

MEETING NOTES FOR MINUTES

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

PARK COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Location: Peninsula Township Hall

Date: November 1, 2017

Call to Order at 7:00 PM by Anne Griffiths, Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call Anne Griffiths, Chairperson; Don Atkinson, Gary Cornell; Mike Skurski; John Snow; Brian VanDenBrand (planner)

Approve Agenda Passed 5/0

Brief Citizen Comments for Items Not on the Agenda: NONE

Conflict of interest NONE

Consent Agenda Addition to invoice list for attorney Steve Schwartz's bill, Skurski moved, Atkinson second: Motion passed 5/0

Business

A. Presentation of Draft of Park Commission

Recreational Plan Goals and Objectives for 5 year Plan

Goal: Provide a variety of park, trails, recreation facilities and programs to serve all groups.

Objectives:

- **Continue to maintain and improve Peninsula Township parks and natural areas.**
- **Explore appropriate locations to expand existing parks, water access points, and recreation facilities.**
- **Develop an overall trails plan along the roadways to link Peninsula Township's trail systems together as well as connect to regional trails systems and incorporate the plan into the Recreation Plan.**
- **Encourage expansion and/or public launch sites and associated parking to serve expanding needs.**

This is required for budget approvals by the Peninsula Township Board of Trustees the budgetary requirement over the next 2 years. Plan is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and State of Michigan. DNR uses Plan to judge needs; Used to

finance projects with grants such as the oak wilt in Pelazari Nature Preserve. The treatment by forestry was \$1000 and 85% of cost paid by obtained grant. Cooperative integrating of Kelley (DNR) and Haserot Park by working with DNR could occur. Connect and interconnect the trail system to as far as the Boardman Lake. The value of Universal access (UA) allows for more opportunities for full usage.

Register the plan with DNR by first quarter 2018. Meeting on December 6. 2017 reviews plan that considers public input. Comment box and sheets are available at the back of room and comments can be dropped off at Peninsula Township with planner VanDenBrand.

Expansion of the existing parks plan aids in raising money. Possible funding sources include Natural Resources Trust Fund, Coastal Zone Management, State Historic Preservation Office and other grant opportunities.

Each commissioner is responsible for the analysis and needs of the various parks and a PowerPoint presentation now occurs.

Pelizzari Natural Area- Mike Skurski

2018 – Maintain MDEQ Due Care Compliance, Maintain a Forest Management & Invasive Species Program scheduled after second big freeze this year, Protect Wetlands and Watershed.

2018-2019 – Provide signage explaining history and purchase of the Natural Area

2020- 2022 - Develop a natural prairie area, consider toilet facility

Bowers Harbor Park – Don Atkinson

2018 Access the need for more pickleball courts, resurface tennis courts, lines for tennis and pickleball

2018-2020 – Replace 6 grills

2018-2022- Develop action plan for construction of new pickball courts as necessary, repair and replace playground structures (north and south) and add safe landing pads

2018-2023- Develop universally accessible hiking trails in south area with viewing areas and interpretive signage, expand and improve parking areas

Haserot Beach – Gary Cornell

2018-2020 - Develop and implement a plan in cooperation with the DNR for usage of Kelley Park including consideration of soft launch at Haserot, Increase parking, Replace present play station and add landing pad, picnic area improvements including shade trees and grills and water fountain and foot wash

2020-2022 – Investigate Mobi-Mat for wheelchair accessibility, Provide a small covered pavilion

Lighthouse Park – John Snow

2018- 2020 – Provide flush toilets, Consider moving gift shop out of lighthouse into adjacent storage building

2019-2020 – Provide access for swimming and launch of small, non-motorized carry boats

2020-2022- Provide security cameras for building and grounds, Build rescue boat exhibit on the beach

Archie Park - Anne Griffiths

2018-2019 – Beach access improvements, in particular, signage to improve road crossing safety, Invasive species abatement

2020-2022- Additional playground equipment

Log Church- Ann Griffiths

2018 – Update lighting and displays, Repair log finish and chinking

Old Mission Point Park – Annie Griffiths

2018-2019 – Continue and intensify Trash and Erosion Control

Ridgeway and Murray Road Trailheads – Anne Griffiths

2018-2019- Forestry management plan and invasive species control

General Park Activities- Anne Griffiths

2018 – Secure Secretarial Services, Secure Building and Ground Services

2020-2022- Update future land acquisition

What was presented tonight is just part of a more extensive report that is available on the website and to the newspaper

Action-Motion: Moved by Skurski and second by Cornell **To make the Draft Park and Recreation Plan available for public review and comment, and to set a public hearing on the proposed plan for December 6, 2017.** Motion passed 5/0

DNR Representative – Tim Schriener

The information is preliminary and only initial talk discussion points. Kelly Park would only be designed for carry boats. There are no plans to dredge 550 feet to install a boat launch at Kelly Park; Haserot has boat launch ramp. DEQ member Robert Schmitt out of Cadillac visited Kelly Beach with Schriener. That day the water level was at average high water mark. The water hits the shoreline beach and then there is a fore dune that is dry and then wet spot again on the other side. Topography visible during low water level. Preliminary idea at Kelly is for floating dock system where people can place carry boats into channel with bars and lower themselves into carry boats. Brought several drawings for board and passed around audience to see floating dock designs. This provides universal access (U/A) for all individuals.

