

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP PARK COMMITTEE

October 17, 2016 –Town Hall – 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairperson Michael Ranalla, Park Committee Members Bonnie Haines, Lori Meyers, Kelley Shantz and Vanessa Barvels. Town Board Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt, Park Manager Jackie Garofalo and Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle.

REGULAR MEETING

1. **AGENDA** – M/S/P Shantz/Meyers moved to adopt the agenda with the “Pollinator Friendly” Presentation at the top of the order.
(4 ayes)
2. **MINUTES** – M/S/P Meyers/Barvels moved to approve the 09/12/16 meeting minutes as written. (4 ayes)
(Sheila-Marie Untiedt arrived)
3. **GUEST SPEAKER** – Dawn Lamm with the “Pollinator Friendly Alliance” was present to discuss with Park Members the idea for a Pollinator Garden at the North lot side of the Town Hall. Ms. Lamm was previously here to take a soil sample and drew up a possible project plan idea in which she had a handout. In her earlier soil testing result on site, the soil appeared to be slightly impaired. However, the University results state the soil is in good shape. There is a “dead” spot in the slated garden area where an Oak tree was previously removed. This compromised area of the soil will need to be prepared with fresh soil prior to planting in the spring. She also recommended that we find out where the snow plow dump location is and whether the committee would be interested in relocating the dumpster. The committee also will look into moving the handicap parking spot near the ramp closer to the sidewalk.
Ms. Lamm also suggested planting a hedgerow of approximately 8 bushes as a wind barrier along the chain link fence to increase habitat, shelter and forage for pollinators. Also, she suggested we move the existing Spirea to the front walkway. She gave the committee a recommended plant list. A few mentioned were: White Snowberry paired with Red-Twigged Dogwood; Prairie with Aster family; Milkweed. Early bloomers toward the front and for ground cover/bee lawn – White Dutch Clover and Creeping Thyme. Other suggestions were to decide whether we’d like seeds or plugs and then searching for good pricing. Community Thread is a great resource as well as the Stillwater Area High School Biology Department.
Park Manager Jackie Garofalo mentioned that our newest Planning Commission member Kimberly Johnson may be the right person to head up this project as she is a known bee keeper. Ms. Garofalo has also been in contact with a Scout looking for an Eagle project in the spring.

This idea is at the beginning stages for project. A budget has not been set at this time. More information will be collected prior to making a recommendation to the Town Board.

4. **PARK & TRAIL CONCERNS**

Otto Berg

- **Ash Trees** – Committee members discussed the need to methodically plan for the removal and replacement of the Ash trees in the park. This agenda item should be added in the spring for further discussion and budgeting. As of now, tree trimming is \$1,000 budget and \$2,000 removal for EAB.
- **Bench** – Both benches in the park are weathered. Work will be done in the spring.

Arcola Heights

- **Disc Golf/Theft** – Park Assistant Manager Kelley Shantz reported that there is not any news finding the stolen targets. He will try again to make contact with Mr. Bill Wilcox about the “Go-Fund Me” page and repair/replacement. Also, Park Member Lori Meyers will forward the quote from Innova for replacement of the stolen two targets.
- **Trees**- Assistant Park Manager Kelley Shantz reported that nearly all the trees in the park appear to have brown splotches on them and do not seem well. Other members believe with the recent drought and now a lot of rain could have something to do with it. The committee will revisit after the winter season.
- **Dumping** – Assistant Park Manager Kelley Shantz reported that there have been a number of large items being dumped at the park. Recently there have been tires and a refrigerator left along with various junk items.

Little Carnelian – No report

Otchipwe Prairie Trail – Chairman Michael Ranalla reported the trail in good shape.

Curtiss Hills Trail –Town Board Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt asked whether the committee had looked into any logic for considering asphalt for any of the existing trails. As many of the trails are connections to the larger system. There was a suggestion made to get the square feet dimensions of the trail to the Engineer and then to get a cost estimate as a possibility for resurfacing.

Quarry Avenue Trail – Park Member Vanessa Barvels reported the trail to be in good shape and there is no wash out. Recently Ms. Barvels was approached by a nearby homeowner who asked her if she knew the status of the adjacent piece of property which is owned by the Township. Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle will check with Steve Nelson and/or Kathy Schmoeckel on this.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- ✓ **Comprehensive Plan 2040** – On October 6, 2016 the Park Committee and the Planning Commission held a Joint Meeting to discuss the Parks and Trails section of the Comprehensive Plan. As changes and fine tuning of the section take place the following areas were discussed:
 - Strategic location of the pink circles on the map to indicate “Proposed Township Park search areas”. One is located in the wrong spot and will be moved. The others will be left as is.
 - Pavilion measurements are: 40’ length x 40’ width x 25’ height.
 - Demographic changes – open land space/trails, no more active park playgrounds
 - Exercise course information – Park Member Lori Meyers will bring to future meeting.
 - A paragraph should be added to indicate a timeline for development completion and dedicated should be done within a set time frame.
 - Disc Golf has been added to Arcola Heights Park
 - Otto Berg has basketball and is working on ADA Accessibility

(Bonnie Haines arrived)

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Dogs in our Parks** – Park Member Lori Meyers would like to promote the trails where residents can bring dogs and have signage to feature our parks and steer people to our trails as well.
- **Warner Nature Center** - At our recent township picnic their bird presenter brought a hawk and an owl. If we were under our picnic budget a recommendation was previously made to donate \$100 to the Warner Nature Center. Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle will look into this further.
- **Park Committee Budget** – A spreadsheet will be reviewed in November. It shows the breakdown for “Outside Services” The committee will look further into specifics at a future meeting and will plan to present a budget to the Town Board.

7. **TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT** – Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt reported.

8. **PARK MANAGER REPORT** – No other report given.

9. **NEXT MEETING** – November 14, 2016

9. **ADJOURNMENT** –The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM. M/S/P Shantz/Haines (5ayes)

Submitted by: Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle