

Recreation Planning Committee

February 15, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Rudolph, Chairman; Michael Way, Township Board Liaison; Jim Guerriero, Mike Greanya, Martha Willard and John Worden, Summit Township Zoning Administrator

MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Bush

The meeting was called to order by K. Rudolph, Chairman, on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall Meeting Room.

A motion was made by J. Guerriero, supported by M. Way, to approve the Monday, November 16, 2015 minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

The Recreation Planning Committee welcomed new member Mike Greanya. Committee members gave brief descriptions of their individual backgrounds.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of Officers for 2016 was conducted for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

A motion was made by J. Guerriero, supported by M. Way, to retain Kurt Rudolph as Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Rudolph, Chairman, supported by M. Way, to retain Jim Guerriero as Vice Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

HORTON ROAD TRAIL UPDATE – LETTER OF DECEMBER 7, 2015 – HORTON RD. TRAIL

Summit Township received a congratulatory letter from Director Keith Creagh, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), informing that the Townships' application was recommended for approval to receive a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) development grant in the amount of \$94,000.

Summit Township has two (2) years to complete the project, and will work with Jack Ripstra, of Ripstra & Scheppelman, Inc., for engineering. Future discussions will take place with the City of Jackson and Jackson County on the possibility of combining efforts for all the projects.

The Horton Road Trail will be located on the sewer easement, which is a twenty (20) foot easement from Philip Truman. The path will be twelve (12) foot in width, but will reduce down to ten (10) foot wide when going over the bridge. **Note: in checking with Jack Ripstra he stated that the**

bridge will be 12 feet in width. The State of Michigan requires path width to be a minimum of ten (10) foot wide.

Curb cuts were installed during the Horton Road update. The Township had requested a traffic light due to traffic concerns and pedestrian crossing, but the Road Commission denied the request finding lights would be too close together.

GRAND RIVER WATER TRAIL PLANNING REQUEST FOR FUNDS

Since October 2015, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has been hosting a series of watershed-wide meetings to share and further develop a vision for a designated water trail running the length of the Grand River from the headwaters to the mouth at Lake Michigan. The Upper Grand River Water Trail Committee is finalizing fundraising efforts to contract LIAA, Land Information Access Association, to develop an Upper Grand River Water Trail Plan. LIAA has developed plans for a number of water trails along Michigan's Great Lake coastlines. The Huron River Water Trail brings an estimated \$33 million in revenue to neighboring Washtenaw County on an annual basis.

Summit Township is a key player in plans for the Upper Grand River Trail. Township owned public lands could serve as dedicated launch and take-out locations and Vandercook Lake County Park has been suggested as a main trailhead for the south branch of the Grand River Trail. Connections between a Grand River Water Trail, the Falling Water Trail, and other terrestrial bike and hiking paths may also be possible.

In an effort to contribute to the fundraising of the Upper Grand River Water Trail Plan, Summit Township will be contributing \$1,000 upon the recommendation of the Recreation Planning Committee and previous approval of the Township Board. Funds for the donation will be taken from the Township's surplus funding in Region 2.

A motion was made by J. Guerriero, supported by M. Greanya, to donate \$1,000 to the Upper Grand River Water Trail Committee to develop an Upper Grand River Water Trail Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting dates for the Committee were included in the agenda package.

Jackson County welcomes Jeff Hovarter as the new Director of the Jackson County Parks. M. Way will reach out and invite him to the Recreation Planning Committee meeting in May.

A motion was made by K. Rudolph, Chairman, second by M. Willard, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Hubbell, Recording Secretary

