

ALAMO TOWNSHIP PARKS BOARD

7840 North 6th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
382-3366

Minutes

March 30, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Present: T. Britain, L. Conti, B. Fisher, D. Knight (6:45), J. Landon
Absent: S. Podewell, J. Ray
Rangers present: D. Bennett
Guests: 0

I. Call to Order

J. Landon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION by B. Fisher to excuse J. Ray from the meeting, **support** by T. Britain. Carried.

MOTION by J.Landon to excuse S. Podewell from the meeting, **support** by T. Britain. Carried.

II. Welcome Tim Britain

J. Landon and B. Fisher welcomed newest Parks Board member to the Board.

III. Minutes

MOTION by L. Conti to approve the minutes of February 23, 2010, as written, **support** by J. Landon. Carried.

III. Citizen Comment

D. Bennett (Asked T. Britain to say a little bit about himself and volunteered to provide a tour of the Park.)

IV. Ranger Reports

D. Bennett reports:

Swing set installed and wood chips spread as a base; one tree was removed. Chips needed under the remaining sets which remain safe and functional. Thanks to N. Covault, H. Stoneburner, L. Stoneburner.

Water samples were drawn and transported to be analyzed.

There was an issue with the size of the signs (marking restricted area) noting he put much time into them and doesn't want to take them out.

Wildlife boxes have been cleaned and refurbished as necessary.

Daily patrols have been occurring.

Used leaf blower to clear leaves from the Stoneburner trail to make the trail visible. The Rector Trail will be completed in the next couple of days; spreading additional chips on the trail may not be necessary this year.

A church group was in the park; D. Bennett expressed willingness to open the gates for this and other groups.

A new battery for the 4-wheeler will need to be purchased when J. Ray returns.

V. Old Business

A. Energy Usage – L. Conti reported there are numerous devices using energy in the concession stand. It remains unclear what was drawing power prior to the main breaker being shut. Once Little League season starts, additional observation will take place to determine practices with recommendations to follow. B. Fisher reports M. Lampen (Little League) is willing to arrange for spring water testing and turning the water on. Little League has the pipes professionally drained and their reassuming responsibility makes functional sense; the Board concurred. D. Bennett notes the drain where the water heater is housed needs cleaning.

- B. **Photo Contest** – Deferred.
- C. **Boy Scout Annual Report** – B. Fisher notes the Boy Scout annual report is late thus preventing the Use Agreement from being renewed. B. Fisher will contact J. Little. If the no activity is planned, the Agreement will terminate.
- D. **Directional Signs** – B. Fisher reported the Township would be responsible for the cost of directional signs for the park. The Road Commission believes that they would be the traditional brown with white letters (indicating a park). Placement of the signs may represent a violation of the Township’s sign ordinance. Placement was targeted for DE Avenue and 6th Street, D Avenue and 6th Street and DE Avenue and 2nd Street. (Ravine Road and D Avenue were recommended for a later time).

MOTION by L. Conti, subject to compliance with the sign ordinance, to seek quotes to erect 3-4 signs as the locations specified, **support** by J. Landon. Carried.

VI. New Business

- A. **Car Show** – J. Landon will check with S. Podewell on his level of engagement.
- B. **Work Days** – May 1 will be the first work day (Little League opener). Unknown if additional work on the north ditch area is needed. Chipping appears to be in good shape. Rangers have been keeping debris from trails. An April work day will not be scheduled. L. Conti notes he will be away for the April meeting and if concrete is needed for the ditch, he will donate from a pile on his property. J. Ray and Trout Unlimited will be assessing the creek; Trout Unlimited will not be working in the creek this year but other repairs may be made by the Parks Board; it appears the permit has expired.
- C. **Little League Opener** – D. Knight states the Boy Scouts will volunteer with the parking detail.
- D. **Budget Development** (Review Years 1-2 of the 5-Year Plan, develop work plan/budget to support)

J. Landon read Year 1 and Year 2:

YEAR NUMBER ONE (2009)

1. Evaluate the need for and potential location of a rustic foot bridge on the west side of 5th Street.
2. Evaluate the recommendation to enlarge the width of the west perimeter trail.
3. Evaluate a walking pathway from the Kal-Haven trail into the Park.
4. Evaluate the need for additional recreational equipment for children.
5. Determine and recommend construction of the C Avenue Park.
6. Coordinate with the Road Commission and the Board of Trustees on the disposition of 5th Street.
7. Open east side for cross country skiing/evaluate continuing for winter 2009-10 and beyond.
8. Establish trail (pathway) from west parking lot to north park area.

YEAR NUMBER TWO (2010)

1. Assess the need and potential locations for the addition of picnic tables and grills.
2. Assess the need and appropriateness of additional park activities, such as a horseshoe pit.
3. Assess the need for a permanent or semi-permanent pit toilet for use when the Park’s facilities are closed for the winter.
4. Design and install identifying trail markers and Park features.

Lengthy discussion regarding discussing the precise location of the pathway (Year One #8); location was not on the agenda and will be deferred until May.

It was determined that Year 1 #3 (grant funded), #8 and Year 2 # 1 will be primary concerns for the immediate future.

MOTION by B. Fisher to start the April 27 Parks Board meeting at the Park, **support** by J. Landon. Carried.

VII. Adjourn.

MOTION by L. Conti to adjourn, **support** by T. Britain. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Fisher, Parks Board Secretary