

Charlevoix County Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes

2/20/2017

Opening

The regular meeting of the Charlevoix County Parks Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on 2/20/2017 at the Boyne City library by Dennis Jason.

Present

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

Staff: Planning Coordinator Kiersten Stark, Sub- Liaison County Commissioner George Lasater

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by T. Wieland to accept the consent agenda, revised draft minutes, Financial and Director's Reports. Motion was seconded by S. Vrondran. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail Status Report**
 - PHASE I.***
 - Adjustments are being made in the Boyne City limits area
 - The trail is not open in winter but people may use it. Snow plowing onto the trail and parking on the trail needs to be addressed. Mr. Lasater will work with the sheriff's department on options and look into the laws on motorized vehicles on non-motorized trails.
 - PHASE II.***
 - Building Healthy Communities Greenspace Improvement Projects grant through the Health Department of Northwest Michigan: Charlevoix County supports Hayes Township's request for improvements to Camp Sea-Gull. Seven other local communities and organizations of Charlevoix County intend to apply. After evaluation, Phase II funds are secure and the County withdrew the Letter of Intent to Apply in order to not compete with other communities. The committee agreed with this decision.
 - Grant applications are being developed. More details to come.
 - Kiersten attended a grant workshop through the DNR to access more information on the application process. Kiersten will submit an application for the Recreation Passport grant which had an increase in funds up to \$75,000.

- Kiersten attended the Internal Government Committee meeting to discuss setting up a fund at the Trails Council to accept donations for the trail. The Committee asked Kiersten to obtain more information from the Trails Council. A fund is already set up at the Trails Council. The question is if the committee will want access, there is an annual \$250 fee. The committee is concerned there will be no opportunity for opinions on how the money is spent if the County has no access to these funds.

-Kiersten will find out the process of donating directly to the county for the trail, if possible.

PHASE III.

-Project budget was provided to the committee for review.

-Park of the Pines trailhead plans were provided to the committee for review. The committee will discuss the 3 design/layout options further and make a decision at the next meeting.

-Several grant applications are due April 1st, local match needs to be secured by October 1st.

-Bay Township committed \$33,000 to the project.

-Local match for phase III will be \$110,000 or less.

Whiting Park Reservation System

-The reservation system for Whiting Park was submitted to the County Board and approved. Ross has a plan to be taking reservations by March.

Advocate Project Updates

-S. Vrondran encourages the committee to share photos of the advocate areas and suggests village enhancements be shared on the website. Kiersten added some photos of these are available on the website.

New Business

- 4 Benches have been purchased. The design and costs were available in the packet for review.

-The next purchase of benches will be brought to the committee for discussion.

-Mr. Lasater suggested considering the benches in Veterans Park. They are beautiful, durable and can be engraved with donor names.

-Parks Millage Fund 2017 local project funding requests were provided to the committee for review. There are 14 applications from ~~9 Townships~~ **10 entities**, the work group has 2 more meetings and will make their recommendations to the County Board, who will make the final decision, possibly in April. After discussion a Motion was made by **S. Vrondran** to limit the funding amount to \$10,000 **per entity**. Motion was seconded by P. Gaskin. Motion passed.

-The MSU Extension is offering a webinar on park development. The webinar is an hour long and available to view at any time. The committee suggested having the webinar available to view after the April 17th meeting for those who want to stay; others can watch it on their own time.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm by Dennis Jason. The next general meeting will be at 5:30 pm on March 20, 2017 at the East Jordan City Hall.

Minutes submitted by: J. Parks