

# SUMMIT TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

## August 16, 2004

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kurt Rudolph, Chairman; Marilyn Waite, Natalie Stopyak, James Dunn, Planning Commission Liaison; John Worden, Summit Township Zoning Administrator.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rick Wilson, Township Board Liaison.

The June 7, 2004 meeting notes were reviewed and accepted.

Election of Officers was conducted on a motion by Jim Dunn, supported by J. Worden to elect the following: Kurt Rudolph, Chair; Marilyn Waite, Vice-Chair; and Natalie Stopyak, Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Worden was asked to review the agenda items pertaining to the Probert Road Path and the proposal for a connection from Kibby Road to the City trail. The Probert Road Path is complete and has been finalized. This now connects the south road of Ella Sharp Park along the north side of Probert Road to the bike lanes on Francis Street. The funding process for this project was explained so the Committee could understand the inter-governmental cooperation between the City of Jackson, the Jackson County Road Commission and Summit Township.

A letter from Charles R. Green and Associates was reviewed by the Committee. The letter asked for the Township's assistance in developing a trail-way six (6) feet wide from Kibby Road along the property line of the proposed Fowler Farm North development in the City of Jackson to the trail-way along the abandoned railroad which has been developed by the City. Summit Township would participate by constructing the path portion from the south end of the Fowler Farm project along the easement for the sanitary sewer line on a previously granted easement from the Jackson School District to the City trail-way. After discussion of the project, including possible funding sources, a motion was made by J. Dunn, supported M. Waite, to ask the Township Board to approve the engineering expense for the Summit portion of the trail-way contingent upon the approval of the City of Jackson and a signed agreement by the developer of the Fowler Farm project. The motion carried unanimously.

Other items of discussion included the possibility of using the monies received by the Township under the Metro Act for the maintenance including; mowing, sweeping and repair of trails/paths in the road right-of-way. The possibility of funding a path from Weatherwax Drive along Horton Road to the entrance of Ella Sharp Park off Horton Road was also discussed. This project could possibly require the construction of a storm water system that would allow a path to be placed in the road right-of-way without additional easements or tree removal. Also the project would be eligible for funding from the Jackson County Road Commission.

K. Rudolph discussed the importance of planning and the importance of reviewing new projects in both commercial and residential developments using access management designs for ingress and egress on major roads in the Township.

J. Worden stressed the importance of the Recreation Planning Committee's involvement with the Township Planning Commission, especially on large developments in commercial and residential areas.

It was the consensus of the Committee that public education and involvement is the key to development of paths and trails.

There was discussion concerning the difference between sidewalks, paths, trails and seasonal trails. J. Worden stated that much of the difference is the liability issue and that the Township is considering a sidewalk maintenance ordinance to ensure that property owners would be responsible for the upkeep and repair of sidewalks.

J. Worden suggested that the Committee meet jointly with the Planning Commission in December or January to discuss mutual areas of involvement in planning residential and commercial development as it relates to access to the roads and existing paths and trails. The Committee agreed and the meeting will be scheduled.

K. Rudolph discussed the next meeting date and suggested that the third Monday of each month a meeting is to be held. It was agreed that the next meeting would be October 18, 2004

**MEETING CONVENED:** 7:00 P.M.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:25 P.M.

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Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Stopyak, Secretary