

Supervisor Hebert called the Public Hearing on Proposed Pier Cove Park Improvements and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application 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 – Dana Burd, Friends of Pier Cove Park, presented the Pier Cove Park Concept Plan to the audience.

Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr, had many concerns about the Pier Cove Park Plan. Asked if the chain link fence would be removed and how tall a new fence would be. People can jump over the fence. The pole that is in the gateway currently keeps out motor vehicles. Will this be removed? Metal stairs in the concept plan are placed inside the seawall when they are actually outside of it. Would like to see a safety rail installed to the south of the steps above the seawall. Who will replace the fence on Trull property? Will we be planting trees to the north of the stairs and is that covered by the grant? Regarding the plantings in the parking area, ACRC told Diane that no plantings would be allowed. The 4 ft paved path that the ACRC is putting in will be a problem for parking. Safety at night is her big concern. People are parked there after hours. She feels that there needs to be a solution to this before all of this work is done at Pier Cove Park.

Jacob Petkus, 2295 Lakeshore Dr, questioned Dana Burd about taking away emergency parking spot to add another handicap accessible spot. Believes that this is only to score higher with the DNR and is not respectful to emergency personnel.

Russell Dykstra, 325 Hunters Run Circle, Holland, asked if the cement seat that's located on the current sitting deck can be preserved.

Dexter Gauntlett, 2289 Lakeshore Dr, asked the board if they were voting tonight on this plan? Feels that this is rushed and that the best decisions are not being made. Would like to see the ACRC get the new road put in first. Neighbors rely on Pier Cove access and would like to keep it small, keep it safe and keep consistent with the local small community.

Tyler Voorhees, 1473 Lakeshore Dr, local artist believes that presentation at Pier Cove could be better and would like to see it connected to history. Believes that this project will bring the community together and that the parking solution is enforcement. Tyler also asked what the goal of the Trust Fund Grant is.

Tammy Sampson, 2260 64th St, asked if lower sitting area would be wheelchair accessible.

Celeste Teters, 2287 Lakeshore Dr, stressed the overuse of Pier Cove Park. The concept plan is a beautiful design, but is there wiggle room for parking spaces. Ten spaces are too many for a 66 ft. beach.

Hebert closed the public hearing at 7:50 PM.

Hebert opened the Special Meeting.

Reimink moved, Hutchins seconded, to accept the agenda dated 03/25/2021 as presented. Motion carried.

Correspondence –

Many letters of support were received as listed: Jane Hungerford, Janet Schroeder (was first opposed), Jim Searing, Christine Deacon, Marge Heid, Laura Powell, Jackie and Pete Trull, Kathryn Trull, WMRPC, DNR, Sen Nesbitt, SWMPC, Toby Hutchins (Fennville School Board), Tom Jessup, Mary Whiteford, Friends of the Blue Star Trail, Fred Upton, Pier Cove Forest Homeowners Association. Those opposed were Molly and Lincoln Miller and Diane Broekhuis.

Hebert offered a motion, Gooding seconded, to approve the Resolution of Authorization (With Donated Funds) Pier Cove DNR Trust Fund Grant Application. Motion was approved by roll call vote as follows: Hutchins-Y, Reimink-Y, Hebert-Y, Phelps-Y, Gooding-Y. (5/0) Motion carried.

Public Comments-None

Gooding moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Phelps, Ganges Township Clerk