

48768

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by Chair Don Clinesmith

Pledge led by D. Clinesmith.

Prayer led by D. Clinesmith.

Moment of silence requested by Zawol to remember the 3,000 who died on 9-11-2001.

Roll Call: Janice Zawol, Russ Fall, Michael Clinesmith, Don Clinesmith, Onna Clinesmith (left 8:58pm)

Minutes:

Janice Zawol was reimbursed \$42 for Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony supplies, she requested the other \$55.06 in supplies she purchased to be a donation. Michael Clinesmith mentioned he saw two people at the park, Zawol said she has seen people at the park all the time.

Motion by Zawol, seconded by R. Fall to approve the August 17, 2016 minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED.

There was discussion about adding Randy Kern to the volunteer sign thanking him for the parking lot gravel.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:

Zawol thought things went splendidly. Fall found only one popcorn holder left in park, but there were a lot of half-eaten hot dogs in the trash, possibly because they had gotten cold and he didn't like seeing food wasted.

D. Clinesmith went to a park walk by Caro where they had hot dogs, cookies and apples and discussed it.

A scavenger hunt was suggested as an event. Discussing apples, Fall thought Zestar apples were good tasting.

There were three suggestion box cards from the ceremony, discussing a park ordinance, a sandbox and a shovel for horse dung.

M. Clinesmith stated the need to keep the park ceremony records in a file at the Township.

Welsh created a flier for the event. Independently, Barb Walker worked with M. Clinesmith on a flier as well which were dropped off by mailboxes, the Welsh fliers were passed out to businesses by Zawol. There was press coverage before, but not after the event by the Advertiser.

A representative of the Vassar City Chamber of Commerce was present, also Tisha Jones who writes internet articles.

A lot of balloons were lost, and there were no calls on the tags. There was concern that releasing the balloons could be an environmental issue. It was suggested that next time the children could keep their balloons.

Having an annual event at the Park was suggested.

There were about 125 to 150 people that attended the Park ceremony. People walked the trails, and it was nice to see Bill Gray and his wife walk the trail. It was a nice day, with extra benches brought there. D. Clinesmith donated a bench to the Park.

Citizens of the Township are donating things, even if on the committee; there is concern about the view that it is the committee's "job" to do so.

#### DNR Grants:

There is concern about missing the grant deadlines. Zawol wants to see the eCivis software that Welsh is using. Pursuing grants under \$50,000 from the DNR should be "easy." The Passport program was mentioned.

The next project was suggested to be a pavilion with storage, electricity and benches and various contractor work.

An estimate is needed for the pavilion. Fall mentioned a 16' high pavilion was recently done for about \$20,000.

A multiuse pavilion was suggested, such as for picnics and basketball, but it may not be as good for the picnic tables then.

D. Clinesmith would like to see the pavilion larger rather than smaller, Zawol suggested 30' X 30' with possibility to add on later. There was discussion about the roof and adding attachments.

Arthur Latham park has multiple pavilions, which would be better than adding attachments.

There was consensus in putting in a pavilion with a DNR grant. Things could be added with the pavilion grant, such as making is wired for electricity, outdoor lighting and a well.

The Township Board needs a resolution for seeking grants. Fall recommended asking the PC to have the Township request a grant from the DNR for a pavilion and lighting and possibly a well. Onna Clinesmith suggested asking Vicky Sherry for language for a resolution. Fall would like to stay with local contractors working on the project if possible.

O. Clinesmith suggested considering the number of picnic tables in the pavilion. There is a new pavilion in Millington, nearby the Millington High School; Fall liked those dimensions which is about 5 posts wide and 7 posts long with 8 feet between the posts.

Meeting recessed at 7:40pm.

Meeting called to order at 7:43pm.

Fall will bring information about the grant process to the Parks and Rec. meeting next month.

Motion by Zawol, seconded by Fall that the Parks and Recreation Committee recommend to the Planning Commission to seek a resolution from the Township Board for grants.

MOTION CARRIED.

Zawol stated that she would bring the recommendation to the Planning Commission.

A comment was made to be clear to Bill Gray that he needs to contact the Clerk right away to make sure the resolution is ready for the November meeting.

