

Subject: Go Into Closed Session

PR 09-61 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.
Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Geerlings
Yeas: Bosgraaf, Sabine, Kuylers, Jonas, Kortman, Van Ginhoven,
 Statema, Geerlings, and Miedema.
Nays: None Motion passed 9 to 0.

Subject: To Rise From Closed Session

PR 09-62 Motion: To rise from Closed Session.
Moved by: Kuylers Supported by: Geerlings Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

President Bosgraaf called the meeting to order and asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Scholtz requested to add a communication from Dan and Doris Andersen, updated minutes from the Park 12 Museum Advisory Committee, Olive Shores Master Plan presentation by Mr. Jim DeWilde, and a communication from Prein & Newhof regarding a grading easement for the Croswell Street Non-Motorized Path Project for Port Sheldon Township.

Bosgraaf approved the additions to the agenda and called on Mr. Jim DeWilde, consultant with M.C. Smith and Associates, who provided an overview of the Olive Shores Master Plan. He stated that two public meetings were held to gain input on the project, and the current plan reflects input from those meetings. The Olive Shores site would include a fifty car loop parking lot, modern restroom building, a lower and upper trail loop with boardwalk, and some natural surface trails. Scholtz commented that the restrooms would be similar to the Rosy Mound Natural Area. TerHaar stated that the plan is available on the Parks and Recreation website, and the Master Plan was being funded in part by a DEQ Coastal Management grant.

Commission members received the letter from Prein & Newhof on behalf of Port Sheldon Township, regarding a request to obtain a grading easement across Commission owned parcels #70-11-12-300-034 and #70-11-12-400-001 which make up a portion of Hemlock Crossing. Scholtz explained that the purpose of the request is to construct a non-motorized path along Croswell Street to Olive Shores Drive and then to the entrance of Hemlock Crossing Park. The project would include building a bridge over the Pigeon River. TerHaar added that only three trees would be impacted, one of which is already dead and two more that are very small. Consensus was reached to grant the easement by motion and forward to the Board of Commissioners.

Commission members received for information the August 19, 2009 letter from Pat McGinnis, Grand Haven City Manager, relative to formation of the Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy. Scholtz reported that he had attended the first meeting and was impressed with the group but did not feel that there was a role for County Parks in this project.

Commission members reviewed comment cards and emails received since the previous meeting and Statema commended Mazurek and staff on responses made to park patrons regarding concerns and comments. He went on to say “responses are handled directly and beautifully, it shows what good public relations is all about”. Kortman agreed with Statema and praised staff as well.

Bosgraaf moved on to Public Comment. Ms. Joyce Smith, a resident of Black Lake Walk, addressed the vegetation removal proposed for the construction project at Park 10. She requested that Commission members consider staging the removals in a gradual process when installing the new sidewalk. She also notified staff that she had obtained permission from Mr. Milanowski to remove and relocate any plants that would have to be moved for the project. Consensus was reached by Commission members to have TerHaar work with Ms. Smith to minimize impact to existing plants and cooperate with their relocation.

Commission members reviewed the report of the Parks and Recreation Commission expenditures through July 31, 2009. Scholtz reported that a Budget Adjustment would be needed in the next month to cover some overtime hours for the seasonal park attendants. He explained that the typical practice is to make adjustments at the end of the season and then transfer funds from the seasonal wage account to cover any overtime.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Director’s report. Scholtz discussed deer management and suggested that a task force be put together to review the problem. Kuyers suggested creating the task force at the County level. Jonas agreed with Kuyers and felt that a County-wide task force was the only way to tackle the problem. Jonas also felt that County Administration should head up the task force. Kortman concurred. Consensus was reached to have Scholtz discuss the issue with County Administrator Vanderberg to see whether a task force could be created at the County level. Scholtz will report back after meeting with Vanderberg.

Scholtz moved on to the Park Township drainage project and reported that the Township has completed an engineering study which calls for a significant new drain to address significant water problems in that area. Geerlings reported that there had not yet been a Board of Determination to address the issue. He anticipated that the project could possibly cost as much as \$11.1 million. Geerlings added the first step in the process would occur in October, and the potential impact to park property and assessment costs could be high. He will report back to staff after more details are known.

Scholtz moved on to the Dog Beach Proposal for Kirk Park and reported that there would be some potential staffing issues with the proposal. He suggested that the proposal be sent to the Planning Committee for review and recommendation. Kortman praised Mazurek for his creative thinking on this issue. Consensus was reached to send the proposal to the Planning Committee for review.

Bosgraaf called for the Parks Operations Report, and Mazurek submitted his report as written and informed Commission members that he will be periodically distributing color photos of work being completed throughout the parks for all to see. Kuyers asked for an update on the dog rule enforcement signs at Mt. Pisgah, and Mazurek reported that these would be installed next week.

President Bosgraaf called for the Coordinator of Interpretive and Information Services Report and there were no questions.

Commission members reviewed the report from the Planning Committee and there was no discussion.

President Bosgraaf received the report of the Park 12 Museum Committee meeting of August 17, and Scholtz distributed updated minutes of August 7th. Both sets of minutes were prepared by Ms. Joyce Smith. Ms. Smith reported that the size of the board's governing body was discussed at the meeting. A server for the historic website was also discussed. Bosgraaf thanked Ms. Smith for her report.

Bosgraaf called for discussion of Old Business and Scholtz updated Commission members regarding the Holland Harbor Fishing Access Project and noted that he and TerHaar would be meeting with the Corps of Engineers to clarify some questions they have regarding the project plan.

Bosgraaf requested an update on the Nature Education Center and TerHaar distributed a budget update for the Commission to review. He reported that, due to a stringent plan review through Port Sheldon Township, additional costs were incurred totaling approximately \$50,000. Scholtz reported a furniture donation from Herman Miller will save the Parks Commission approximately \$10,000, and he thanked President Bosgraaf for his role in securing the donation. Scholtz also recommended having a committee to review future issues that arise with regards to the nature center including timing for opening the facility, hours of operation, educational program fees, etc. There was consensus to send these types of items to the Public Relations Committee for review.

Bosgraaf moved to New Business and Commission members received the bids for the Bend Area Open Space (12th Avenue Park Access) parking improvements/clean-up project. TerHaar recommended the low bidder, Apex Contractors, for the work. Commission members approved Apex Contractors for the project, along with the three alternates, for a total cost of \$14,953.00.

Commission members received the proposal from Eldon and Janet Kramer for naming the cemetery at Eastmanville Farm. Jonas commented on how fascinating the history of the cemetery was. Scholtz suggested referring the proposal to the Public Relations Committee. Consensus was reached to submit the proposal to the Public Relations Committee for policy review and recommendation.

Bosgraaf asked for Public Comment and Ms. Joyce Smith reaffirmed her contact person to be TerHaar for the Park 10 vegetation removal.

Bosgraaf called for Commissioners to be heard and Jonas referenced a news article in the Grand Rapids Press regarding a new dog park in Hastings.

The Parks Commission went into Closed Session to discuss property matters.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.