

SOUTHERN LAKES REGIONAL METROPOLITAN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Thursday, July 28th, 2016
6:00pm
150 S. Leroy St.
Fenton, MI 48430

Call to Order

Chairperson, Ray Culbert called the Public Forum to order at 6:03pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Present: Ray Culbert, Shaun Shumaker, Patricia Lockwood, Robert Krug, Brad Dick

Excused: David McDermott

Roll Call: Mr. Culbert declared there was a quorum with Five board members.

Staff Present: Vince Paris, Shirley Ciofu, Nancy Muffley

Public Present: Doug Shultz of Rowe, Inc.

Residents in the area of the Rolston Road proposed kayak launch site (names on record).

Mr. Culbert introduced himself and the board made their introductions. He gave a briefing of the Public Hearing process noting each person who wishes to be heard will get 3-5 minutes to make a statement. Mr. Paris informed the attendees of the series of events leading up to the Site Plan created by Rowe, Inc. - with the plan being paid for from the fundraising efforts of the SLPR Keepers of the Shiawassee program. Mr. Paris noted SLPR and the Keepers are committed to the protection of the River and it was the Keepers who came to SLPR with the idea to develop the Rolston Road property located in Argentine Township. He also noted that talks with Argentine Township are conceptual at this time and this hearing is to get input from residents.

Attached to these minutes is a list of the residents who signed in for the Public Forum.

Public Forum: Residents who spoke and their comments

Tim and Dee Bedell

1. Will the development disrupt wildlife?
2. Has there been a wildlife study?
3. Deer season is a dangerous time of year.
4. Who will police it?
5. Drugs, alcohol, and off road vehicles are concerns.
6. What are the hours of use?
7. Who will pick up the trash?
8. What is the Master Plan?
9. Rolston Road is too far off the path.
10. Find a more accessible space

Brad Jacobs

1. Intended use would be to launch canoes and kayaks.
2. There would be walking paths and picnic tables.
3. Rolston Road is a good location
 - a. Handicap accessible
 - b. Place to park – road parking would no longer be an issue

- c. No alcohol allowed because it would be a City Park
- d. Intent is non-motorized vehicles only.
- e. Argentine Township supervisor offered DPW, fire, and police support.
- f. Supports commitment from the drain commission and from Dr. Steibel to develop Hogan Road.
- g. Withdraws support for Rolston Road.

Maggie Yerman

- 1. Who will support the project financially?
- 2. Keepers paid for the site plan and raise money for upkeep of the river.
- 3. Keepers volunteer their time to keep the river clean.
- 4. Does not want the Keepers to pay to expand the site plan.
- 5. Referenced the article in the paper about Bob Cole and Argentine Township support.
- 6. Noted the Keepers went to the drain commission to get Hogan Road and they said no because it was too close to the water treatment plant. So Drain Commission 'gave' Rolston Road as an option.

Ken and Linda Steibel

- 1. Support community projects.
- 2. Concerned that the Rolston Road property is too isolated.
- 3. Would like to see the launch site on Hogan Road developed rather than creating a new site on Rolston Road.
- 4. Concerned there is no sustainable funding.
- 5. Will create an endowment if the launch site is changed from Rolston Road to the Hogan Road site.
- 6. Wants only non-motorized access.

Maurice Ryan

- 1. Requests a 50 year lease on any property.
- 2. Met with Brian Ross of Drain Commission stating they're willing to improve Hogan Road access.
- 3. Agrees with Ms. Yerman and Dr. Steibel that the Hogan Road property be developed instead:
 - a. Create parking
 - b. Improve access
 - c. Add picnic tables and porta pots
 - d. More access/more viewable
 - e. Waste water service has security cameras in place already.
- 4. What is the process from here?

Deb McCarty

- 1. Likes the idea to improve the Hogan Road launch.
- 2. Does not want the Keepers to spend any more money on feasibility studies.

Debbie Wasylyshyn

- 1. Does not want any site to be over developed.
 - a. No light pollution
 - b. Parking access on Hogan Road would be helpful

Tom Mullenix

- 1. Agrees with Dr. Steibel that the Hogan Road property be developed instead.
 - a. Said drain commission agreed to do improvements to the Hogan Road site.
 - b. Doesn't have the commitments in writing.
 - c. Noted tax payers in one area may not be happy paying for a park in another (out of district).
 - d. Not pleased. Said Rolston Road project is 'obnoxious'.

Rex Mathewson

- 1. Helped develop trail from Holly
- 2. Noted efforts to have the Shiawassee River named a National Heritage River
 - a. Recreation access is required as is camping amenities.
 - b. Naming would increase tourism and add prestige.
 - c. Either site (Rolston or Hogan) would do.

Geri Ann Mullenix

1. Loves the idea of a launch but the Rolston Road site is a sensitive area.
2. Does not want pavilions or property to be over developed.
3. If the drain commission has offered Hogan Road support, then she supports it there.
4. Interested in preservation and not expansion.
5. Noted Eagle Park in the City of Linden where a bridge could be made from one park to another.

Judy and Ed Grubb

1. Why wasn't the residents involved from the beginning?
2. Poor water quality is a concern.
3. Disruption of wildlife is a concern.
4. Cole Road might be a better spot.

Joetta Pyles-Zalweski

1. Hogan Road is ideal.
2. Wants to be part of building a proper launch.

Ray Culbert thanked the residents for their comments.

