

**ALAMO TOWNSHIP PARKS BOARD**

7901 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
382-3366

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

**I. Call to Order at 6:00 PM by the chair**

Attendees

Lou Conti, Dan Knight, Jack Landon, Stephen Podewell, Newt Covault  
Tim Britain arrived at 6:05 PM, which was excused  
Barb Fisher had an excused absence and kindly left notes and comments  
for this meeting

Stephen Podewell volunteered act as secretary and take the minutes.

**II. Modifications to Agenda**

Item VII-F was moved to the bottom of section VII and item VIII-B was moved  
to the top of section VIII per the request of Lou Conti

**III. Minutes**

Corrections

1. Restricted funds should be changed from 14418.63 to 10418.63 per Barb's notes
2. Some discussion on the Classic Car Show in section VII-C took place. It was felt that the discussion revolving around the "probability would out grow the DE Avenue Park" incomplete, misleading, and the opinion of one individual. It was also stated that either this be struck from the minutes or be label as one persons opinion and not that of the board.
3. An attachment was referenced but was missing from the minutes. Lou Conti supplied a hard copy of the statement which has been entered below.

A statement to read and include in today minutes:

Statement: Recently one of our Park rangers has come under unfair criticism. Let us set the record straight Dick Bennett has been dedicated and hard working volunteer Ranger for the park these past five years. He has beautified the park with his many wonderful bird houses along with his introduction of the first turkey flock in the area. On volunteer work days, Dick is the first to show-up and the last to leave. He regularly attends our monthly meeting and contributes his valuable insights to the board. He is someone we can always count on and he shares with us the vision of Community Park.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended by Lou Conti and supported by Newt Covault. The motion carried

**IV. Financial Report**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Electric	\$480.07
Regular	\$979.70
Restricted	\$3215.10

\$7203.53 has been spent on the pavilion to date per Barb's notes

**V. Citizen Comments**

Dick Bennett recommended that our meetings be electronically recorded to provide an accurate occurrence of the meeting.  
Dick Bennett and Jim Endres expressed their thanks to all the volunteers who helped build the Patriots Pavilion.

**VI. Ranger Reports**

Dick Bennett reported that all was quiet in the park. A few limbs were removed from the trails during patrols.

**VII. Old Business**

**A. Open Position (Board Member & Ranger) Jack**

Jack Landon announced that Newt Covault was approved as a new board member at the previous Township Board meeting and welcomed him to the board  
Lou Conti made a motion to recommend Lee Stoneburner to be as a park ranger to the Township Board. The motion was seconded by Newt Covault and the motion carried.

**B. Insurance Survey Tim**

Tim Britain reported the insurance survey was completed and he will give it to Barb. The only issue that he found was the need for engineered wood fiber under the swing sets at a depth of twelve inches. It was estimated that this material costs about \$35/yard and it would cost about \$100 per swing set.

**C. Kevin Van Dam Recognition Status Lou**

Lou Conti showed the board the wooden plaque for Kevin Van Dam made with olive wood and had Jack Landon sign it.

**D. Master Plan Status Tim**

Tim Britain showed initial plan diagrams of the DE Avenue Park. He stressed that this is only an initial plan and that the members of the board should review the diagrams and come back with comments, questions and additional ideas at the next meeting.

**E. 5th Street Status Barb/Tim**

WMU students were giving an electronic copy of the plat map they requested per Barb Fisher's notes. Nothing is expected from the WMU students until an April 2011 timeframe.

**F. 2011 Classic Car Show Steve/Newt**

Plans are progressing per Newt Covault who is heading up the event this year.

**G. C Avenue Park Lou**

Lou Conti read a statement;

On November 8 I attended the Alamo Township Board monthly meeting at that meeting I listened to a presentation by two gentlemen from Aggregate Industries. Part of that presentation concerned the C Avenue property, the portion that was not deeded to the Township. I talk to the individuals after there

presentation and was amazed at what they told me. First a little background, when Aggregate Industries first proposed there deal for a new gravel operation in the township part of there agreement included a donation of 20 acres for a future Township park. At that time we were lead to believe that they would assist us in creating a first class park at the site. They even show us a hard cover book of amazing reclaimed sites around the country that they developed. At the time the location of the donated land was still up in the air. It would be either the site across the street from the C Avenue pit or that site. The land across the street was tied up with a right of first refusal with the campground, who eventually decided to exercise there agreement which left the old gravel pit as our site. In the winter of 2008 the Park's board met with Aggregate representative Marty Landis for a tour of the site. At that time the area was nothing more than a open gravel pit. We discussed options, the biggest question was the amount of land at the site. Marty indicated that he had a expertise in land reclamation and was willing to help in the land redevelopment. So the spring 2009 I presented to the Park's board an idea for the land. My hope was that we would begin a dialogue within the Park's board and Aggregate before they began the process of reclaiming the land. To my shock in the fall of 2009 I brought to the boards attention with photos, equipment on the site that was reclaiming the land. This brings me to that meeting three weeks ago. I was told by the Aggregate representatives that they are finished with our portion of the property. What you see is what you get. So much for the promise of working together to create a world class park. They were there only to discuss the reclamation of the portion of the land not deeded to the township. This spring they intend to begin to reclaim this area. I believe that it is important to have input into there plans that will directly impact what ever we do to our portion of the property. So I am proposing to the board that Newt and I be authorize to meet with Aggregate representatives and report back to the board on the full status of C avenue.

