

East Bay Township Parks Commission
Monday, January 12, 2009, 6:30 PM
East Bay Township Hall
1965 Three Mile Road North, Traverse City, MI 49686

Minutes:

Chair Macdonald called meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call Members Present: Chair Macdonald, Rudolph, Smith, and Truelove.

Late Arrival: Brown

Absent: Couturier and Biggs.

Guests: Jerry Zeits-township employee; Todd Lewis; Dan Schillinger.

Approval of the Agenda –

Chair Macdonald suggested adding Dan Schillinger to Other Business. Board agreed. Motion by Rudolph to approve agenda; seconded by Truelove. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes of last meeting (Nov. 20, 2008) –

Rudolph motioned to approve minutes of the last meeting, Nov. 20, 2008; Chair Macdonald seconded. Motion carried.

Public Input – None.

Treasurer's Report – No money spent yet this year.

Park Maintenance Report –

Jerry Zeits updated the board on the maintenance of the parks.

Recreation Plan Approval –

Chair Macdonald stated that the Rec Plan is to be approved by the township board at their meeting tonight.

Disc Golf –

Todd Lewis' son, Mitchell gave a presentation in support of Disc Golf. Todd mentioned that he is videotaping this meeting tonight. ~~He read a statement that he had prepared listing many arguments and some complaints and questions regarding the Disc Golf proposal. He proceeded to read several letters from other people in support of this item.~~ Several comments came from the audience. Dr. Kevin Clayton also commented, and stated that he is neither in favor of nor against Disc Golf at Killingsworth Park. He stated that he is in support of equal use of the park. Todd Lewis played a video showing people playing Disc Golf. More comments from the audience. In response to a request from Truelove at the last meeting, Molly McCombs read a statement regarding the position of the DNR in relation to this item, which objected to putting a Disc Golf course in Killingsworth Park as it would endanger threatened plant and animal species and wetlands currently residing in the park. ~~Dr. Clayton suggested that Disc Golf might be a good idea, but the wrong location. Lewis tried to read more letters, but was interrupted by Truelove who argued that the approach that Lewis was taking by attempting to read several letters was taking up too much time and that they were basically saying the same thing. She did not see the~~

~~necessity of reading all of the letters. More comments from the audience. Cal Bankey mentioned that he had pitched the idea of a Disc Golf course to the board in 2005, but there was no support for it at that time. Tom Ooley mentioned his support of this proposal and mentioned the importance of good exercise for kids. Chair Macdonald suggested the board table this topic until spring when the board can tour other alternatives for this project. Dr. Clayton asked why the topic of his horses was not on the agenda tonight? He had asked the board to reconsider the restriction of horses in Killingsworth Park. Rudolph stated that if we are going to allow horses in this park, then we should be consistent with rules in all the township parks. Chair Macdonald suggested that the board vote on this item at the next meeting.~~

Other Business/Pines Park –

Dan Schillinger gave an update regarding the bids for harvesting the red pine in Pines Park. He sent out for bids, but no one was interested in bidding. Because of the slope in the “bowls” machinery can’t get in to do the project without doing damage to the soil. He stated that he talked to a couple of guys who might be interested in thinning the trees in exchange for the wood. This is necessary to avoid the spread of bark beetles. Chair Macdonald asked Dan to get an estimate to the board for him to supervise whoever does this work. He will contact a few more people to get someone to do this project.

Little League –

Don Beem and Carl Studzinski approached the board representing the TC Area Little League. They asked if the board had any plans to put any new baseball fields in at any of the parks in EB Township. They stated that they would be willing to help with getting Grants and would help work on this if the board were planning to put in new fields. Chair Macdonald mentioned that there are plans to put in two fields at Pines Park, and showed them on a township map where the fields would go. Much discussion followed. Don stated that they would take this information to their next meeting and would get back to the board with an update.

Pickle Ball – Jerry Zeits stated that he would get poles for the courts.

Killingsworth Park Update –

Jerry Zeits mentioned that he has signs and posts and is ready to install them. Smith mentioned that the trailer at the township landfill needs a new deck on it to haul the tractor. Chair Macdonald will talk to Jerry Zeits to see if he can purchase wood to do this project without needing board approval. Chair Macdonald requested the board vote on allowing horses in Killingsworth Park. Chair Macdonald, Truelove, Smith and Brown all agreed that they do not object. Rudolph objected. Smith motioned to take signs down which restrict horses from Killingsworth Park; seconded by Brown. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – Regular meeting February 2, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

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Grace Macdonald, Chair	Date
_____	_____
Laura Truelove, Secretary	Date