

Recreation Planning Committee

February 20, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Rudolph, Chairman; Todd Emmons, Township Board Liaison; Natalie Stopyak, Planning Commission Liaison; Jim Guerriero, and John Worden, Summit Township Zoning Administrator

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marilyn Waite, Charles Neese

The meeting was called to order by K. Rudolph, Chairman, on Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall Meeting Room.

A motion was made by J. Guerriero, supported by T. Emmons, to approve as written the September 19, 2011 minutes of the Recreation Planning Committee. The motion was carried unanimously.

A Power Point presentation by the Safer Route to School for Townsend Elementary representatives was shown to the Committee. The representatives were Diane McQuillan, Principal, Aaron Bush, Vice Principal and Michele Borman, Counselor. The group discussed the goals of SR2S, survey results compiled by Michigan State University, walking audits conducted, needs assessment, engineering support by Summit Township. Suggestions were made by the Recreation Committee concerning public input, contacting Napoleon Schools and the Township Supervisor for Napoleon on the process used for their successful grant application and resulting sidewalks. Also, suggested contacting Susan Richardson from Region 2 Planning for assistance. Vandercook plans on submitting their application by June 1, 2012 the timing is of essence because recent information suggests that the funding for SR2S may be removed from the fiscal year 2013.

A presentation was made by Stan and Jeff Mazur giving an overview of the Kiwanis Flowering Tree Project for the beautification of the Sparks (Cascades) Park. To date a 501 C (3) has been established and an account for the project has been created at the CP Credit Union. Initial funding of \$2,500.00 by the three (3) Kiwanis clubs in Jackson County to start the process has been received. Landscape/Architect and Planners Inc. has been tentatively selected to handle the project. A presentation to the County Board of Commissioners is tentatively scheduled for March to explain the project and gain their support. Handouts further explain costs and size of the project (see attached).

Members of the Recreation Committee made suggestions on possibly using the Jackson Foundation for the funding account instead of CP Credit Union because the rate of return on donated monies would be greater. Concern was expressed on the number of proposed trees as the numbers could result in too much loss of green space that is need for events such as the Civil War Muster and the costs involved in the perpetual care of the trees. Other suggestions were made on using the Master Gardeners organization for help in the original project and ongoing care. Stan and Jeff Mazur stated they would keep the Committee informed on the progress of the project.

Brandon Ransom, Jackson County Parks Director made a Power Point presentation on last year's projects and upcoming projects of note was the Urban Fisheries Project which is essentially completed and that an additional donation was made that allowed the pavilion to be upgraded. Brandon also talked about the proposed trail connection from the Cascades to the Inter City and Falling Water Trails. A grant application to the DNR Trust Fund for \$450,000.00 has been made for the development of the trail and the creation establishment of natural areas along the trail. Agreements with land owners including the Jackson School District for easements or the purchase of the property are in progress.

Discussion by the Recreation Committee on a time line and needed support for the project and what part could the Committee assist if necessary. The proposed connection would further complement the Urban Fisheries and Falling Waters Trail projects.

The McDevitt US 127 South bridge replacement is slated to begin March 15th and scheduled to be completed before the August MIS race. An open house on March 1, 2012 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the MDOT facility on North Elm will allow the public to ask questions and see the project plans. It was suggested that representation from the Committee at the open house would allow the bike lane to be viewed allowing ideas for the connection to the McDevitt path to be presented to the Committee. Natalie Stopyak and possibly Jim Guerriero will attend.

John Worden presented a proposal from Grant Bauman Region 2 Planning for the required five (5) year update of the Recreation Plan. A cost not to exceed \$5,000.00 and funded by monies already on deposit at Region 2 is proposed and is subject to DNR's recreation plan requirements changes if any for next year which may require additional funds. Grant will create a schedule for the project and present it to the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned by K. Rudolph, Chairman at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Worden, Recording Secretary