

Charlevoix County Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes

06/19/2017

Opening

The regular meeting of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on 06/19/2017 at Thumb Lake Park by Dennis Jason.

Members Present:

Committee members: Susan Vrondran, Tim Wieland, Pete Gaskin, Dennis Jason, Jessica Parks, Caroline Kobylczak, Brian Williams

Staff: County Commissioner Liaison Shirley Roloff, Planning Coordinator Kiersten Stark, Parks Director Ross Maxwell

Others: Ruth Jameson

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by S. Vrondran to accept the corrections to the agenda, motion was seconded by J. Parks. Motion passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda

S. Vrondran suggested an amendment to the May 15, 2017 draft minutes- Under topic "Phase 3", last bullet point, add the following phrase to the end: "since they suggested the addition of restrooms to the trail".

Motion was made by S.Vrondran to accept the draft minutes with changes, Financial and Director's Reports. Motion was seconded by J. Parks. Motion passed.

Old Business

Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail Status Report

PHASE I

- A meeting was organized last week with contractors, subcontractors, NDG and MDOT to discuss the need for adjusting the trail in Boyne City Limits. After discussion it was concluded the trail does not need to be adjusted. A possible penalty is being discussed and D. Jason raised the concern if

measurement specs were followed and no adjustments were needed there should not be a penalty.

- Grams property is being evaluated by NDG and contractors regarding the water run off issue.

PHASE II.

- Concerns from the Whitley property about trees removed last year and have concerns passerby's will trespass on their property to see pigs. Suggestions were made to do landscaping versus a fence/gate. The gas company has been contacted to verify plantings will be okay versus a fence.
- Commissioner Lasater was in contact with a disabled veteran whose residence is along the trail and would like access. The Veterans Fund would possibly fund this. NDG and Road Commission are assessing possibility. Concerns from the committee are it may set precedence, involves safety concerns and increased costs.
- Contributions are coming in. City of Charlevoix's contribution will be in after the July meeting approves funds.

PHASE III

- A site visit with Park of the Pines and NDG to finalize the design of the Trail head will be forthcoming.
- Applying for TAP grant through MDOT. Need to submit a long term plan for the trail. NDG is delaying the process of developing the long term plan due to not submitting the estimate for phase 4 and 5. D. Jason suggests we send a letter to NDG with a deadline for estimate.

PHASE IV

Grants for Phase 4 to be submitted in the 2018 grant cycle

Motion was made by J. Dennis to send a letter to NDG requesting an estimate for Phase 4 and 5 be submitted with a deadline of July 15, 2017. Motion seconded by P. Gaskin. Motion passed.

Parks Minute Posting

The committee discussed.

Motion was made by S.Vrondran to post draft minutes for public view no later than 8 days after a committee meeting. Motion seconded by B. Williams. Motion passed.

Whiting Park Wi-Fi

2 options were presented to the committee. Charter Spectrum and Aspen Wireless. Kiersten will contact Scott (I.T. Department) to expedite an estimate from Aspen; Ruth Jameson (from the public) suggested checking with AT&T for options.

Advocate Project Updates

A summary of the Charlevoix County Parks Millage Appropriations were made available for the committee to review.

Ross is working on the driveway at Porter Creek.

Benches for Phase 1

Benches are assembled and ready to be installed.

Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail Update

Elk Rapids is looking for funds and is moving along with the process. No changes have been made regarding the concerns with farmers along the trail. The website <http://www.traversecitytocharlevoixtrail.org> is a great website to visit for updates.

New Business

Thumb Lake Timber sale

Ross obtained an estimate from Metcalfe Forestry Co for a timber sale. Metcalfe has a 15% commission. Details were provided to the committee for review.

Whiting Park Modernization Project

Ross will be looking into obtaining an estimate for a Timber sale at Whiting Park. This could possibly help fund the modernization.

Ross will contact local companies for potential contributions.

Shrub Barrier

Shrub barrier for phase 1 Trail - Ross shared a photo of the chosen shrub - Spirea that will be used for the barrier. This shrub is deer resistant and blooms through the summer.

Public Comment

S. Vron dran commended the Petoskey News Review for the article regarding 3 of the parks. Ross suggested a thank you letter be sent. S. Vron dran volunteered to draft a letter.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm by Dennis Jason. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 pm on July 17, 2017 at Whiting Park/Porter Creek.

Minutes submitted by: J. Parks