

SOUTHERN LAKES REGIONAL METROPOLITAN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Thursday, September 28th, 2017
6:00pm
150 S. Leroy St.
Fenton, MI 48430

Call to Order

Chairperson, Ray Culbert called the Meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Present: Ray Culbert, Robert Kessler, David McDermott, Brad Dick, Patricia Lockwood
Excused: Shaun Shumaker
Roll Call: Mr. Culbert declared there was a quorum with five board members
Staff Present: Vince Paris, Shirley Ciofu
Public Present: List of attendees on file

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of July 27th, 2017 Regular Board meeting minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
 - Bills paid prior to August 24th, 2017 in the amount of \$37,998.00
 - Bills paid prior to September 28th, 2017 in the amount of \$48,599.43

Motion by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. Dick to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Call to the Audience: No questions or comments at this time

Programmer's Report: Ms. Ciofu highlighted the 7 on 7 football league stating it was also known as 'two hand touch' football. The new format replaces the former Flag Football and has 128 participants. Mr. McDermott asked for information on the league and when and why the decision was made to change. He noted comments he's received from participants. Also highlighted was the swim lessons. Ms. Lockwood noted the positive news article on the swim program and the team transformation.

Director's Report: Mr. Paris noted the winter brochure timeline is mid-November stating staff has already begun planning. He also announced the resignation of Harrison Cypher, Athletic/League Programmer. He noted Mr. Chypher's last day of September 29th following his two weeks notice. Mr. Paris also stated that to date he has received 14 resumes and has narrowed it down to four candidates of which he and Ms. Ciofu would schedule for interviews. Mr. Paris also noted his meeting with Adam Hartley, Superintendent of Fenton Schools, to discuss additional pool time for the instructional swim program as well as a plan to offer a Summer recreation competitive swim club.

Mr. Paris discussed the video projects that Administrative Assistant, Diane Sokoloski has been working on using the cable consortium's equipment on loan. She has created a library of photos and videos and posted them to Flickr. A discussion followed re: SLPR's access to the equipment. It was stated that the equipment

is made possible by a PEG grant which stands for Public Education and Government, thus allowing SLPR to participate in the program. Mr. Paris was asked to provide the FACT Consortium a list of projects and ideas for SLPR's use of the equipment.

Accounting Report: Ms. Ciofu reported the L4029 is due and presented it for Board approval. Mr. Paris noted the form is reviewed by the Equalization Director prior to presentation to the board.

Action Item: Resolution and approval of the L4029 Millage Levy at .3632 mils
Motion by: Mr. McDermott, seconded by Mr. Kessler to approve the millage levy and submission of the L4029 as presented.
There were no public nor board comments.

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Ms. Ciofu also discussed the final invoices for the Fenton and Linden DDA events noting they would be finalized mid-October once all the transactions have been accounted for. She also stated staff has been working diligently in preparation of the 2018 budget and a budget draft has been completed for the Finance Committee's review.

Action Item: Approval of the LAFF request.

Hearing of the Public: Chairperson, Ray Culbert asked for comments from the public stating if they wished to speak on the LAFF request then comments would have to be kept under five minutes.

Mr. Stack noted his presentation to this board in July when he first made the proposal asking that SLPR put a millage proposal on a ballot for the trail ways.

Mr. Lukasavitz stated the LAFF group is very serious about getting trails established and is asking SLPR to do more than just show support.

Mr. Panzlav of Fenton Township asked what are the alternatives? What's the next step? What can citizens do to assist with the process. He stated the project needed leadership.

Ms. Walker of Fenton Township she is part of the Loose Riders group and the trails run nice through Linden, but would love to see them extended.

Ms. BlackFedio stated she is also a Loose Rider and participated in SLPR's Tour-des-Lacs noting the route was not very safe. She said she would love to ride in Fenton and will do whatever needs to be done to get the project done.

Ms. Fisher of Linden also stated her support of connecting trails.

Mr. Zann of Fenton stated he use to run in all seasons but now feels unsafe stating he too would do whatever it takes to assist.

Ms. Brant of Fenton Township stated that as a local realtor she sees the importance and value to the area properties in adding more recreational options such as trails.

Mr. DeVries of Linden stated he chose his house in the area because it is so near the trail that leads into downtown Linden. He noted there is a multitude of activities the trails could be used for.

