

## Casco Township Parks & Rec Committee Meeting

### Regular meeting

October 14, 2014

1. **Call to order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. Those present were: Bruce Brandon, Pam Blough, John Johnson, Tom Storr, Josiah Jessup, Louis Howerton, Sandra Warren and Kathy Brandon.
2. **Approve Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda. Agenda approved.
3. **Review and approval of the September 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes.** There were no corrections, minutes approved by all.
4. **Correspondence received:** None
5. **Public Comments:** None. One person present.
6. **Blue Star Pathway Update:** The Allegan County Board voted 5 to 2 to accept ownership of The Trail after its completion.
7. **West Side County Park Project:** Due to a delay in paperwork, there will probably be nothing done this fall.
8. **Friends of the Nature Preserve:** None
9. **Parks Ordinance Update:** Hours of Operation discussion was held by the Committee. A motion was made by Josiah Jessup and seconded by Tom Storr: **The hours of operation for The Nature Preserve be April 1, through September 30, 8 am to 10 pm. and October 1 through March 31, 8 am to 7 pm.** This motion was approved by all and suggested to start immediately as a trial run. This Park Ordinance Update will be presented to the Township Board for their approval.
10. **Casco Township Nature Preserve:**
  - a. **Maple Grove Tree Maintenance:** Sandra Warren presented the Article on Tree Snags again, wondering if the committee members had any question or concerns. She brought in a nice article from the Audubon Society concerning birds and climate change, and how we can help by creating bird friendly areas in our yards and parks. She also brought up the danger of raccoons and keeping food in secure containers. Sandy also gave a brief history of what we have accomplished concerning habitat management.  
Sandra also wanted to make a statement to take to the Board concerning the thoughtful management of our trees. **The Motion is: We as a Committee recommend to the Casco Township Board that when they begin work on the identified trees, that each tree, living or dead be carefully assessed for its value to birds and other wildlife. If a tree can be made safe for Park visitors by trimming, that should be done first. Remaining parts can be removed over time as needed. Dangerous trees or diseased trees that are a threat to other trees, or trees in the way of an identified activity area will need to be removed. We may need further advice from someone trained in wildlife habitat. The motion made by Sandra Warren was seconded by Louis Howerton, and approved by all.** Chairman Bruce Brandon will take this to the next Township Board meeting.

**b. North Property Sign Installation:** Joe is working on it.

**c. Parking Lot Grant update:** Pam received our preliminary scoring for the Grant. She reviewed all of the scoring with the committee. There were a very few areas that we could improve our scoring, which she did and resubmitted the Grant Application.

**e. Funding Sources Signage at Preserve:** working on it

11. **Update from Township Board Representative, Josiah Jessup:** Josiah reported on a new storage building to be built for the Township. Bids are out and will start sometime this fall or winter. The cost is \$25,000. Township Police protection will start on January 1, 2015.
12. **Committee Member Comments:** Tom Storr informed the group that over 1.4 billion to as many as 3.7 billion birds are killed by cats every year in the continental U.S. Sandra Warren commented that she saw on the news of a coyote at the Grand Rapids airport on the runway area. No other comments.
13. **Meeting Adjourned:** A motion was made by John Johnson and seconded by Tom Storr to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted  
Kathy Brandon