

ALAMO TOWNSHIP PARKS BOARD

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

Minutes June 30, 2009

Board Members Present: L. Conti, B. Fisher, J. Landon, J. Little (6:12 p.m.), S. Podewell, J. Ray

Absent: D. Knight (unexcused)

Rangers Present: J. Ray

Guests: 4

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Secretary Fisher at 6:05 p.m.

II. Minutes. MOTION by S. Podewell to accept the minutes of May 26, 2009, **support** by J. Ray. Carried (5-0).

III. Citizen Comment.

R. Stolk, Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail. Spoke to the Friends' desire to give back to communities impacted by the Kal-Haven Trail in the form of grants to further relevant development benefiting community partners. Mr. Stolk noted Alamo's cross country ski trails and potential connectivity to the trail as illustrations. Mr. Stolk also provided updates on the work being performed on the linear trail.

IV. Budget/Funding. No noteworthy expenditures from the general budget. J. Ray reports donations of approximately \$1,900 from the car show; \$140 (of the \$300 fee) was paid to the DJ. The invoice for the trophies is outstanding. Tony LoBretto noted 176 cars/cycles and tractors were registered. Numerous others were present but did not choose to register. Thirty-nine municipalities were represented and included participants from Goshen, Charlotte and Benton Harbor. The general consensus: great turnout, weather and smooth operations. For next year consideration will be given to inviting larger sponsors, asking the Fire Department to hold a water ball competition and hosting other family oriented activities to increase participation. B. Fisher attempted to secure a tethered hot air balloon and learned most balloon-clubs have discontinued this as being costly and labor intensive. Improvements to the menu to also be considered.

MOTION by S. Podewell to hold the 4th annual car show on June 26th, 2010, **support** by J. Landon. Carried (6-0).

V. Action Items/New Business

A. Park Inspection. B. Fisher noted the Township insurance carrier is requesting a voluntary review of Park features using a provided checklist. Members agreed a systematic safety review would be in order. Packet to be given to J. Ray who will work with other rangers and report back.

B. Nature Conservancy. L. Conti referenced a planned clean-up scheduled for October 10 by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy at the Sand Creek Preserve from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. As this also corresponds to the Township trash day, B. Fisher will coordinate with R. Feniger to permit Board members wishing to assist the Conservancy also take advantage of junk day. (Forward to September agenda)

VI. Old Business

- A. Play Equipment. Forward to July agenda.
- B. Work Days (Park/Ditch Maintenance). Chips are needed for the trails. Various members are working at securing. A number of members have the requisite concrete needed to repair washed-out ditch-barriers in the Park. A workday will be scheduled for the fall.
- C. 5th Street. B. Fisher reported it is unclear whether Jirgens wish to proceed with abandonment. The Township is checking out potential limitations regarding access for Consumer's and AT&T. The Township is responsible for 20% of the removal charges (currently estimated at a total of \$8,000) and has expressed a desire to have a survey completed as part of the process. Ideally the Board will begin deliberations concerning the formal process in July.
- D. Cross Country Ski Trails. L. Conti noted a map will be developed for Board approval on a proposed expansion of the cross-country ski trails.

VII. Ranger Reports

J. Ray reports D. Bennett sent his regrets (family birthday [his] celebration). The native prairie grasses D. Bennett planted are doing well. It's been a good year for fawns. Trout have been seen dimpling the water surface and the structures held during the recent monsoons. Stones on the bank have, for the most part, been free from vandalism. A suggestion was made to make a note in the next newsletter to see if anyone has a manure spreader they wish to donate.

VIII. Other

Heartly thanks offered to L. Conti and his assistant chef, D. Vlietstra, for providing the celebratory pizza.

VIII. Adjourn. MOTION by B. Fisher to adjourn, **support** by J. Ray. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fisher
Parks Board Secretary