**New Business:**

Meeting Calendar Dates:

**RESOLUTION #01-2016 PRC:** Adoption of 2016-2017 Meeting Schedule

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Vassar Township Parks and Recreation Committee approves the following dates for its regular meetings for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Each meeting will be at 6:30 PM located at Vassar Township Hall, 4505 W. Saginaw Rd, Vassar, MI 48768. Phone: (989) 823-3541

Wednesday, October 19, 2016  
Wednesday, January 18, 2017  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
Wednesday, May 17, 2017  
Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
Wednesday, February 15, 2017  
Wednesday, April 19, 2017  
Wednesday, June 21, 2017

The foregoing resolution was offered by Committee Member Onna Clinesmith and supported by Committee Member Russ Fall.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted **"Aye" ( 5 ): Zawol, Fall, Michael Clinesmith  
Donald Clinesmith, Onna Clinesmith**

**"Nay" ( 0 ): None**

The Secretary declared the resolution adopted.

Donations:

There was discussion about what to do with the park donations. The amount in the jar was \$3. The suggestion was to talk with John Stack and have the chair or vice chair take the money to John and Mike at the Board meeting and get a copy of the receipt with the money going into the recreation account.

M. Clinesmith said he talked with the auditor about managing the money, and was suggested to use the aggregate account. D. Clinesmith believed money given to the park should go in a separate account.

There was discussion of the aggregate account and accounts in general and how they work. It was requested to ask the auditor if a “park donation” account could be created.

Playground Rules/Ordinance:

There is a need to look at the rules, other jurisdictions could be checked if they have an ordinance that could be reviewed.

Trespassing:

Fall designed a sign for approval by the Planning Commission; a paper was given to committee members illustrating it. He suggested 2 “Park Boundary private land beyond this point” signs about 150’ apart.

The Committee is validated in that there is now data that people are using the Park, which the Board requested.

Motion by Fall, seconded by O. Clinesmith that the Parks and Recreation Committee address the problem of trespassing by recommending to the Planning Commission two signs on posts identifying the Park boundary.

MOTION CARRIED.

Fall is going to work on the sign.

Playground Fill Sand:

The contractor hasn’t been heard from. Fall recommended the new chair contact Colosky about the fill sand.

Playground Equipment:

Some suggestions of equipment: climbers, a slippery slide, and some equipment that spins.

Special chips are needed for climbers, rubber mat emits a strong smell in the heat. DNR requires a 25% match of funds.

It was suggested to contact the insurance company about liabilities with climbers.

D. Clinesmith suggested looking at ideas and bringing the to the meeting next month.

Iron Bell Rail Trail:

D. Clinesmith and Fall were at the meeting, which seemed to be a “fishing expedition” to see if there was interest.

Some questions were about an alternate route, if the Township was interested, a suggestion was to have the route go up Caine Road past the park and river access, and through the State land south of Waterman Road, though hunting could be a concern.

Fall thought the Rail bed would be the only way to get the trail through Vassar Township.

Onna Clinesmith left at 8:58pm.

At the rail meeting, Welsh suggested buying the elevator out. Using the railway for shipping was discussed by the Committee.

Public Comment:

Russ Fall discussed the Cass River Greenway meeting which met the previous Wednesday at Bridgeport. He was asked to measure the river distance from the Caine Road Bridge to Vassar, which was 4.32 miles. He provided a list to the Committee detailing it. He toured the new launch site in Bridgeport, and mentioned that Jurisdictions are putting in expensive launches.

Fall wanted to know if he needed permission to clear the trees on an angle by the railroad and to make an extension to the trail so cross-country teams could lap only once. The Committee saw no issue with Fall's proposal. Fall said the Vassar Team is thinking of testing the route and asked if the maple tree by the swing should be taken down.

Don Clinesmith told Fall to "just let us know what you're doing." It sounded alright with him.

Janice Zawol wanted Fred to show the Committee the grant program.

Michael Clinesmith said to put it on the agenda.

Motion by M. Clinesmith, seconded by Fall to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

Next meeting scheduled: October 19, 2016 at 6:30pm.