

Ross Township Park  
3800 East Gull Lake Drive  
Hickory Corners, MI. 49060

Ross Township Park & Recreation Committee  
Minutes  
October 17, 2020, 2:30PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

Donna Tellam, Committee Chair, called the regular meeting of the Ross Township Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 2:30 p.m. at the Ross Township Park. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Donna Tellam, Chair  
Peggy Sattler  
Gail Hurn  
Christopher Gottwald  
Diana Langshaw - Ross Township Trustee (Committee Advisor)  
Lynn Harmon

Unable to Attend: Cathy Knauf

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Diana moved to approve the agenda. Seconded and **passed**.

**MINUTES FROM** September 3, 2020

Minutes from the September Park Committee meeting were reviewed, and Diana moved to accept them as presented. Seconded and **passed**.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

September income was \$940, and expenses were \$4,579.09, leaving an End of Month Balance of \$28,673. This covered salaries, maintenance, and some playground installation expenses.

Park revenues came in at \$45,357 for the 2020 season. In addition, the Park was given a \$17,000 grant from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, which was all spent on the Park by the appropriate deadline. This included:

- Parking stops
- New playground equipment
- Plumbing repairs
- ADA picnic table, new grill, Little Library materials, and bike rack
- Well cover

A \$5,000 grant was also given to the Park by the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club. It was used to cover concrete to install playground equipment, playground mulch and installation equipment rentals. The GLARC grant was exceeded by \$6,797.82.

The Playground Budget as of August 2020 for playground equipment and installation supplies was \$11,000, and was exceeded by \$4,483.64.

Chris moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded and **passed**.

Because of the resignation of Dave Senkewitz from the Ross Township Board, Donna Tellam will now act as Treasurer for the Park Committee, working hard with Dave to master the Township financial data reports. The 2021 Budget will be taken up at the January 2021 meeting. We will need \$10,000 for start-up costs in the Spring Of 2021.

### **Public Comments**

None given.

### **Old Business**

#### **a. Grant Final Report Process**

This meeting of the Park Committee was preceded by a Dedication ceremony for the new Playground. Donors of memorial park benches were able to see how they improve the park, too. All play equipment and the Little Library were in place. Around 125 people attended, including a great turnout of Gull Area Rotary Club and other volunteers who had contributed hours of hard work. The ribbon was cut by Donna Tellam, Rob Baker, the two Eagle Scouts, and Don Deibler of the GLARC.

Donna will start on the Final Report of expenditures of funds from the I. S. Gilmore Foundation Grant in November.

#### **b. Board/Park Rule and Rate Review**

An increase in the seasonal and daily rates were discussed and will be finalized at the November meeting.

Peggy reviewed the park rules information supplied by Rob Baker/Diana Langshaw, and passed this binder to Cathy for her to look over. Peggy and Cathy will talk more about what other area parks have in their regulations. Noise and rowdy, possibly drunken actions are a concern to visitors and neighbors of the park. Once the Park Committee has reviewed and decided on these findings, a final recommendation will be presented to the Township Board.

### **New Business**

#### **a. Ideas for Future Projects and Repairs**

Donna advised that we have the parking lot resurfaced next year. The attendant hut should also be scraped and sanded.

To address the beach restoration, we will need to pursue a DNR grant, for which we will need to build up a 50% match. The cost is estimated to be between \$100,000 to \$150,000. The Wightman firm created a pro bono report, which included a 50-foot seawall, sand fill, and removal of some trees. Better landscaping could prevent run-off problems below the parking lot.

We also plan to build an ADA accessible beach area at the south end of the beach, which could also be used for kayaks, sailboards, etc.

The Local Scout troops have done so much for the park this year. Lynn reports that Troop 239, which she guides, will do the spring clean-up in 2121. And another potential Eagle Scout project could be a floating dock at the southern beach.

#### **b. Park Manager Position**

The Park Committee agreed that many things had gone much smoother this year, with consistent oversight and active management by Nick Margol. Park upkeep, attendants on duty and also better revenues have resulted.

Donna has discussed these issues with Rob Baker, Ross Township Supervisor, suggesting the need for a salaried full or part-time Park Manger be brought to the Ross Township Board. The committee agreed that the Park Manager should be paid according to the required time and commitment needed, to open and close, as well as being there during the day. The Manager must hire, train and manage summer workers, supervise daily Park maintenance, as well as being responsible for the upkeep of facilities and equipment throughout the year. It was felt important that the Park Manager be part of the Park Committee.

**c. The November Meeting** will be on the 5th, 2020, at 6:00 pm.- No meeting in December

#### **Member Time**

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m. Next meeting will be November 5, 2020.

Respectfully submitted:  
Peggy Sattler