

PIERSON TOWNSHIP
Parks & Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2019

5:00 pm

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call Present: Gould, Grice, Moore, Patterson Absent: Brady

IV. Approval of Meeting Agenda **NOTE:** This meeting will be recorded.

Motion: Patterson 2nd: Grice Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Grice, Moore, Patterson

V. Approval of the Consent Agenda, approval of minutes from Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting on March 14, 2019.

Motion: Grice 2nd: Moore Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Grice, Moore, Patterson

VI. Public Comments to be limited to items on this agenda only. There is a three-minute limit on comments.

Sara Burkholder: stated that she thinks that the Parks and Recreation Committee is doing a great job, and that the Township Board will send a thank you to Republic and Roger Rockburn for their donation of boulders for Winslow Park.

VII. Correspondence

Gould shared that another FOIA request for documents pertaining to Winslow Park had been received by the Township.

VIII. Guest Speaker John Morrison, Executive Director of West Michigan Trails and Greenways

Mr. Morrison shared information about White Pine Trail. At this time, paving of the final portion of the trail will most likely not start until 2021 at the earliest. He stated that foundational work (bridges, drains, etc....) is the first step, and that additional fundraising is taking place. John stated that the current focus of West Michigan Trails and Greenways is on connecting trails (White Pine is an anchor trail) and signage. In addition, there is a focus on developing Pure Michigan Trail Destinations and Pure Michigan Trail Towns.

John suggested that as the Parks and Recreation Committee considers creating a park, a good place to start is to meet with the DNR (he suggested reaching out to Scott Slavin). Once a plan for a park is established, John suggested looking into Trust Fund grants, DNR grants, foundational grants, and partnerships with local businesses.

IX. Open Issues

- a) Update: move electric pole and add light to pole (*Moore*)

The Township Board approved payment for the installation of a LED streetlight at Winslow Park, along with the monthly fee. Consumers will call to schedule a date to install.

- b) Signs at Winslow Park-costs (*Grice*)

Mark Christensen is willing to put the fence posts in free of charge when his work crew is in the area. Fence posts are \$25.00 a piece (will purchase 10). Parks and Recreation will need to put signs on fence posts (*Grice* volunteered).

- c) Yearly Maintenance (*Gould*)

Mark and Melanie Gould will maintain the park (mowing, raking, cleaning) free of charge. Both have signed liability waivers with the Township.

- d) New Committee Member

Tom Boman will join the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Motion: Gould 2nd: Moore Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Grice, Moore, Patterson

X. New Business

- a) Sign Placement- trip to Winslow Park

Committee developed a plan for placement of signs at Winslow Park.

XI. Public Comments (comments must be under three minutes)

Michael Slater shared that he and his wife, Marilyn, have been in contact with Judy Emmons (and attempts to talk with James Lower) regarding a pavement schedule/outline for the remaining portion of the White Pine Trail. Mr. Slater stated that he believes the north portion will be completed first, with Montcalm county's portion being the last to be completed. Additionally, Mr. Slater, while in favor of parks, encouraged the committee to consider the costs of any park, with a focus on maintenance, and that the Township's first priorities are fire protection and road funding.

Tom Boman shared his concerns about the amount of trash at Winslow Park. The committee discussed if the Township is providing adequate trash receptacles at Winslow and that is something to monitor.

XII. Board Comments

No board comments

XIII. Adjournment from Winslow Park at 6:29 p.m.