

Recreation Planning Committee

March 15, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Rudolph, Chairman; Todd Emmons, Township Board Liaison; Marilyn Waite, Allan Hooper, Jim Guerriero, John Worden, Summit Township Zoning Administrator

MEMBERS ABSENT: Natalie Stopyak, Planning Commission Liaison; Kali Briggs

Guests: Tony Hollow, Superintendent of Schools Vandercook Lake and Scott TenBrink, Fitness Council of Jackson, Executive Director

The meeting was called to order by K. Rudolph, Chairman, on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall Meeting Room.

A motion was made by A. Hooper, supported by M. Waite, to approve as written the November 16, 2009 minutes of the Recreation Planning Committee. The motion was carried unanimously.

1. McDevitt Path & 127 South Bike Lane

J. Worden informed the Committee that the Road Commission may need a detour due to the bridge being unable to support one lane at a time. The proposed bike lane will be on the south side of the bridge.

2. West Michigan Ave Sidewalk Brown to Main Street

J. Worden informed the Committee that MDOT has sent out letters to the property owners in the Brown to Main Street area. Only one property in this area is a resident. The Township will not support going ahead with the sidewalk unless those property owners agree to a maintenance agreement.

3. Safe Route to Schools Planning

J. Worden informed the Committee that the Napoleon School District has received a Safe Route to School federal grant. This funding will be used to connect the Napoleon schools and side streets. This will be an extensive project.

Tony Hollow, Superintendent of Vandercook Lake Schools was present in the audience. T. Hollow informed the Committee that a grant application is being considered for a Safe Route to Schools grant by the District that would cover 100% of the construction of the sidewalks, if approved, with the exception of engineering costs. Safe Route to School grants are generally aimed towards elementary and junior high not high school students. Unlike other schools, Vandercook Lake middle school and high school are in one building, this will enable the high school students to benefit from this project. T. Hollow, indicated communication with the student(s) parents will take place at the PTO level, where he hopes to rally the parents to get support and find a champion for the project. It is anticipated that a committee will be formed by the end of the school year to start the planning process.

J. Worden added that Vandercook is unique because they have a sizable piece of property along the east side of the school that will give them the opportunity to make a trail that will connect the subdivisions to the north and east of the campus.

J. Guerriero, asked if Vandercook Lake Schools was competing against other schools?

T. Hollow, in the most recent cycle there were thirty (30) applicants who had applied for a Safe Route to Schools Grant and six (6) received a grant. As stated at the opening of this discussion Napoleon received a

\$249,000.00 grant during this cycle which was the seconded largest, also JPS has received a previous grant Vandercook Lake schools have been considering this program for some time and is now ready to proceed.

T. Emmons, asked how much money the Township will have to pay

J. Worden stated that no match from the Township is required however the Township has the option to assist with engineering. The Township could participate in the cost of engineering and spread the costs over one or more fiscal years.

T. Emmons thanked the Committee for their support of the proposed grant application and asked that the Vandercook Schools keep the Township updated when their committee is formed and any changes that occur. He added that participation from a member on this Committee to their committee when it is formed would strengthen Vandercook Lake School's application for the Safe Route to Schools.

Discussion then focused on turning McDevitt Road from a four (4) lane road to a three (3) lane with two bike lanes. This effort would help strengthen the Safe Route to Schools application by showing cooperation between the School District, Township and The Jackson County Road Commission.

Scott TenBrink, Executive Director Fitness Council of Jackson, commented the transition from a four (4) lane to a three (3) lane with bike lanes on both sides is only a matter of paint. An example of a current road that went from four to three lanes can be found Francis Street, East South Street, West South Street and other areas within the City and County.

T. Emmons commented favorably on the community support this will show for the Safe Walk to Schools project.

A motion was made by J. Guerriero, supported by M. Waite, to recommend that the Township Board by motion or resolution request the Jackson County Road Commission consider the reconfiguration of East McDevitt from four (4) to three (3) lanes and a bike lane on both sides. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Other Business

Scott TenBrink, Executive Director Fitness Council of Jackson, gave a presentation on the Michigan Airline Trail that runs from shore to shore. S. TenBrink displayed two maps that highlighted the concept. As an ambassador for the Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance he is working through the Fitness Council to define the trail spine. There is a movement towards this and support can be seen at the State (DNR) level as they are promoting projects connecting to the various trails into the overall trail system.

M. Waite, questioned if Albion would be tied into the project?

S. TenBrink responded it is currently being investigated as to whether to follow the trail line to Homer or to go to Albion. He then thanked the Committee for all the hard work and successful projects that have come from the committee.

The Committee thanked Scott TenBrink for all his dedication and hard work.

It was noted that National Trail Day is the 1st Saturday in June.

The meeting was adjourned by K. Rudolph, Chairman at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hubbell, Recording Secretary