

East Bay Township Parks Commission
Regular Meeting

Monday, November 10, 2008, 5:30 PM
East Bay Township Hall
1965 Three Mile Road North, Traverse City, MI 49686

Minutes:

Chair Macdonald called meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

Guests in audience: Sue Courtade, Jerry Zeits, Bob Perry – township employees; several members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call Members Present: Chair Macdonald, Biggs, Truelove, Rudolph, Nadeau.

Late Arrival: Groleau.

Absent: Miller

Approval of the Agenda –

Motion by Biggs to approve agenda; seconded by Truelove. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes –

Rudolph suggested a correction: Bill Shoemaker was **present**. Chair Macdonald motioned to approve the minutes of October 6, 2008; Rudolph seconded. Motion carried.

Public Input –

Sue Courtade asked the board to review Capital Improvement Plan Committee's list of wants for the township – CIP committee had narrowed the list to 25 items. Township board would like Parks Commission to add to this list by the next meeting. Items must be of a value of \$5,000.00 or more.

Dr. Kevin Clayton approached the board about signs posted in Killingsworth Park that read: "No horses." He requested the board to reverse their decision to post these signs and asked that the board not limit users of the park. Many members of the public had additional comments, both pro and con. Comments included: problem with horse manure; questions as to the complaints received; other horse owners who use this park to ride; problem with debris on trails; problem with dogs not being on leashes; lots of opposition to using Killingsworth Park for a Disc Golf Course. Mr. & Mrs. McCombs had many comments about the environmental impact a Disc Golf Course would have on the park. Mrs. McCombs read a letter she wrote to the Parks Commission. Board comments: Chair Macdonald commented that there have been about 10 complaints received; Nadeau commented on the difficulty walking in horse imprints on the trails; Truelove commented that the board is trying to accommodate all, not exclude anyone from using the park. Suggestions included helping to improve the Disc Golf Course at Holiday Hills; using Grace Macdonald Park or Pines Park for the Disc Golf course.

Sue Courtade thanked members Groleau, Nadeau and Miller for their service to the township, as they will be stepping down from the Parks Commission. Members of the public and the board applauded their service.

Further public input regarding need for more baseball diamonds for Little League to use. Members of Traverse City Little League were present to support this request.

Treasurer's Report –

Biggs mentioned three accounts that need to be moved over to next year's budget. Further discussion.

Park Maintenance Report & Discussion –

Jerry Zeits updated the board on parks maintenance done for winter.

Disc Golf-Result Grant –

Todd Lewis made presentation to board. He read letters; wanted to reaffirm to public and board what is intended for the Disc Golf Course. He gave handouts to board showing his proposed plan. Much discussion and public comments followed. More comments from Steve Lagerquist – a biologist, regarding environmental impact. Suggestion was made to use GM Park or Pines Park instead. Board took this suggestion under consideration. Truelove requested that Mrs. McCombs and Steve Lagerquist – both biologists, look into any possible Michigan laws that might affect the implementation of this project.

Letter From Forestry Sent Out – Results -

Chair Macdonald mentioned that she received a letter, in regards to the letter sent to Pines Park residents, from a township resident that was happy that we were using a forester there.

Pines Park – Signs -

Biggs mentioned a letter the board received from Steve Duell regarding signs posted at Pines Park, which suggested two recommendations. Truelove to call him and talk to him about this letter.

Pickle Ball – Grant (Rotary) –

Dave Paulson and Judy Nemitz presented progress in obtaining grants for Pickle Ball request. Public commented on problem of not having enough options to offer kids in area. Nadeau mentioned that Pickle Ball is for all ages and the group would be willing to teach anyone who wants to learn. Chair Macdonald ok'd for the group to proceed with obtaining grants for this project.

Oath – Nov. 20th 2008 –

Chair Macdonald reminded board about taking Oath on November 20th and special meeting that night. Also, next regular meeting will be January 12, 2009.

Groleau made suggestions as outgoing board member:

- 1) Have baseball (Little League) and disc golf people work together – use Pines Park.
- 2) Take **No Horse** signs down in parks until issues are resolved. Further comments and public input regarding these suggestions.

Next Meeting – Oath November 20, 2008 at Noon; Special meeting November 20, 2008 at 6:30 PM; Regular meeting January 12, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Grace Macdonald, Chair

Date

Laura Truelove, Secretary

Date