

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

Parks and Recreation Board

Minutes – March 16, 2017

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Present: Sam Iaquinto, Chuck Steuer, Tim Saville, CiCi Koenig, Laura Schwennesen, Jennifer DeLisle, Tawn Beliger

Absent: Doug Wilbur, David Gibbons

Also present: Tami Averill, Community Center Director

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented was made by Schwennesen. Second by Iaquinto. Passed.

4. First Call to the Public

None

5. Minutes of February 16, 2017 Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes with one correction made by Steuer. Second by Saville. Passed.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Communication

a. Planning Commission

Iaquinto reported that there has been no meeting since the February meeting. The next meeting will be held March 28 at 7:00p.m... It is a joint meeting with the Twp. Board of Trustees and will include a presentation on the plans for the new community park.

b. Downtown Planning Group

Saville reported that the DPG discussed a proposal/long range plan for an athletic trail.

A presentation on the proposed plan for the Community Park will take place at the March 28 meeting of the Twp. Board and the Planning Commission.

c. Board of Trustees

Beliger reported that Marlene Chockley and Jennifer Carlisle are currently handling the duties of the Twp. Manager position. A job description for the Twp. Manager position is being drafted.

d. Board of Education

Schwennesen reported that the Board is supportive of her serving on the Parks & Recreation Board.

8. Project Review & Discussion - Timeline & Budget Needs

a. River Walk – Tawn, Tim, Sam, Laura

Schwennesen reported that she met with Superintendent DeKeyser. The School District will be spearheading this project. They have received \$10,000 in grant money for improvement of the trail. The Parks & Recreation Board will participate by providing manpower, purchasing signage, and other needs. It was suggested that signage will be needed near the Bark Park and out on the Road.

Saville suggested contacting MDOT about getting millings and/or dirt to stockpile for use at the Bark Park and on the River Walk.

Iaquinto asked Schwennesen to ask Superintendent DeKeyser if the Schools would like the River Walk continued beyond the school property. This would involve some questions for the County Drain Commission. Would he like to approach them or would he like the Parks & Rec. Board to do it?

b. Park Behind Twp. Hall – Tracy, Marlene

Twp. Board approved the purchase of 3 additional properties.

c. Community Garden – CiCi, Tim, Sam

It was determined that a budget of \$2,000.00 for the year would be appropriate. A total of 18 beds will be constructed. Other possible amenities for the garden include: Native flowers (with signage) will be planted along the fence; a bug motel for beneficial bugs; a “Little Free Library” and a “Little Free Farm Stand.” Koenig will put an article together about the Community Garden for the April Courant.

d. Bark Park – Chuck, Randy, Laura

Schwennesen reported that the light will not be an easy fix. DTE has to make the repairs and reported that it was a low priority request on their list.

She also reported that School District has Ok'd reducing the trash pick-up to 1 bin and once/week pick-up. The lease will need to be amended to read that if the District receives complaints of the bin overflowing and have to act to get it emptied, that they will be reimbursed for the costs. Schwennesen will email a copy of the amended lease to the P & R Board members. Tami will talk to Jennifer Carlisle about getting the pickup changed.

e. Trail Plan – Tracy, CiCi, Tawn

Nothing new to report. There is the possibility of a speaker from Washtenaw County coming to speak with the Board about how to tie into the County/State trail plan.

f. New Community Park – Doug, Tawn, Tim

The presentation of the proposed plan will take place at the March 28 meeting of the Twp. Board and the Planning Commission.

9. Property Acquisition Policy

Once a property has been acquired by Northfield Township and designated as park land, the Parks and Recreation Board funds can then be utilized for the development of the park property. This could include, but is not limited to, landscaping, amenities, programming and activities.

Motion to accept the property acquisition policy was made by Beliger. Second by Steuer. Passed.

10. Financial Report and Financial Action Items

Beliger mentioned that Trustee Dockett had a question regarding the tree removal by the lake. Why has it not been completed? Saville responded that he had run into some setbacks with equipment issues and bad weather. He will be cutting the stump down further and turning it into a seat. He will also be donating and spreading straw and grass seed at the site.

11. Board Member Comments

Beliger: Inquired about the cost of the picnic tables at the Community Park. The Downtown Planning Group purchased them.

March 23 at 6:30p.m. State Representative Donna Lasenski will be holding a Q&A/Coffee Hour in the Board Room, 2nd Floor, Twp. Hall.

Saville: He will be bringing picnic tables from his home to the Bark Park and moving the other tables back to the Community Park.

DeLisle: Historical Society Members will be doing a presentation at the Library on Monday, March 20 for the Living Water Church's Sweet Monday group.

laquinto: Thanked everyone for working for the best interests of the people of the township.

12. Announcement of Next Meeting – April 20, 2017 @ 7:00p.m.

13. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steuer. Second by Koenig. Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07p.m.