

Rootstown Township Park Commission

February 12, 2016

The meeting of the Park Commission was opened by Andrea Steinlechner at 7:04 p.m. Andrea asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those in attendance: Trustee Linda Hankins, Road Supervisor Bill Hahn, and Zoning Secretary Cynthia Porter. Commission Members: Andrea Steinlechner, Nicholas Hammerschmidt, Ron Coleman, Dave Bosko, Matthew Orr, Delia Paulus, Jason Opritza, and Brenda Iarussi.

Absent: Mike Fillmore

Also in attendance: Steve Nero, Christy Wise, Curt Wise, Al Marzec, Tom Siciliano, and Brock Curall.

An update was given from the Trustee Meeting that Andrea and Jason attended. The GIS is done and the next step forward is Soil and Water. A retention pond may be required. Location was discussed with possibilities near the pavilion area. Things are at a standstill until Beaver Excavating and Soil and Water come and say what has to be done. Bill doesn't think it should take that long to get this information.

The Trustees did approve plan (2) of the map as the initial approved plan to get things started.

Currently there is no Park District Zoning which will have to be changed once the proposed buildings start happening.

The Trustees agreed to use only one survey as the questionnaire for the park. Andrea asked for someone to take over the surveys and Ron Coleman accepted. Community Park Survey will be the name everyone agreed upon. Discussion of

areas to submit the surveys included the schools, the community page on Facebook, and the Township web site as a means of reaching out to the community.

A deadline of (4 weeks) or by the next meeting to receive the surveys back is the goal. Jason's concern was if this was enough time to review. Hopefully the surveys can be out by the 19th and returned within (10) days. Copying can be done at the Zoning Office.

Trustees were asked what the verbiage was for the grants. Jordan will get this information. The current grant is in the amount of \$38,000. The money is to be used for grass seed, fencing, walking trails, and softball/hardball fields only. The time frame is (2) years from when the money is distributed which we have not received yet.

Andrea asked for anyone present to write more grants for additional money? Delia mentioned the Portage County Regional Planning Commission has a grant writer and to possibly look into hiring that person to write the additional grants needed.

There are no bylaws for the Park Commission which is governed by the Trustees and all decision making. The Park Commission only takes ideas and collects data.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding athletic fields.

After the grass is planted and takes root the best projected case scenario for the park is fall of 2017 or spring of 2018.

The Township has set aside money for the park which will come from the capital improvement or the general fund. How much money is needed isn't known yet.

The Trustees agreed for the residents of Pfile Drive a buffer of some sort. Possibly a mound but one was not promised, trees and proper drainage. Fencing is being considered.

The Operators Union will move the earth at no cost and only charge for fuel.

Christy Wise questioned if there still has to be Zoning hearings and was told all must go through Zoning. Mr. Wise asked if you actually get a legal sealed engineer to stamp the drawings. Beaver Excavating is doing this. It was also stated if there are any further disagreements it must be taken to the Trustees.

Linda feels everyone on the committee should be looking for grants. Christine Craycroft was unable to attend the meeting but will be present next meeting. She will talk about grants and help educate grant writing.

By next meeting lets brainstorm grants to help cover costs for outbuildings, sewer and so on. Everyone was asked to bring (5) or more possibilities.

Andrea asked for the minutes from January 14, 2016 to be approved. Nick Hammerschmidt made a motion and Jason Opritza seconded.

Community Comments

Steve Nero asked if there is a board or if this is a committee. Trustees are in charge of all of it. Al Marzec commented that the park seemed to be all about soccer.

Another question was if the soccer organization is willing to help raise money like the football organization does? Money for goal posts and so on. The soccer organization is willing to help with money. Jason will get back with a dollar amount.

The interest of football fields was expressed along with practice fields being greatly needed for K-6. Football fields had not been presented prior.

There will be some kind of an agreement made for all the uses that are needed.

Meeting was adjourned by Andrea Steinlechner at 8:10 p.m.

Andrea Steinlechner