Mr. Stack stated LAFF was at a stand-still. The project needs a signature authority to get grant money and as a community group they have no authority.

Project engineer, Mr. Huhta stated his passion for the trail ways. He noted there are options to help get money for the development and that trails are a low cost recreation. He stated he is present to answer board questions.

Mr. Lukasavitz defined the trails as none motorized, multi-use trails and not exclusive to bikes.

Mr. Stack stated again that he is hopeful that SLPR will take the authority or hand it over to the county.

Public Comments closed: 6:45pm

Ms. Lockwood, SLPR Operations Committee Chair acknowledged the leadership Mr. Paris showed in bringing the LAFF project information to the board and committee for discussion. She noted although everyone is in support of trails, there was not committee consensus to make a recommendation for SLPR to become the authority. She also stated the municipalities are in support of the trails, but would not be in a position to take the role of signature authority. Ms. Lockwood added that it is SLPR's role per its mission and master plan to accept the responsibility. She also noted the project should be presented to the residents in the three communities impacted by the trails giving them a say.

Mr. Paris noted his meetings and conversations with **County Planner, Jacob Moyer(is this proper spelling and title?)** He stated that the county acted as fiduciary for the pre-engineering phase and that it was necessary for SLPR to give the county its 'ok' to act as such to which he wrote letters to the county on SLPR's behalf. Mr. Paris stated the county is resistant to floating a local millage adding they would support with federal and state grants with the planning commission, but won't do a millage. Therefore it comes back to SLPR or the municipalities to go after a millage.

Mr. Dick expressed his concern of ownership of the trails stating there is not a plan for the trails once they are built. He asked who has easements or right of way and does ownership go to the municipalities? He stated the necessity of having an ownership and maintenance agreement in place.

Mr. Paris described three options for maintenance:

- 1 – Local Government Municipalities
- 2 – SLPR
- 3 – Non-profit via fundraisers

Mr. Paris also stated that he has looked into the issue of insurance and easements and noted the preliminary engineering has been completed. He said the trail way would be high on the State's priority regarding grant dollars. Ms. Lockwood stated LAFF has already established a maintenance fund.

Mr. McDermott stated the City of Fenton voted in support of trails and they put it in their master plan. He added that LAFF would be relied upon to campaign for a millage and that it would be a lot of work. He also noted that he supports pushing forward so a timeline can be established.

Ms. Lockwood stated she felt putting the trails on a ballot for the residents to decide is the right thing for SLPR to do.

Mr. McDermott stated he felt the project should be kept at the local level and not with the county and a millage is the truest form to get an answer from the public. Mr. Kessler agreed.

Mr. Culbert suggested the committee look at what was done in Sterling Heights with a similar millage stating it is a lot of work to gain support. He also noted concerns: what will it require of SLPR re: staff – project manager, administrative, and maintenance. Mr. Culbert also expressed concern re: Fenton Township’s municipal support.

Motion by Mr. McDermott, seconded by Mr. Culbert to accept the LAFF request to become the signature authority of the trail ways project and additionally require the establishment of a sub-committee specific to the trail way project that will work under the SLPR Operations Committee.

Roll Call:

Patricia Lockwood	Yes
Brad Dick	Yes
David McDermott	Yes
Robert Kessler	Yes
Ray Culbert	Yes
Shaun Shumaker	Absent

Motion Carried: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Informational Items: Mr. Paris stated it was imperative that the board conduct the Budget Workshop within the next couple weeks as the budget has to be completed and adopted at the upcoming October board meeting. It was the board’s consensus to meet on Monday, October 23rd at 8:00am at the Fenton Community Center.

Also stated was the goals workshop which is scheduled for Thursday, November 9th at 6:00pm at the Fenton Township Hall. Mr. Kessler will make those arrangements.

Commissioner’s Comments:

Ms. Lockwood noted her discussion with Ken Wensel re: the Loose Agreement to which he stated it was returned by their lawyer but not yet reviewed by their committee. Ms. Lockwood also noted the next step is to review again with both committees together, then take it back to the boards. She stated this should be done before the next board meeting and the agreement should be presented to the board for approval at the October meeting. She also stated she felt SLPR board made a good decision about the LAFF.

Mr. McDermott stated he would like to be a member of the LAFF sub-committee.

Next Meeting;

Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, October 26th, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Fenton Community Center

Adjournment

Chairperson Culbert adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary, Shirley Ciofu