

Rootstown Township Park Committee

January 14, 2016

The meeting of the Park Committee opened at 7:00 pm on January 14, 2016. Those in attendance were Trustee Linda Hankins, Commission Members Dave Bosko, Andrea Steinlechner, Brenda Iarussi, Jason Opritza, Delia Paulus, Mike Fillmore, Ron Coleman and Zoning Secretary Cynthia Porter.

Absent: Matthew Orr and Nick Hammerschmidt.

Minutes from the last meeting of December 10, 2015 were approved.

It was decided to keep the Park Committee meetings the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Zoning Secretary will email in advance the minutes to those who provide their email address.

John Lallathin with the road department/park liaison said the GIS or Geographical Informational Systems is a fancy map that shows parcels, roads, and contour data. It's a computer program that stores tons of information for certain areas. He didn't have any new updates. Linda said she believes the map is completed but needs additional approval she wasn't certain who that was.

David Bridenstine from OHM Advisors was present and verified the land needs surveyed. His company doesn't survey but he offered to provide price quotes from other surveyors as quickly as the following day. David said OHM Advisors could provide information regarding the boundaries, contour data, and elevations to assure the design for the park will properly work. He did mention that Portage County does not make its GIF information available to just anyone.

Brenda suggested finding a surveyor willing to donate their time at no cost.

Delia questioned if there was any historical data from the previous Trustee Diane Dillon who started the initial park process? Linda stated at one point there was a pamphlet made for the different phases of the park. About a month ago there was a search for this pamphlet but nothing was found. Finding out when the land was transferred to the township would at least help give a ball park idea as to what year the initial process began. This can be obtained at the Auditor's Office. There are some archive files with Zoning in regards to the park. Who has time to research this? Linda will check further to see what information she can find out.

Brenda said she knows someone who may be able to do the survey as a donation if they have the time. Delia expressed her concern and felt it was important to pay and hire a professional licensed surveyor. This would ensure more of a guarantee should something happen.

A \$38,000 Grant was awarded for the park. Per Linda the money is already designated. She explained that when the grant was done it had to be specified what the money was to be used for.

- ‡ Seed for grass
- ‡ Fencing
- ‡ Walking paths
- ‡ Design

The Township is willing to provide financial resources that are needed. However this must be presented to the Trustees.

Brenda asked David Bridenstine from OHM Advisors for an honest ball park opinion of how much money may be needed to do everything that needs done? David said \$3,000 for the survey and \$8,000 for design. This did not include drainage which may not be needed. His opinion by the time it's all done \$20,000 to \$25,000. This is just a proposal on paper without moving any dirt.

David's company does engineering, architecture, and planning. He explained that he lives in our community has small children that would be growing up with this park and that's why he has such an interest and wanted to present what his company can do and give the options.

David's company did put together a proposal. Linda wasn't able to find it.

David will send the Zoning Secretary the proposal he had submitted.

The planning of the park is from scratch except for the road which is in the middle of the power line. Linda presented a drawing sketch of the proposed park which is the only thing that the Trustees agreed upon. The goal of the initial meeting was to get things into place that the community can use. Linda said the drawing the Trustees approved was what everyone talked about and wanted. The drawing is a good start but can be changed.

Neither Brenda nor Andrea felt additional baseball fields were needed that were in the drawing since there are 6 fields right across. Concession stand, restrooms, and soccer fields would serve better. Currently there are no utilities.

What needs to be done first?

Is there a time line on the 2 year grant?

Linda thinks from the time the money is received which hasn't happened yet.

Linda will have Jordan forward the grant. We also need verb age on the grant.

Delia will look into other available grants for additional monies and invited all to join in on this effort. Also, there is a possibility of receiving donations for materials to offset the costs.

The engineers will level the ground at no labor cost once a decision is made.

What is the vision of the park?

Suggestion was to ask the kids of all ages what they would like in the park since this is about the children. Delia will write up something for suggestions from the kids. Possibly on the web site for suggestions as well.

Linda will see about Christine Craycroft from Portage County Parks to attend the next meeting.

Are there any bylaws established?

The mission statement is to build a park.

A check list the first thing we need to get things started.

David said he'll put together a list of everything that needs done and forward to Andrea. She'll let all of us know.

Much brainstorming and suggestions were made from sound barriers, restrooms, baseball fields, soccer fields, concession stand, and pavilions and so on.

The hope is to see the park by fall but most likely next August.

Andrea will present to the next Trustee meeting an 8 week request for the following:

- ↓ Survey
- ↓ Plans and designer
- ↓ Additional money
- ↓ What was set in stone about the mound and what guarantee was made to people
- ↓ Are there any bylaws of some sort

Brenda asked if 6 ft. high mounds with trees on the west side were set in stone for a noise and property barrier. She felt this would be an eye sore. Planting pine trees would be much more pleasant. Brenda went to Stow and Hudson's parks and said there were no high mounds. Mounds take up too much space. The Township should only be responsible for staying within the property lines and drainage.

Mr. Wise spoke regarding noise and water issues from the park. The water issues have been resolved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by Linda Hankins

Andrea Steimlechner