

ALAMO TOWNSHIP PARKS BOARD

7901 North 6th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
382-3366

Minutes
April 27, 2010

Board Members Present: T. Britain, B. Fisher, D. Knight (6:20 p.m.), J. Landon, J. Ray
Board Members Absent: L. Conti, S. Podewell
Rangers Present: D. Bennett
Guests: 1

- I. **Call to Order.** Chair Landon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Park.
- II. **Pathway.** Members present plus D. Bennett and T. LoBretto walked the 3 trails marked as options for the pathway from the west parking lot to the trailhead. Once this was complete, the meeting moved to the Township Hall.
- III. **MOTION** by J. Ray to accept the minutes of March 30, 2010, as written, **support** by T. Britain. Carried.
MOTION by B. Fisher to excuse L. Conti from the meeting, **support** by J. Landon. Carried.
MOTION by D. Knight to excuse S. Podewell, **support** by J. Landon. 3 yes, 2 abstain. Carried.
- IV. **Citizen Comment (Car Show).**
T. LoBretto left car show flyers and sponsor letters with the Board. Plans are progressing well. PNC plans to provide sponsorships. Funds for the trophies are being collected. The fence will be peeled back to permit access across fields; Little League does not wish to install a permanent gate. The car club will establish twice monthly planning meetings shortly. The Boy Scouts will manage the concession; more variety in food is requested. Limiting ball practice until after 3:00 p.m. will be attempted.
- V. **Pathway.** Each member expressed their thoughts on the various options for the pathway. Considerations included aesthetics, habitat, original purpose of the path, grooming/marketing and construction.
MOTION by B. Fisher to adopt the yellow trail, **support** by J. Ray and T. Britain. Carried.
The trail will not be accessible to motorized vehicles (excluding vehicles used by persons with ambulation challenges) and be approximately 3.5 feet wide. The trail will not be chipped unless necessary to control undergrowth. Marking will be discussed later with the theme being one of using natural features/downed wood or posts that complement the surrounding features. An educational approach will be incorporated.
- VI. **Ranger Reports.** D. Bennett noted J. Ray has been doing most of the patrols at this point. Rocks have been thrown into the creek again.
- VII. **Old Business**
 - A. **Boy Scout Agreement.** B. Fisher reported, per J. Little, the Boy Scout Use Agreement should be discontinued. D. Knight notes that the Cub Scouts wish to use the area for no trace camping. A review of the policy governing use occurred. D. Knight will provide the policy to the scout master.

- B. **Directional Signs.** B. Fisher reported that Supervisor Vlietstra has approved directional signs for the DE Avenue Park. Signs will read "Alamo Township Park" with a second sign attached to the post saying "Little League" or "Home of Alamo Township Little League". Size to be determined by Rathco to meet applicable standards, etc.; three locations (6 signs). B. Fisher to obtain quotes.
- C. **Little League Opener.** The opener is Saturday, May 1. J. Ray will take the lead and coordinate volunteers and logistics.
- D. **5th Street.** B. Fisher reports that home owners on 5th Street have not submitted the signed petition; she will follow up. The Township has set aside funds to go toward the removal of the bridge deck.
- E. **(F) Signs/Boundary Issues and (G) Work Plan/Budget.**
MOTION by J. Ray to table F and G to a time when there is adequate time to thoroughly discuss the issues, **support** by B. Fisher. Carried.

D. Bennett concurred with this decision and the need to have these discussions, noting that he has removed a couple of signs that he had placed.
- F. **Donated Play Equipment.** Following additional inspection of the donated equipment, it was determined that the equipment should be removed due to safety issues. This will be completed prior to the Township junk day on May 8 to facilitate easy disposal. D. Bennett supported replacing some of the equipment referencing the fund balance in the restricted account. Further discussion will occur on types of replacement equipment.

VIII. **New Business.**

- A. **Photo Contest.** A second photo contest will be deferred until the fall.
- B. **Trail Maintenance.** Discussion involved an observation that many parks do not chip their trails. There are several areas of the trail systems where chipping or other means might be necessary to control growth. Marking questionable areas with dead branches was suggested. It was further suggested that dragging the trails could keep them clear and that using the leaf blower to clear the trail's this year worked very well.

MOTION by J. Ray to discontinue chipping the trails and identify alternate methods of marking, **support** by D. Knight. Carried.
- C. **Bikes in the Park.** The Board had previously determined that bikes would not be invited into the Park via the connector and one of more barriers/enhancements would be employed. The outright ban of bikes was forwarded to an upcoming agenda for discussion.
- D. **Little League Updates.** J. Ray noted that a light was left on in the concession restroom and a heater left running when the concession was unoccupied. Though the Board is held harmless for the electric in the Park, the Board wishes to use electric wisely and will be pursuing methods of doing so. Discussion was begun on the need for adding permanent 220 service to the concession.

IX. **Adjourn.**

MOTION by J. Ray to adjourn, **support** by D. Knight. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fisher
Parks Board Secretary