

Oshtemo Friends of the Parks

Minutes: March 13, 2013

Members Present: Grace Borgfjord, Deb Everett, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Carol Ladd, Jeff Parsons, Peggy Warlick

Members Excused: Carol VanAntwerp

Township Liaison: Karen High, Parks Administrator

Community Member: Lynn Gentner

The meeting was called to order by Grace. The January 15, 2013 minutes were approved. A quarterly treasurer's report will be completed by Carol Ladd at the end of this month.

Flesher Field Grant: Karen High shared information regarding the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant for improvements for Flesher Field. Phase I will include work on the parking lot, entry drive, new restrooms, and a .17 mile asphalt trail. An application is being prepared for Phase II. The township board is seeking a grant of \$300,000 and will provide a match of \$155,300. Projects for Phase II include a play area, picnic shelter, garden area with a gazebo, a new roof on the existing picnic shelter, and relocation of the wiffle ball field. The Township is gathering letters of support and requested one from the Oshtemo Friends of the Park. Request approved. In addition, the Township is looking for local organizations to offset the grant match.

Communication: Ways to improve communication between the Township Parks Committee and the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks was discussed. Members of the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks requested permission to receive the monthly minutes of the Township Parks Committee. As Liaison, Karen provided highlights of the Parks Committee February meeting. The Parks Committee will continue long range planning and update the five year parks plan. Ideas for new park projects may not be possible if not already included in the five-year park plan. Deb will confirm the January Oshtemo Friends of the Parks minutes are available on the township website, Jeff will take responsibility for availability of the minutes on the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks website.

Fundraising: Benches and Friends of the Parks t-shirts are still available for sale. Jeff is facilitating the plaque information for the Firefighters memorial bench. Carol Ladd suggested the idea of selling bricks to support projects within the parks. Libby and members of the Township Park Board will explore working with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Announcements & Questions: Deb announced the request for a permit for a Hawkers & Peddlers license pizza to be sold in Oshtemo park and Flesher Field. Oshtemo Friends of the Parks stencils will be applied to the garbage barrels when the temperature warms. Discussion of Oshtemo Friends of the Parks name to be listed as Oshtemo FOP or OFP.

Sunburst Race: The Oshtemo Friends of the Parks will provide children's activities during the morning of the Sunburst Race on Saturday, April, 20, 2013 between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Grace will explore face painting and sidewalk chalk artists, Karen will provide educational material from the Kalamazoo Conservation District and check our supply of coloring books and crayons, Peggy will order seedlings. All members present agreed to assist on race morning.

Website: Jeff continues to update the website. Seasonal pictures have been added. Jeff will further explore options for adding Oshtemo Township events to the calendar. Karen will send appropriate articles to Jeff from the Conservation District, Grace will ask Roger Taylor if he has timely bird information/articles to share.

Meeting dates: May 8, July 10, and November 13.
Please reserve September 11 as well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Warlick, pro tem