

Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

March 11, 2015

1. **Call to order and Roll Call:** Meeting called to order 7:03 pm. Those present were: Bruce Brandon, Pam Blough, Louis Howerton, Josiah Jessup, Sandra Warren, Johanan Jessup and recording secretary, Kathy Brandon. Absent was John Johnson.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** No additions were made to the agenda. Chairman Bruce Brandon suspended the business portion of the meeting to go directly to the introduction of the new Casco Township Deputy.

Introductions were made between Officer Kurt Katje and the members of this committee. Pam let the Officer know how much we were looking forward to having an officer since the opening of the Nature Preserve and now the access to the beach. We do have Park Ordinances which we would like Deputy Katje to look over with the Committee. We are making some changes and any changes he would suggest. Officer Katje made suggestions and supported the changes we had considered as well. Officer Katje also informed us about his hours and job duties for us in our Township.

3. **Review and approval of the January 13, 2015 and February 10, 2015.** The January 13, 2015 minutes were reviewed, a motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Sandra Warren, 2nd by Josiah Jessup. All committee members agreed, motion carried.
The February 10, 2015 meeting discussion notes were reviewed.
4. **Correspondence received:** none
5. **Public Comments:** One member of the public present, Don Quitt, who is new to Casco Township. He questioned if there were Wedding Photo Opportunities. Pam explained our Wedding Policy.
6. **Blue Star Pathway update:** Bruce informed the Committee members that not all of the easements were obtained. There will no construction this year, 2015 but if easements are obtained they will still be eligible for the CEE MAC grant monies for the following year.
7. **West Side County Park Project:** This project has started making the planned improvements.
8. **Friends of the Nature Preserve:** Bruce has been in touch with GiGi, the Chairperson of the Friends Group. She will start thinking of a date for spring cleanup etc. Sandra was concerned about the going over what the actual duties of the volunteers would be. Bruce will go over those with her and get a date set up soon.
10. **Park Ordinance Revisions Motions and Recommendations to the Board:**
 - a. **The Committee will** recommend to the Board that Seasons of Operation be amended to Winter and Summer. This would be May 1st to September 30th and October 1st to April 30th.
 - b. Josiah made a motion that we recommend to the Board that we amend the Ordinance to **allow dogs** in the Nature Preserve during the off season, Motion 2nd by Johanan, This motion carried. (This would be October 1st thru April 30th) Section 8. PETS
 - c. Motion was made by Sandy to **standardize all hours of operation for all Casco Parks**, 2nd by Josiah, motion carried. (This would be summer season 8am to 10pm. Winter season 8am to 7pm.)
 - d. Section 27, amend to include DRONES

11. **Casco Township Nature Preserve:**
 - a. **Operation and Maintenance:** Spring cleanup will be scheduled.
 - b. **CZM Parking lot Grant Application:** Pam has had correspondence with the Grant personnel.
 - c. **Funding Source Signage at the Preserve:** Bruce will get some bids.
12. **1st Street Hand rail and steps:** Bruce will go look at the stairs to see if power washing and repairs were needed.
13. **Anonymous Donation to the Preserve of \$500.** Sandy reported on the cost of a white pine to replace the one taken down in the preserve. She received a quote from DeBest for \$255 for a 7 to 8 foot grade white pine to plant and stake and fertilize included. Native plant sales will be in May for both Allegan and VanBuren counties.
14. **Township Board Representative update:** None
15. **Committee Member Comments:** Pam reminded us we are one member short on our committee.
16. Johanan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Josiah. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted:
Kathleen Brandon