

Clifford Township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes 9/24/14

Present: Buzz Boomer, Jennifer Long, Bob Lopatofsky and Tom Roberts

Absent: Jan Price, Chaz Ross, Patti Walker

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Bob Lopatofsky. He made a motion to approve the minutes from the August meeting, Buzz Boomer seconded.

Old Business:

No information has been received from the Forest City Rotary about the pavilion contribution. Bob Lopatofsky will follow up with them in the next week or so to check the status.

Tom Roberts presented some pictures with costs for different types of benches to install in the park areas. He is trying to secure benches made from recycled plastic and made in Pennsylvania. Various sizes and styles were discussed, along with possible locations of the benches around the trail, around the multi-purpose court, and close to the fishing area. It was decided that a variety of benches would be acceptable, with the more expensive benches in the higher traffic areas. Questions were raised about whether the benches would be moveable or fixed, and how this would impact benches placed in possible flood areas. Additionally, it was agreed that he would look into pressure treated wood benches, possibly for along the walking trail, to reduce costs a bit. More discussion will follow on the benches before any options are chosen.

Sally Fischbeck gave information about the Endless Mountain Heritage Region mini-grant application for the walking/biking path installations. The money that is available from this grant must be spent by the end of 2014. The grant would assist with providing two 1/3 mile loops around the park. Larry Wilson indicated he is considering widening the paths to 8'. They will be 4" deep and he has received pricing of \$9.03/ton delivered for the modified needed for this project. Given the short timeframe, once the application is submitted, the decision will be made quickly and, if approved, work can begin immediately. Township Supervisors have unofficially approved this project and the match funding that is required of the grant. The grant committee was going to meet briefly after this meeting to discuss this application further.

There was concern expressed that receiving this funding may somehow impact the grant applied for through DCNR, but the general consensus was that it would not.

No one had looked any further into Trout Unlimited grant opportunities since the last meeting.

Clearance and sign-off has been received from Thomas McLane the landscape architect on the work completed to fulfill requirements of the old grant project. Township supervisors are waiting for the paperwork to acknowledge the completed work.

New Business

Bob Lopatofsky reported that the damaged batting cage will be torn down and replaced with a new one. There was discussion about re-purposing the cage in some way, but Bob indicated the baseball league does not have plans to do that. The approximate cost of the new cage is \$4,000.00. There was concern

expressed about some trees still endangering the batting cage area. Bob also reported that the league is extending the fence to fully enclose the field and getting new soil to re-do the grass areas.

Tom Roberts asked if the Township would be interested in a donation of gym equipment. Chris Marcho said the Township would store it on-site until it was determined whether or not they can use it in the facility.

Discussion about groups using the building followed. It was agreed that a set of policies and procedures for reserving/utilizing the facility was needed if the Center was going to be used by the community. Costs, scheduling, and use by non-Clifford residents, among other things, need to be addressed to avoid possible problems in the future. Classes in genealogy, canning/freezing and pickle ball are currently being held. Supervisors have also been approached about a possible Yoga class being offered. Discussion also followed about how to better get information out to the community. The Township has a website, but may be outdated. Possible ideas to create a Facebook page or new website were discussed briefly.

Chris Marcho asked for ideas/possible volunteers to assist with this year's Christmas event. The event is held on the first Friday of December. The event was held at the Community Center the past two years, but bad weather impacted attendance and activities both years. Bob Lopatofsky said he would mention the need at the next baseball meeting to see if any families may be interested in volunteering.

A DCNR grant workshop is being held in November, all grant committee members were encouraged to register and attend. We should know by then if we've received any grant funding from DCNR. This workshop will provide information about future grant opportunities.

Tom Roberts expressed concern about discussing needs at the meetings with little follow-up afterwards. He would like to see a more formal assignment of responsibilities during the discussion, to ensure that progress is made before the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next meeting is 10/22/14 at 7:00pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Long