Specific comments for Tim Shriner

Linda Keely (19535 Brickman Rd) Nice to have bars on each side that help getting out of kayaks.

Nancy Heller (3091 Bluewater Rd) Extensive report made by fire department on these docks

Dave Murphy (5943 Shore Road) Questioned if there could be signs to differentiate parks and the concern of people crossing and parking on Center Road. Money for repaving, gravel installation and asphalt approved.

Skurski mentioned cross winds and 3-4 foot waves in the East Bay at Haserot and concrete slab needs to be engineered to take these winds into account.

Lighthouse Manger Report – Ginger Schultz

At October's Parks Commission meeting a list of requests for maintenance was presented and denied due to annual budget method. Schultz met with Brad Bickle, Peninsula Township Treasurer the following day to see if \$20,000 could be moved from the existing \$141,000 lighthouse gift shop account for repairs on the lighthouse. Lighthouse now is open on weekends in November; then closed for season. Request was made to have \$20,000 be moved for scheduling and making needed repairs to the lighthouse.

Griffiths opposed having the budget discussion at this time. Snow raises question that this may be the appropriate time to discuss maintenance on the lighthouse. Griffiths said she saw no need to interrupt the annual budgetary process. Schultz asked Anne about maintenance to the floors as there are over 40,000 annual visitors to the lighthouse. Maintenance to floors did not occur for 2016.

Griffiths responded "Do not call me Anne; you can call me Dr. Griffiths, Chair, but do not call me Anne." Snow stated this was the time to discuss the maintenance to the lighthouse.

Skurski asked Schutz if there is anything required to do now that endangers the public or the lighthouse structure. Schultz stated there is nothing to her knowledge endangering public safety, but need to get on the schedule of the contractors now if going to be ready when the lighthouse opens in May.

Roof on out building is too late to be repaired as the lower temperature prevents the shingle glue from sealing. A list was made in October and presented to the board of all the lighthouse repairs and maintenance needed. None of this was approved.

The tower is the most critical item on October list and that has been scheduled.

Cornell asked where the money from the gift shop is going to go if not to maintain the lighthouse. Griffiths commented the money is for the lighthouse but not until the next budget after inventory has been completed and the amount of actual money is known.

Action-Motion: Snow made a motion to approve the schedule for annual maintenance of high traffic wood floors \$2241 and \$1305 for living room and bedroom wood floor repairs. Atkinson second. Motion carried 5/0.

Action-Motion: Snow made a motion to allocate \$800 to replace oil house roof. Atkinson second. Motion carried 5/0.

Action-Motion: Snow moved that Wilkinson mend the hole in porch floor, repair front door, and install a storm door for \$1200. Shurski second. Motion carried 5/0.

The parking lot is to be done in the spring and Schultz has one bid for \$4012, which includes asphalt, black top, paint arrows, and stripping. Schultz will proceed to get several more bids.

Maintenance Report- Bob Wilkinson

Wilkinson was asked about the lighthouse storage windows and they were not replaced as the purchase was not approved at the October, 2017 meeting.

Work performed was: New door on lighthouse bathroom, swing set at lighthouse repaired, Pelazzari bench installed, Fencing at Bowers Harbor, Haserot bathroom door, Trail maintenance by removing downed trees all on schedule.

Citizen Comments

Curt Peterson (1356 Buchan Drive) Tonight I came to talk about parks and recreation and found the meeting (lighthouse discussion) totally embarrassing. Lighthouse employee was embarrassed. Asked Griffiths how she got appointed the position of Chair. Griffiths replied she was elected.

Nancy Heller (3091 Bluewater Rd) In the long range master plan the gift shop should not be moved to a building that is an empty shell until there is sufficient money to do the current, necessary repairs. Purchasing land for additional parks is not available and monies should be used to get the existing parks “up to snuff.” Our current parks need to be brought up to standards. Archie Park water access is too dangerous in crossing M37. Yes, there are steps down to the water, but the public does not know the boundaries and they could end up trespassing on private property

Monnie Peters (1425 Neahtawanta Rd) – Master plan talks about importance of eradicating invasive species. There is an organization called the Invasive Species Network, part of the Grand Traverse Conservation District down at the Boardman Nature Center on Cass Road. They might prove to be a valuable resource to the parks on the peninsula and may aid in finding funding.

Dave Murphy (6843 Sharp Rd.) Complemented amount of work this commission has accomplished. Encourages the integration of the TART trails and trails on the peninsula.

Board Comments: None

Adjournment Action-Motion: Moved by Snow and supported by Cornell to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Motion carried.

Respectively Submitted

Lola Jackson

Recording Secretary