



WEESAW TOWNSHIP

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY Tuesday, June 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m.

Township Board members present: Gary Sommers, Art King, Robert Warmbein

Weesaw Township Parks Committee members: Mike Metz, Terry Hanover, Linda Kanoski (remote), Jack Dodds (remote)

Guest: Steve Czadzeck, Abonmarche, DNR Recreation Passport Grant Prime Professional

Recreation Passport Grant Update, Steve Czadzeck

Proposed grant budget: It was agreed by those present that Steve's draft budget proposal for the grant project should be tabled until the Parks Committee has had time to review it.

Multi-sport court design: The Committee and Board members discussed the multi-sport court layouts prepared by Steve, focusing on "Layout B" (74 x 42' youth court).

- It was agreed that fencing 8 feet high should be placed on the east and west ends of the court, with 8' x 8' "wings on the north and south sides at both ends of the court (U-shaped fencing).
- It was agreed that the court should be installed as a hot mix asphalt (HMA) surface, according to specifications drawn up by Steve. He indicated that this court should have a life span of approximately 20 years. When deteriorated, the court could be milled and resurfaced; cracks could be repaired. HMA would be more forgiving for players' knees than a concrete surface.
- It was agreed that a 3-foot-wide concrete safety margin should be installed around the perimeter of the court.
- It was proposed that signage at the head of the driveway and speed bumps would slow traffic and help prevent injury to users of the sport court.
- It was proposed that the sidewalk on the north side of the picnic pavilion jog at a right angle at the southwest corner of the sport court and then proceed east to a concrete pad for a bench at the middle of the south side of the court. A second proposal provided by Linda Kanoski angles the sidewalk at the southwest corner of the court to provide easier access to the north/south and east/west sidewalks (see attached sketch). Steve's future court drawings will indicate the best sidewalk design and orient drawings to the north.
- Jack proposed an adjustable pickle ball/volley ball net system suitable for a 42-foot-wide youth court. Manufacturer: Douglas Sports (See attached). Jack will send Steve a Web link to review this system. It was agreed that a pickle ball/volley ball net should be easily detached from the mounting poles to permit other sports play.
- It was agreed that the basketball hoops should be on fixed posts, 10 feet high, with a metal backboard. Steve indicated that post padding would be unnecessary.

- It was agreed that the court would be surfaced in one solid color with three colors for line striping: basketball, pickle ball, and volley ball.

Picnic pavilion:

- It was agreed that the pavilion will be set on a concrete slab of the same dimensions as the roof of the pavilion. Gary indicated that gutters would be unsuited to the pavilion design. It was agreed that the pavilion posts should be set on the concrete pad rather than buried.
- The construction of the pavilion was discussed, whether to purchase a kit from a source such as Legacy Post & Beam in Fremont, NE, and hire a local company to erect the kit or to hire a local contractor to design and build the pavilion from start to finish. Art indicated that he favored staying close to home when hiring a contractor.
- Steve indicated that he would use information from the Legacy Post & Beam quote and photograph to prepare a spec sheet reflecting the Township's pavilion specifications. Local contractors could use this information to design the pavilion and draw up bids.

Other Business: Park Development and Maintenance

Parking lot:

- The parking lot is out of square on its south end. It was agreed that the parking lot surface would be marked to establish square, the asphalt would cut, and the out-of-square section removed. Once the parking lot is resized, the proposed 9-foot-wide parking spaces could, if necessary, be reduced by 3 inches or so to fit on the remaining surface.

Walking path:

- After discussion, it was agreed that the west side of the walking path (on or near the former high school running track) should be located 3 feet or more west of the west side of the parking lot.
- Gary Sommers presented a bid from Robert DeFreeze to cut the brush and poison ivy on the west side of the walking path near the marsh and to lay out and install the walking path (See attached bid).
- Sommers stated that he hoped to get a second bid for the walking path from Selge Construction.

General park maintenance:

- Terry Hanover noted that one bench is missing from the rustic trail. For the most part, Tirrell's Trail has been prepared for use by hikers, although some brush still remains to be cut.
- Jack noted fading on the poster in the Bell Memorial message board, south side, and asked whether it could be replaced. Terry said he would get pricing for a replacement and attempt to find the key to the message board. It was noted that a key may have been given to former Clerk Wanda Green.
- The Committee briefly discussed the bridge graffiti and damaged reward sign in Mill Road Park. Jack suggested that the Township may have purchased a second reward sign. Sommers indicated he would look for the sign.
- Sommers has received a request for a Township Resolution from Gary Wood, President, Friends of Berrien County Trails. The resolution would support the county's Trails Master Plan. Weesaw Township Park trails would be included in the plan and on maps of county trails. He will ask for the resolution at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57, Respectfully submitted by Jack Dodds