Stephen Podewell made a motion to have Lou Conti and Newt Covault meet with Aggregate Industry representatives and report back on the fall status of the C Avenue park. It was supported by Lou Conti and the motion carried.

#### **H. New Trail**

Jack Landon asked whether everyone had had a chance to walk the proposed trail west of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and received an affirmative from all. He then read a statement supplied by Barb Fisher stating her disapproval of the new trail. A motion was made **by Lou Conti** to perform the necessary tasks to complete the trail **and supported by Newt Covault**. The motion carried.

#### **I. Patriot Pavilion Status**

**Lou**

The pavilion is complete with the exception of the roof. A determination needs to be made as to what type of roof will be best for the structure. Lou stated that we were over budget and presented the details. He presented ideas for raising additional funds to cover the cost over run. Tim Britain made a motion to support fundraisers for the Patriots Pavilion and have Lou preset this information to the Township Board. The motion was supported by Stephen Podewell and carried.

### **VIII. New Business**

**A. Winter Event**

**Lou**

Lou Conti proposed that we have a winter event at the park that includes cross-country skiing, ice skating and other winter activities.

Proposal for Winter Fest Program

Goal: To create an annual winter use for the park

- A. 2 and half miles of groom trails
- B. Ice ring 30x 60
- C. Alamo Township Winter Fest 2011 (proposed date February 12, Valentine weekend)
- D. Proposed site for all activities, Patriots Pavilion

Needed for Program

- A. Ice Ring Materials \$400
- B. Brochures to advertise Winter Fest \$50
- C. Cut wood for fire pit, fires will be limited to Winter Fest 2011 and special supervise events
- D. Signage for trials and events \$25
- E. Article for Newsletter
- F. Policy for opening park

Discussion included the suggestion of Snowball Softball activity by Dan Knight. The concept was well received with the exception of the expenditure of \$400 for Ice Rink construction. Stephen Podewell made motion that we schedule a Winter Fest on February 12, 2011. The motion was seconded by Jack Landon and the motion carried. Details for the event will be handled at the January meeting. Lou Conti was given the responsibility of writing something for the news letter.

**B. Picnic Tables**

**Lou**

Lou Conti submitted the following proposal for raising funds for the Patriots Pavilion

Patriots' Pavilion Fund-Raising Program

Objective: Raise money to enhance the new Pavilion with new picnic tables, grills and a children play area. Goal \$20,000

Vision: The pavilion is a beautiful eight sided structure with a central fire pit. As you approach the structure the top header board will read Patriots Pavilion, the next section will read World War 2, the next Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and military service. By each section there will be room for 7" named stars for veterans of that conflict. The inner part of the pavilion will be dedicated to community first responders. Stars of past and present firefighters and first responders will grace the interior rafters. The picnic tables will have a 6" X 10" engraved brass plaque. The table can be dedicated to a family, individual or military veterans. If dedicated to a military veteran the donation includes a 7" post military star.

Picnic tables	\$500	
Military stars	\$100	
First responder star	\$75	
Goal 12 tables		\$6,000
80 military stars		\$8,000
80 first responders stars		\$6,000

Conclusion: Alamo Township Patriots Pavilion will truly be a great community facility and a memorial to honor its citizens who have served their country and community. Although the new structure is nearly completed and will be available for events this summer it will be formally dedicated on September 11, 2011. The tenth anniversary of the day we all remember and future generations should never forget.

Tim Britain made a motion to that the Parks Board support the Fundraiser for the Patriots Pavilion and have Lou to present the idea at the Alamo Township Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Stephen Podewell and it carried.

**C. Election of Officers at January Meeting** **Jack**

Jack Landon reminded the members of the board that we need to elect officers in January. He asked everyone to think of people they would like to have in the various positions.

**D. Other**

Stephen Podewell made a motion to have the Parks Board continue meeting on the last Tuesday of the month for 2011. **The motion was supported by Tim Britain and carried.**

Dan Knight made a motion to have the east entrance to the park left open so that the community has better access to the park and the west side remain locked. The motion was supported by Newt Covault and carried.

**IX. Adjourn**

Newt Covault made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM, which was supported by Tim Britain. The motion carried.

~~Alamo Township meetings are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender or disability. Alamo Township will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired or an audio tape of the agenda items to be considered at the meeting for individuals with sight impairment upon 7 days notice to Clerk Carilyn Sportel Bogard (382-3366).~~

Submitted,

Stephen Podewell