

**Marquette Township Recreation Committee
Tuesday, March 15, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.
Marquette Township Community Center
Meeting Minutes**

Springer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Carruth, Pete LaRue, Dave Wiegand, Mike Springer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Adamini

STAFF PRESENT: Jason McCarthy, Planner and Zoning Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Eric Walters, Logistics Coordinator for the Iron Range Roll.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: *To Approve the Agenda with changing 2015 to 2016*

Wiegand, Moved / LaRue, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: February 16, 2016

MOTION: *Approve the minutes of February 16, 2016 with editing recommended by McCarthy*

Wiegand, Moved / Carruth, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT: Eric Walters noted 2016 is the third year for the Iron Range Roll. It is a family event celebrating National Trails Day on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. It is a fund raiser, providing over \$8,000.00 for the YMCA Reach and Rise youth mentoring program. Mr. Walters expressed appreciation for the continued support of Marquette Township and requested input from the Committee on how to improve the event.

Melissa DeMarse and Eric Walters will present to the Board tonight. Ms. DeMarse is the Director of the YMCA Reach and Rise Program. The Iron Range Roll was established a fund raiser event for the Reach and Rise youth mentoring program.

LaRue volunteered to work with Springer to facilitate the Iron Range Roll / National Trails Day in Marquette Township.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Wiegand has received an email from Superior Extrusion that the benches for the Warming Building are ready. He will pick them up and install them in the near future.

LaRue discussed the possibility of park benches with name plaques to provide funded amenities at Lions Field Recreation Area. He provided a brochure of fund raising benches at the previous meeting. The Committee agreed that this should be pursued this summer.

Wiegand noted that a group survey of the park would provide a better idea of what is needed. McCarthy offered to send a copy of the amenities that were included in the grant.

Wiegand suggested using landscape paint to identify a pathway in order to get cost estimates. He sees using part of the MDNR 2015 Passport award on pathways this summer. Placement of benches can be decided based on the pathway.

LaRue would like to have the Committee address parking and maintenance at Lions Field Recreation Area at our next meeting. He plans to discuss maintenance concerns with Manager Girard.

McCarthy has been meeting with Mike Brunet and the Noquemanon Trail Network, NTN, regarding the Schwemwood Park Trailhead. The current understanding is the Township will contract NTN to develop a more grade friendly approach from the parking lot to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. This will fulfill the majority of our 2014 MNRTF award obligations.

McCarthy sees this as a collaborative partnership to improve the Schwemwood Park and trailhead. Mike Brunet will be at our next meeting.

McCarthy has a meeting scheduled Thursday, April 21 at 1pm with various agencies to discuss the US41 underpass. Wiegand, LaRue and Springer plan to attend.

Wiegand noted the need for conceptual drawings. McCarthy explained how an increase in DDA funding would provide for funding the underpass study and conceptual renderings.

McCarthy has secured an easement, in concept, from Menards for the underpass to trailhead connector.

Wiegand updated the Committee on the joint workgroup and the Downtown Development Authority's request to raise the millage.

McCarthy discussed the importance of the DDA's proposed millage with the Business Association.

The Committee discussed the need to develop a Capital Improvement Plan. By state statute this is a responsibility of the Planning Commission, but initial development could be generated by the Recreation Committee and submitted to the Planning Commission for their review, approval, and eventual submission to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Springer discussed our annual spring clean-up at both parks. Schwemwood needs to be addressed first as National Trails Day is Saturday, June 4. McCarthy and Carol Kielpinski volunteered to help out at Schwemwood. McCarthy suggested contacting the manager of GFS for more clean-up volunteers. He will get the contact information to Springer. Carruth offered to contact the Boy Scouts and a youth church group.

The Committee decided to have clean up at both parks on May 21. Springer will handle Schwemwood and LaRue Lions Field.

The Committee decided to visit the Walmart Store Manager, Ross Rosenow for assistance with clean-up efforts at Schwemwood. Photos of the trash from the store should be taken prior to meeting with the manager. Springer and McCarthy volunteered to take some photos. The meeting date and time will be proposed at the April Committee meeting. Carruth sent out a text to four people he will try to get

involved in the May 21st clean-up.

INFORMATION/REPORTS:

Springer is assisting Powell Township and Bill Sanders with a Michigan National Resource Trust Fund application for Burns Landing. He is also working with the Friends of the Big Bay Pathway with some of their goals.

Springer will be meeting with the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority at 4:30 pm on March 24 at Country Inn and Suites. The purpose of the meeting is to thank the Authority for the \$25,000 grant, illustrate the projects that they helped fund, and to request that they continue with the millage for future support of trailhead projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT:

Wiegand sees lots of work coming up for us this summer. McCarthy sees a lot of community support for the projects we have planned.

LaRue will be looking into better maintenance for the warming building.

Wiegand suggested removing the black skate protector mats for the summer.

Wiegand would also like some follow up on the offer of heated garage space at Vandeenboom.

LaRue would like an update on the status of the disc golf course the Township donated \$2,000 towards.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:22 pm

LaRue, Moved / Carruth, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

Next Meeting: Tuesday, **April 19, 2016 @ 5:30 pm**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Springer and Wiegand