



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

2021-2026 PARKS & RECREATION PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all present.

- Supervisor Sommers appointed Jack Dodds to act as secretary recording the minutes of the meeting and the hearing due to the emergency absence of Clerk Wanda Green.
- **Roll Call by Jack Dodds, substituting for Clerk Green:** Members Present–Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein. Members Absent–Wanda Green, Michelle Tackitt
- **Board Meeting Temporarily Suspended/Public Hearing Opened :** Gary Sommers opened the Public Hearing to hear comments on the Weesaw Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 2021-2026, at 7:02 p.m.

Initial written comments were read by Jack Dodds: The parks plan being considered at this hearing is one step in the development of Weesaw Township Parks that began over ten years ago. Along the way, our planning has benefited from all the insights and efforts of several Weesaw Township boards and the members of the ongoing Weesaw Township Parks Committee.

Most of all, our Parks plan presented here has been shaped by the many comments and suggestions from township residents and park visitors. The four park surveys conducted over ten years received over 360 responses and 160 written comments. The Parks Committee sifted all of this information, weighed decisions about what residents most wanted for our parks, and produced the plan before us.

Tonight's hearing is one more opportunity for input that will shape the final version of the plan to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and to support future township requests for parks and recreation grants. And so, what more needs to be said about our parks and recreation plan?

Mike Metz, Weesaw Parks Committee Member: Mike briefly described what a parks plan is, what it does, and how it compares to the township's five-year Master Plan. He emphasized that it points in a direction for improvements and provides support for grant applications.

Public Comments

Glen Pastryk, 12521 Cleveland Avenue, Buchanan, Michigan: Mr. Pastryk asked what the overall intentions were for the plan, what it aimed to accomplish. Jack Dodds responded by reading the goals for the parks listed in Part 5 of the Plan. Pastryk then asked about the impact of the Plan and park improvements on the new portion of the the New Troy Cemetery, which is

adjacent to the woodland section of Weesaw Park. Supervisor Sommers responded by describing plans for a columbarium to be erected near the park's rustic trail that will eventually circle Weesaw Park. Pastryk asked about the timber cutting that was once proposed for the park and was told by Sommers that the proposal was no longer being considered and that the park woodland would remain as it is.

Jim Pastryk, 4250 Lynn Street, Sawyer, Michigan: Mr. Pastryk asked for further description of the rustic trail and responded favorably to the intention to preserve the woodland section of the park and to develop the trail. Park Committee member Hanover summarized the initial stages of plan implementation, even before a request for a grant is made. Trustee Robert Warmbein indicated that he supported the Parks Plan and thought it would be good for the township to pursue the Plan through the award of a grant. Gary Sommers responded by identifying the priorities for park development as stressed by township residents over multiple surveys. He also itemized costs, showing a total amount close to a spending objective \$150,000 (\$100,000 grant from DNR, \$50,000 matching township contribution).

Open-sided pavilion - \$45,000
Multi-sport court - \$36,350
4 benches - \$6,000
Playground equipment - \$60,000
Incidental costs - \$2,650

- **Resolution for Adoption of the Weesaw Township Parks & Recreation Plan, 2021-2026, Resolution # 2021-10:** Following public comments, Supervisor Sommers announced the resolution for adoption of the plan and asked Jack Dodds to read the resolution before the vote. Motion to adopt by Sommers; seconded by Robert Warmbein.

Discussion: Supervisor Sommers emphasized that while there is much in the plan to be pursued, the township has five years to achieve these goals.

Vote on Resolution 2021-10: Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. By a quorum of members present, Resolution 2021-10, the Weesaw Township Parks and Recreation Plan, 2021-2026, is adopted.

- **Close Public Hearing/Reopen Township Board Meeting and Adjournment:** There being no further public comments, Supervisor Sommers called for the meeting to be adjourned. Robert Warmbein moved and Gary Sommers seconded the motion at 8:14 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk