

Supervisor Hebert called the Public Hearing on Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation 5- year Plan to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Ganges Township Hall located at the corner of 119th Ave. and 64th St. Board members present by roll call attendance: Hutchins, Reimink, Hebert, Phelps, Gooding.

Public Comments – Frank Conklin, 7009 Crawford Ave- commented that the Township did a nice job at Glenn Beach. Feels that we may be able to create a few more parking spots.

Dana Burd, 6871 Wiley Rd, Saugatuck Twp- Would love to hear from anyone about any of the parks. Appreciates all efforts with everyone involved. Met with folks at Glenn Beach and feels that there should be restoration of the gravel trail included in the parks plan.

Rudy Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr-Encourages the board not to shortcut public input. Would like future drafts be available at least 2 weeks before next public hearing. The board should consider finding a larger venue for the next public hearing due to Covid.

Dexter Gauntlett, 2287 Lakeshore Dr- Asks the board to look at the plan carefully. Pier Cove is exploding. Concerns are Speed, traffic, and over use of beach. Behind Dana, however this comes at a cost to local residents. Why are we spending all of this money on Pier Cove when the beach in Glenn is bigger? Understands that it's early in the game, but has lots of concerns going forward.

Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Asked how we got a 2 rating for accessibility for Pier Cove Park? Dana Burd explained that this is just a draft and he just threw that number in. Diane also commented that there is no parking place for handicap and no ramp. Also, concerned that the property line sign was gone. Concerned about maintenance of park and wants it to look presentable. Pier Cove park is over used. Feels that we need to do a survey of rentals over owner occupied homes and an age breakdown. Stated that the age of Ganges Township is getting older therefore the residents have limited abilities.

Several Letters were received prior to the Hearing. A copy of the letters will be included in the Plan and are available to see at the Clerk's office. A summary of the letters are as follows:

Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Sees many issues that need to be addressed. The safety of the park goes related to the parking adjacent to a busy road, lack of enforcement of parking and park rules.

Rudy Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Has long been an advocate for improved management to Pier Cove Park. Park ruled, Park management and enforcement, safety, accessibility are just a few issues. Parks should be budgeted, maintained and certain amenities should be considered. ADA port-o-let, a changing area and fixed bike racks are listed.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Court- In support of Dana Burd and improvements to Pier Cove. Listed several considerations. Parking safer and better, recycling, park signage, enforcement of rules and parking, maintenance and oversight just to name a few. Encourages Ganges Township to have a "charette" to find the solutions that are needed.

John 'Ric' Curtis, 2264 Lakeshore Dr- "Public access at Pier Cove Beach is a treasured asset that is so extremely much better now with some attention being paid to its control and safety needs."

Dexter Gauntlett, 2287 Lakeshore Dr- Commending Dana Burd for his initiative for spearheading this drive to improve Pier Cove Beach. Listed many concerns shared by himself and his neighbors. Overuse of Pier Cove Park, Parking, Litter, Sanitation, disrespect to adjoining Private property, graffiti, water monitoring of the creek, dogs on the beach, enforcement. Solution might be, making Pier Cove Beach a neighborhood-oriented park promoting more bicycle and foot traffic. Would ask that the township be careful with decisions.

Asa Palley, 2278 Lakeshore Dr- Would like to see Pier Cove Park continue to be a safe, friendly, and family-oriented resource for the community. Problems dealt with are due to the dangerous parking arrangement and overcrowding of the area. Feels that the number of parking spots needs to be reduced and the remaining spots widened and moved off of the road. Designated biking and walking lanes along the road. Speed bumps or another form of speed control should be installed along this stretch of road.

Philip Palley, 2278 Lakeshore Dr- Happy to see proposed upgrades/repairs to the sea wall and landscaping. Obvious that there are too many cars parked there on that blind turn, partying goes on in its parking lot after closing. Believes that with the widening of Lakeshore Dr, there will be more traffic speed and volume adding to the increased safety problems and congestions. Asks to consider converting to a walk-to or bike-to use, eliminating the parking lot and adding bike racks-safer and greener option. Lakeshore Drive is a part of the US Bicycle Route 35 and Pier Cove is one of the prettier sections of the route.

Jacob Petkus, 2295 Lakeshore Dr- Summertime is a nightmare due to traffic and unenforced no parking signs. The township needs to take a park size and location into consideration when developing a 5 year plan. The plan also needs to involve the police locking the park at designated time and providing adequate coverage.

Mark Ridley, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Supports Dana Burd and his intention to repair retaining wall at Pier Cove. Would like to see angle parking. A structure for portable toilet and garbage cans and recycling. Suggests two cement stanchions in front of beach entrance.

Win Ryder, 2082 Ryder Rd- Admiration for Dana Burd. Top priority should be to address the safety issue. Cars driving fast through Pier Cove. The road should have rumble strips to slow traffic. Glad to donate to that cause.

Robert Simonds, 2318/2320 Lakeshore Dr- Provided history of Pier Cove to help provide context not only to the planning of the park and the beach access but also to its usage. Supportive of the 5 year plan. Asks to plan for ADA accessibility to a lookout for sunsets and a visual map of the beach to clearly mark what is public and what is private. The plan needs to consider the parks maintenance and protection.

Kathryn Stackhouse, 2288 Lakeshore- Supports the improvements to Pier Cove Park. States that the beach has too many vehicles and people for such a small area. Road safety is a growing concern. Lists options to improve overcrowding and traffic safety. Enforce parking restrictions, convert current parking spaces as space for improved sanitation facilities and a changing area and good bicycle parking.

Ron and Mary Voss, 2438 Lakeshore Dr- Thanking the township for supporting the improvements at Pier Cove.

Jeanne and Darell Zerbe, 2110 Lakeshore Dr- Parking is a concern at Pier Cove Beach as well as no oversight or monitoring of the beach or parking. Believes the gate access should be locked overnight and no parking should be allowed after hours. Troubled over the impact of the increasingly high lake levels and high wave damage and how that may affect the proposed improvements to the bluff and access stairs. Should warn visitors of rip tides, bacterial count in the water and dangers of exploring ice mounds in winter. Consider the impact of the project on neighboring properties and take their concerns seriously.

Hebert closed the Public Hearing and opened the regular meeting.

Reimink moved, Gooding seconded, to accept the agenda dated 11/10/2020 as presented with the addition of 13.B. Pier Cove Park Maintenance Update. Motion carried.

Correspondence – Received a letter from Rick Elenbaas attorney asking the board to be open minded about his complaints.

Comments from the Audience regarding Agenda items- None

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 10/13/2020. Motion carried.

Reimink reported the balances as of 10/31/2020 as follows:

General Fund	\$274,134.08
Ambulance Fund	181.74
Fire Fund	77,885.29
First Responders Fund	6,927.03
Road Fund	430,439.01
CD	193,654.50

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried.

Gooding moved, Reimink seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 11/10/2020 as presented from the following funds: General Fund - \$28,254.40; Fire Fund - \$13,262.29; First Responder Fund - \$6,681.34; Ambulance Fund - \$3,250.00. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Matt Zawila, Asst. Fire Chief, reported calls were down. 22 for the month.

Reimink moved, Phelps seconded, to approve hiring Jacob Morse for a firefighter/first responder position. Motion carried.

Hebert reported that AJ Broe, Cemetery Sexton tried to replace the sign on the south side of Pier Cove beach. The high waves took it out again.

Barry Gooding reported on Oct.27 Planning Commission meeting. Discussions about Dan Ciesla sand mining and Campit putting up 2 towers without permits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Supervisor Hebert asked the board if they had any ideas on the 5 year Recreation Plan.

Hutchins moved, Hebert seconded, to proceed to authorize the bid from DK Construction for \$26,680 to install steel sheet piling at Pier Cove Park. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS -None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Phil Badra, 2230 Lakeshore Dr- Questioned not putting rock in front of wall.

Dexter Gauntlett, 2287 Lakeshore Dr- Making sure that issues are taken care of properly so that we aren't having to do again.

Frank Conklin, 7009 Crawford Ave -asked if we are looking into saving the hill going down to Glenn Beach.

Jack Vandenberg, 7157 114th Ave, not enough parking for Glenn Beach

Gooding moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Phelps, Clerk
Ganges Township