

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

MAY 18, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Rudolph, Chairman; Todd Emmons, Township Board Liaison; Allan Hooper, Jim Guerriero, Kali Briggs and John Worden, Summit Township Zoning Administrator.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Natalie Stopyak, Planning Commission Liaison; Marilyn Waite.

The meeting was called to order by K. Rudolph, Chairman, on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Hall meeting room at 2121 Ferguson Road.

A motion was made by T. Emmons, supported by K. Rudolph, Chairman, to approve the Monday, March 16, 2009 minutes as written. The motion was carried unanimously.

Introduction of New Members:

K. Rudolph, Chairman, introduced the new members, Kali Briggs and Jim Guerriero, to the committee.

Kali Briggs graduated from Vandercook Lake High school, and currently teaches Health and Fitness there. She has a degree in physical education and expressed an interest in obtaining her bachelors in sports medicine. Kali stays active by biking and running.

Jim Guerriero is the retired director of 34 years from the Jackson County Parks. Through his work as the County Parks Department Head he obtained experience writing grants, was part of building the Falling Waters Trail, and currently does consultant work for parks and trails in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Jim enjoys golfing.

Todd Emmons is a Township Trustee and he serves on the Dahlem Center Board. He is an outdoors person, who hopes to compete in the Clark Lake Triathlon event for the second year in a row. Todd enjoys being part of the Committee and is excited about being able to contribute to the planning and implementation of the Recreation Plan.

K. Rudolph, Chairman, expressed his thanks to the new members for their willingness to be part of the Committee and, in particular, what they will be able to bring to the table; Kali with her Vandercook Lake connection, Todd with his Dahlem Center connection, and Jim Guerriero with his experience in building trails and grant writing.

K. Rudolph also gave a brief background on the members not present at the time Natalie Stopyak, Marilyn Waite and Allan Hooper.

Repair Status West High St. and Spring Arbor Rd paths:

J. Worden stated that Rick Faling, DPW Superintendent, has obtained quotes for the repair/maintenance that needs to be performed.

J. Worden also discussed the recent meeting with MDOT that took place earlier this month with Napoleon Township and Summit Township. This meeting covered the various options for replacing the bridge that goes over 127 at McDevitt and concerns were expressed on the time frame for the process and traffic volumes caused during racing season at MIS. The consensus of the group was to completely demolish the bridge and rebuild instead of keeping the traffic flow on half of the bridge which would be more costly and take twice the time to accomplish. MDOT wants to start construction in March 2011, and construction bids for the bridge will go out in November 2010. The bridge height will be sixteen (16) feet three (3) inches and could include a non-motorized path/lane. Further, MDOT will only consider the non-motorized path/lane if the Township has an approved recreation plan that includes a non-motorized path/lane crossing over the bridge. The objective is to have Napoleon Township included in this effort with their recreation plan showing the need to have the proposed connection for the development of their path/trail system will greatly enhance the chances of approval by MDOT. Additional safety measures may be required if the speed limit is over 45 mph. J. Worden suggested that the Committee support these efforts and the cost to the Township would be limited. The cost of the addition of a path/lane is unknown at this time. However, it is possible that Act 51 monies from the Jackson County Road Commission could be utilized along with monies from the Township for the proposed path/lane.

K. Rudolph, Chairman, commented that this proposal seems to be the Township's best opportunity to get access across 127 and connect to the proposed trails to the south and east.

A. Hooper asked if the current recreation plan has the needed information.

J. Worden stated page 6-3 of the current Township Recreation Plan contains the trail information as a proposed future connection to the McDevitt path/lanes and the recommendations/proposal contained in the Jackson County Master Plan for trails/paths, but an amendment might be needed. He will check with Region 2 to ensure that the Township's Recreation Plan includes the necessary elements to meet MDOT's requirements for the non-motorized trail/lane.

A motion was made by T. Emmons, supported by J. Guerriero, to support the bike lane over 127 with the reconstruction of the bridge by MDOT and amend the Township Recreation Plan as needed after consultation with Region 2.

The meeting was adjourned by K. Rudolph, Chairman at 7:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 20, 2009 Note: A site visit to the area owned by the Township and other properties adjacent to the Falling Waters Trail may take place if arrangements can be made.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Hubbell, Recording Secretary