The Operations Committee was introduced by Mr. Culbert. He noted the meetings the committee had with Bob Cole of Argentine Township and Jeff Wright of Genessee County Drain Commission.

Pat Lockwood stated the purpose of the meeting was to listen to the public's concerns. She asked that Mr. Paris explain SLPR's role in the project.

Mr. Paris noted the new development option of Hogan Road was not known to SLPR before this forum. He described the Keepers as a program of SLPR's whereby SLPR holds an administrative/fiduciary role over the funds and carries the liability insurance for the Keeper's activities. The Keepers came to SLPR because the SLPR Charter allows for the purchase or lease of land for programming outside its district. The Keepers discovered that as a volunteer organization they could not participate in a land swap with the Drain Commission so that's where SLPR took an interest in the project from a community development perspective.

Ms. Lockwood said the Board's perspective is to be sure the public is heard during the conceptual stage. She stated many meetings have been held because SLPR wants to do what's best for the community and SLPR wants to partner with the volunteer groups.

Mr. Krug spoke to the Charter concerns brought up by Mr. Mullenix explaining SLPR could develop parks outside its district.

Mr. Dick noted the Board's intent and the Keeper's intent is to make a rustic site. He also stated the Drain Commission did not mention the Hogan Road property as an option and that if it is an option, it will have to be in writing.

Mr. Shumaker noted no decision has been made yet at the board level on what SLPR's role will be going forward.

Public Forum session was adjourned and closed at 6:53pm.

Regular Monthly Board Meeting resumed at 7:20pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of May 26th, 2016 Regular Board meeting minutes (There was no meeting in June)
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
 - Bills paid prior to the June 23rd, 2016 and July 28th, 2016 in the amount \$ 38,545.28 for June and \$102,774.89 for July

Moved by: Mr. Shumaker; seconded by Mr. Dick to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Call to the Audience: None present

Presentation by parent volunteer Amanda Carrigan, President SLPR Swim Team Board

Ms. Carrigan made a plea to the board to reconsider the way non-resident rates are calculated for swim team programs. She produced an analysis that showed what the program could potentially lose if it were to lose non-resident participants due to the high program fees. She stated the parent board increased fundraising efforts to help offset the costs of swim meets and are working with SLPR to pull the program 'out of the hole'. It was also noted that the loss of swim coach Stephanie Olsen in August 2015, may have contributed to the down turn in registration. Non-resident rates were adjusted in January 2016 and Ms. Carrigan asked the board to review. A discussion followed regarding an annual per family cap on the fees. Mr. Shumaker said the finance committee should take another look. Mr. Dick noted it was the board's consensus at budget time to review the non-resident rates again.

Programmers Report: Ms. Ciofu announced the upcoming Tour Des Lac bike tour on August 5th stating there are 73 people registered to date and staff expects to double that count.

Accounting Report: Ms. Ciofu presented a written report.

Director Report: Mr. Paris noted the MCACA grant could not be processed without board approval. Motion by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. Shumaker to approve the MCACA Arts Grant for the SLPR Dance Program in the amount of \$11,860 from MCACA with \$11,860 matching funding coming from the SLPR Dance Fund for a total of \$23,640.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Mr. Paris recommended a 3% increase for Nancy Muffley and Shirley Ciofu as per discussion with both the finance and personnel committee stating there is \$4,750 budgeted for administrative salaries. He also stated the increase would be a little more than half of the amount that was budgeted so it will have no negative effect on the proposed 2016 fund equity. Mr. Shumaker and Mr. Dick agreed salary increases should be initiated by the Director during the budget process then recommendations go to the finance committee.

Motion by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. Dick to approve salary increases as recommended by the executive director made effective June 23rd, 2016.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Mr. Paris stated there are no changes to the letter of understanding between SLPR and the Fenton School District except the dates. It will remain a one year agreement.

Motion by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. Krug to approve the Letter of Understanding with Fenton Area Public Schools as presented for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Motion Carried: 4 ayes, 1 Nay

Mr. Paris described the Loose resolution as a document that replaces the inter-local agreement's 19% appropriations with a grant application process based on Loose's need. He also discussed the meetings with Mr. Gabrielson and Mr. Eible stating it was positive in reaction to the grant. Mr. Paris also stated he had permission from Genesee County to use the same grant application as used for the Senior Millage.

Mr. Dick and Mr. Shumaker expressed concerns with the inter-local agreement still in effect. Mr. Dick stated the board should look at the resolution as one step towards opting out of the inter-local agreement in the future.

Motion by Mr. Krug, seconded by Ms. Lockwood to approve the SLPR Board resolution as presented whereby effective January 1, 2017 SLPR will provide LOOSE with financial support for a fiscal year based on an annual grant submission to SLPR and in conjunction with the 2017 SLPR Budget Process contingent on review and approval by attorney.

Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 1 Nay

Mr. Culbert stated now that the resolution has been signed, a meeting with Loose will be in order.

Motion by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. Shumaker to table the approval of the lease discussions with the County on the Rolston Road Property and to redirect it to the Operations Committee for review and recommendations to the Board.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Commissioners Comments: Ms. Lockwood noted there is a new chair of the LAFF Pathways committee and that the County has signed the LAFF agreement.

Next Meeting;

Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, August 25th, 2016 at 6:00pm at the Fenton Community Center

Adjournment

Chairperson Culbert adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary, Shirley Ciofu