

Minutes of the Rootstown Township Park Commission

March 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Andrea Steinlechner.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the February 11, 2016, motion was made by Nick Hammerschmidt, seconded by Jason Opritza. A vote was taken, all were in favor.

At this time Linda Hankins took over the meeting to handle the replacement of the board member that resigned. Ron Coleman and Delia Paulus are the 2 alternates available to take the vacant seat. Ron & Delia were given a few minutes to say why they feel that they should be selected for the vacant seat. The Commission members were then given a few minutes to ask Ron & Delia questions. Once all questions were answered a secret ballot election was held. The outcome was 3 votes for Ron & 3 votes for Delia. At this point both names were put into a hat and Delia's name was drawn. Delia will serve the remainder of the 5-year term that was vacated.

Old Business

Beaver Excavating – No new information. The commission expressed their frustrations with Beaver Excavating not getting the work completed and said that Beaver is holding up progress on the park moving forward. A discussion was held in regards to replacing Beaver with another company and would the Township be willing to pay for a park plan instead of Beaver doing it for free. A motion was made by Nick to ask the trustee permission to bid out the park plan. Delia seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor.

Community Survey update – Ron Coleman reported that 472 of the 1248 surveys given out were returned. It was decided that the time be extended so that the survey can be put on the Township website, the facebook page, at the pizza shops and the sign at Talmer Bank and TownHall.

Grants – Many grants were discussed, including a list from Regional Planning, private grants from Lowes and others, NatureWorks grant, ODNR grants, etc. It was requested that the Commission receive the details from the grant that has already been awarded; Linda said she would request it again. David Bosko presented prices he found for grass seed and asked if the Township would be able to use volunteers to help at the Park. Linda said yes any volunteers the Township can get to help with the Park would be good.

New Business

Christine Craycroft – Christine suggested that we talk to KSU School of Architecture for help with planning the park. She also said there are several recreational trail grants available and that there are also reimbursement grants available. She said they are looking for ways to connect the Wingfoot State Park to the current Hike & Bike trail and may be interested in connecting to Rootstown's Community Park and that NeoMed was looking at connecting also.

Andrea opened conversation in regards to removing the soccer label on the park plan and replacing it with green space. David made a motion to re-label the map to green space instead of soccer fields. Ron seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

Citizen's Comments

Christina Wise asked if the Trustee's needed to approve the change of titling on the park plan? Linda said she would check into it.

Kurt Wise said you have to know how to terrace the land for the storm water study.

Steve Nero asked if the alternate position was going to be replaced. A motion was made by Ron not to replace the alternate. David seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 5 in favor, 1 opposed.

Megan Smolk asked for a clarification of Gracie Fields and the Community Park. Members explained that Gracie Fields was owned by Hot Stove and was totally separate from the Community Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24