

Village of Grand Beach

Parks and Beaches Committee Meeting

October 10, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pete Doerr (Chair); Ed Brandes; Norm Cherrett, Jerry Dyson and Judith Blackburn; **Absent:** Doug Blau

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pete Doerr at 11:04 pm;

ADOPTION OF AMENDED AGENDA: On motion made by Ed Brandes, and seconded by Jerry Dyson, the amended meeting agenda to add the following 3 additional agenda items was approved: (i) Honey Bee Garden design plan; ii) new quarterly meeting cycle for 2024 Committee meetings; and iii) State grant funding to pursue going forward;

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: Thereafter, on motion made by Ed Brandes, seconded by Judith Blackburn, the minutes of the Committee meeting of March 23, 2023 were approved as drafted.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Recap of Parks & Beaches 2023 initiatives (as reported by Chair P. Doerr):

- i. Ely beach overlook completed ... positive response from residents so far;
- ii. Pine Street overlook proposal: Rejected by the Village Council in their September meeting for failure to agree on design;
- iii. Jenson Court: Survey work completed to validate the Village's property boundaries; Signage installed and owner on notice regarding the Village's reservation of property rights on the parcel;
- iv. Pete Doerr also confirmed that the Village Council approved a project to install heavy-duty footings on the slope leading to the beach and pedestrian stairs to the beach.
- v. White Creek contamination: Doerr reported that a local resident, Ed Trainor, was working on the potential for a water treatment solution while Pete Doerr is pursuing the potential for state funding through a special grant program of a water treatment solution when the Village is ready;
- vi. Doerr confirmed that warning signs prohibiting pedestrian access to the Whitewood Ave. pier have been installed;
- vii. Doerr also confirmed that the project funding "wish list" previously submitted by the Committee to the Master Planning Task Force, was still under active consideration as the Task Force moved towards finalizing its plans;

b. Recap of 2024 initiatives:

- i. Pine Street overlook platform;
- ii. Lake Street overlook platform;
- iii. Robin Ln overlook platform;

- iv. 43 acres strategic plan for improving this parcel;
- c. **Royal Street Playground equipment:** As previously arranged, the Committee reached out to Diane Cody by phone to discuss her detailed October 10 correspondence regarding the current state of the aged playground equipment and to share her concerns about safety for the children who use the equipment. Photos accompanied her correspondence. Diane indicated that in a recent Village-wide survey, approximately 1 of 8 Village residents had expressed concerns about the need to upgrade the equipment; She made specific suggestions about which safety issues to address first. She also pointed out that the deteriorated state of the equipment was not only a safety issue for the users; it also represented a potential liability risk for the Village. Diane also offered the Village her services in developing a comprehensive program for the maintenance of Village playground equipment in the future.

After completing the call with Diane, there was general discussion about the issue. Thereafter, it was decided that Norm Cherrett would investigate the potential of replacing the merry-go-round equipment as a first step. Once that information is available, Ed Brandes and Pete Doerr will arrange to add the issue to the agenda for the November 15th Council meeting.

- d. **ADA compliance at Village beach access points:** Pete Doerr emphasized that to the extent feasible, ADA-compliant beach access points would be a priority for the Village going forward; Judith Blackburn agreed to research the potential of creating an ADA-compliant beach access point at the Pump House Beach, potentially as part of the development of the Honeybee Garden site improvements adjacent to the Pump House Beach.
- e. **Honeybee Garden conceptual design:** Pete Doerr shared conceptual design plans for this lakefront-facing parcel adjacent to the Pump House which is being facilitated by a private donation of the land by an adjacent homeowner;
- f. **Meeting cycles going forward for Parks & Beaches:** General agreement going forward that starting in January 2024, the Committee would hold regular meetings on a quarterly basis which would precede monthly meetings of the Council by a week;
- g. **3rd party grant opportunities:** Doerr announced that he was in the process of evaluating potential grant opportunities through the EGLE state agency as part of its Michigan coastal restoration initiatives.

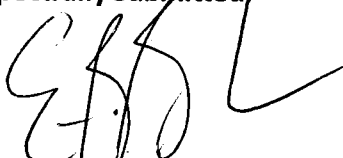
AUDIENCE RECOGNITION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Diane Cody correspondence of October 9 regarding playground equipment; See notes above re: the follow-up conference call with Ms. Cody during the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Not scheduled

ADJOURNMENT: On motion, made by Jerry Dyson, seconded by Ed Brandes, and approved thereafter at 12:20 pm ;

Respectfully Submitted,



Ed Brandes, Meeting Secretary