

ALAMO TOWNSHIP PARKS BOARD

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

Minutes October 27, 2009

Board Members Present: L. Conti, B. Fisher, D. Knight, J. Landon, S. Podewell, J. Ray

Rangers Present: D. Bennett, R. Flath

Planning Commission Members Present: K. DeVries, R. Feniger, H. Goyings, B. Smith

Guests: 3

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Chair Knight at 5:58 p.m.
- II. **Minutes. MOTION** by S. Podewell to accept the minutes of September 29, 2009, as written, **support** by J. Ray. Carried.
- III. **Citizen Comment.**
None.
- IV. **Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail Grant.** Ron Stolk presented the Parks Board with a check for \$2,000.00 in response to the Parks Board request for a grant to connect the Kal-Haven Trail with the Township Park. Parks Board members expressed their gratitude for this generous gift. Mr. Stolk noted that several improvements to the trail were underway (expansion to the trailhead parking lot, etc.). Aggregate Industries donated the gravel for the parking lot as well as funds which went toward the construction of a structure at the South Haven trailhead. Dick Bennett noted it was difficult to find the entity with authority to enforce Trail rules.
- V. **Action Items**
 - A. **Photo Contest.** B. Fisher referenced the e-mail S. Podewell distributed earlier in the week. Further, S. Podewell noted he would be responsible for securing prizes. Final discussion and authorization of the contest, rules and processes will occur at the November meeting; announcement to follow in the December newsletter.
 - B. **ARRA Grant.** B. Fisher noted the Park was not included in the energy grant application/survey given there are neither immediate nor cost effective opportunities for energy conservation at the site.
 - C. **Swing Set.** B. Fisher referenced the quote of \$2,478.01 to purchase a second commercial swing set for the Park. This represents an identical setup to the equipment previously purchased. Price increases are anticipated in December; ordering now and taking delivery in the spring is allowable. The equipment is intended to replace equipment that was removed for safety reasons.
MOTION by J. Ray to purchase the commercial grade swing set, as quoted, prior to the anticipated price increases, **support** by S. Podewell. Carried.

MOTION by B. Fisher to use funds from the Parks' general fund, less funds necessary to maintain essentials through the end of the fiscal year, with remaining funds coming from the restricted account, **support** S. Podewell. Carried.

The equipment will be dedicated to the Alamo Car Club for their generosity in supporting the Township park. B. Fisher noted the Club has requested attendance of a designated Parks Board liaison at their planning meetings for the 2010 car show. J. Ray noted T. LoBretto also plans to attend one or more of the Parks Board meetings.

D. Other

1. Eagle Scout Project. D. Knight noted he tilled the garden area for Georgen Endres. The plantings have occurred.
2. Junk Day. R. Feniger noted clean-up day went well; however, additional trash was dumped on site after hours. Dumping has occurred whether the gate is open or closed. J. Ray reminded persons that locking the gate requires the combination portion of the lock to be turned and that he removed a tree from the shed on the west side of the park.
3. Insurance Coverage. J. Ray requested liability issues for Park volunteers be added to the November meeting.
4. OHS Cross Country Ski Club. L. Conti passed around a sign up flyer that is being posted at the Otsego High School for the Cross Country Ski Club. A faculty sponsor has been established.

VI. Joint Parks Board and Planning Commission Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

B. Smith offered a brief history of what led to the discussion of defining parks (an SEUP for a dog park was filed, and although the prevailing thought was that this was a reasonable use of land in some part of the township, it raised the issue that the Township's definition of a park was not particularly descriptive.) B. Smith went on to note that with a modifier, the term is clearer, for instance, industrial park, office park, amusement park, etc. It was noted that "recreation" is a commonly used term in many municipalities' definitions. B. Fisher noted that consideration of terminology might include distinctions between parks that are private, public, preserves, etc. It was also suggested that commercial versus non-commercial uses be part of the discussion. A brief discussion followed that encouraged members of both groups to expansively consider appropriate park land usage and to individually develop a proposed definition. These definitions should be e-mailed to B. Fisher prior to the next Parks Board meeting on November 24. To assist with this task, B. Fisher had sent out a note to each group containing multiple websites that might assist with this process. B. Fisher will put all suggestions received into a single document for review and discussion by both groups at their respective meetings. B. Smith had prepared some materials which were distributed during the meeting.

VII. Adjourn.

MOTION by J. Landon to adjourn, **support** by B. Fisher. Carried. Adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fisher
Parks Board Secretary