the project scope. He will contact The Superior Watershed Partnership for information explaining the habit. The signs cost \$15,000 each. McCarthy will put together some content for the signs by next meeting.

LaRue requested photos of the Lions Club building the original shelter. He and Jason will get some photos together for the next year's sign at Lions RA.

Springer expressed concern that our MDNR grant coordinator did not have everything she needed for the 2017 MNRTF Schwemwood Project Agreement. McCarthy noted that the Board heard presentations by both of us, yet the resolution was not included in the Board minutes. Randy Ritari will correct that and McCarthy will get the needed resolution to our coordinator Merrie Carlock.

- f) Wiegand and McCarthy reported that the US41 Planning Update is on hold until we receive the Parsons Brinkerhoff report that the Downtown Development Authority has contracted for. The Committee will not see anything until mid October.

McCarthy proposed that the number one grant for the underpass be a State Transportation Alternatives Program, TAP, grant. It will be written by our Fifty One Agency, which is the County Road Commission, and sponsored by The Michigan Department of Transportation. McCarthy has been working with Vince Bevins on the underpass project. He noted that the Township has to come up with a half a million dollars, \$500,000 as a match. That is where he hopes to involve users groups, the business community and trail networks in fund raising. Springer noted that the MNRTF Development grant guidelines offer up to \$300,000. Grants for priority projects have been awarded up to \$500,000. Twenty five percent match funds for a \$500,000 total grant would be \$125,000, less than raised for the Trailhead land acquisition back in 2010.

Wiegand and McCarthy discussed possible grant funding sources and the match money needed. Iron Ore Recreation Authority, Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund, Passport grants and trail user support are all possibilities. McCarthy's friends have been inquiring about the progress on the underpass.

Springer would like would to put together a list of possible funding sources. McCarthy will put together a list and talk to Carol Fulsher about the IOHRA's involvement. Wiegand noted that once we get the report in October we will have to hit the ground running in looking for funding. McCarthy noted that three applications the TAP, MNRTF and Passport, have to be submitted by April 1. Pete O'dovero has offered property designated to the trail behind the America Mall on the new Wright Street. He reminded us that the Dagenais Family gave us a deal on our trailhead property and may want to continue their assistance in their new location.

Springer noted that time period that is involved in the two MDNR grants we have found success with. As a result of the Board's current CIP project, he would like for the Committee to present the 2017 CIP before we get to this point next year. He would like to inform the Planning Commission and the Board that the Committee is working towards large grants next year and would like them to save some Recreation Funds for next next year.

LaRue inquired about a restaurant in the America Mall. It would be right off the proposed trail and near gas stations. McCarthy has been on the phone speaking to five people from AT&T, to little response from the company.

Wiegand suggested waiting until we have the development plan in October before going to the Board with any proposals. The Committee agreed

- g) The Committee would like to recognize the supporters and volunteers that took part in our May 21, 2016 parks clean up project. Springer will write a draft letter and McCarthy will Drop Box his photos to Todd Carruth.
- h) The recommendation of the Recreation Committee was not to rent out the Warming Building. There is a potential problem with hockey teams taking over the rink. The rink is scheduled for multiuse at different times. It would also hamper the use of the public restrooms in the building if a private event was taking place. Springer will generate a draft letter to the Board regarding the renting the warming building and ice rick. McCarthy will help edit it before it goes to the Board.
- i) McCarthy will generate a letter to the Board regarding the ORV ordinance that the Road Committee, Recreation Committee and Planning Commission all unanimously support.
- j) Springer provided three Capital Improvement Plans in hard copy. He noted that the 2014/2016 MNRTF is a done deal. We need to finish the project agreement items and then be reimbursed. In 2017 the Recreation Committee CIP will require the Board to find the money to implement what we have all committed to, projects at both Schwemwood Park and Lions Recreation Area.

Wiegand requested clarification on the CIP process and procedure. As a Planning Commissioner, he sees the CIP as a responsibility of the Planning Commission, which then forward it to the Board for their discussion and approval.

Superintendent Page had twenty CIP requests and the Recreation Committee had three. McCarthy will get the updated copies to the Planning Commission. LaRue wants us to dress up our CIP or any other presentation the Committee supporting our goals. He wants to help the Board and the Public to have a collective vision.

8) New Business

- a) Springer would like to see the Committee continue to move in the direction of in researching grants and community support.
- b) Springer would like to start writing grant applications and CIP projects as soon as possible. Wiegand noted we can not go beyond what has been approved in the Master Plan. McCarthy noted that the CIP is your long range plan. The state statue calls for six years on a CIP. Once that is approved by the Planning Commission and Board, updates to plans should be made.

9) Information Items/Reports: None

10) Public Comment: None

11) Committee Member Comment:

The Committee disgusted recognizing Eagle Mine/Ludin and the volunteers that contributed to the building of the warming building. The Community Days at Lions RA would be an oportune time to announce the names of the people that helped with the rink and building. Springer will start a list of names.

LaRue would like the Township to fix the damage at the ice rink. He would like to see Northern Michigan University meet the maintenance crew at the rink and explain how to fix what is broken.

Wiegand and LaRue pointed out numerous issues and the need to use the Zamboni over flooding the rink with the hose.

12) Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 6:30

LaRue, Moved / Wiegand, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

**Next Scheduled Meeting is Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 5:30 PM*

Respectfully submitted by Springer and Wiegand