

Village of Grand Beach

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

August 14, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Slater (Chair); Amy Slater; Ed Trainor; Sheila McGinnis; Ed Brandes; and Keiran McHugh

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Hanley; Blake O'Halloran

SPECIAL GUEST(S): Tricia Bulson, GIS Specialist, Abonmarche

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Steve Slater acknowledged the presence of a quorum of Committee members and called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm EST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Agenda adopted on motion made by Ed Brandes, seconded by Sheila McGinnis and approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion made by Sheila McGinnis, seconded by Amy Slater, and approved, the minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting of the Committee were adopted as drafted.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Resignation of Amy Hanley:** Steve Slater, Chair, formally acknowledged the recently submitted written resignation of Amy Hanley as a member of the Committee. Steve thanked Amy for her longstanding service to the Village in this capacity and he wished her well in her new endeavors.
- 2. Committee Review of Parks and Rec 5 Year Plan w/ Tricia Bulson of Abonmarche:** After a brief introduction by Steve Slater, Tricia Bulson, CIS Specialist with the Abonmarche firm answered questions from Committee members and the audience about the development of the draft 5 Year Plan document and the importance of having such a document in place to support the Village's eligibility for private and public grant funding in the future. The Committee members expressed their support for the contents of the initial draft.
- 3. Review Parks Inventory:** Tricia Bulson also provided a brief background on the development of the Parks Inventory document and emphasized the need for inclusion of such an inventory in the 5 Year Plan. Questions and comments from the Committee and the audience followed.
- 4. Review results of Public Input Survey:** Ms. Bulson reported that the Village received 325 responses to the public survey questions initiated by the Committee in June. Additional comments on the survey results by various Committee members followed. There was interest shown on the part of several audience members for access to the survey results so they could review them personally.

- 5. Review 5 Year Plan Goals and Objectives:** There was a great deal of discussion generated within the Committee and the participating audience in the course of a comprehensive review of all stated Objectives in the draft 5 year plan. At the end of the segment, Trish Bulson agreed to take all the input and generate another draft for review at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.
- a. Objective 1.1 (beach quality):** There was general agreement among the Committee members to eliminate the last bullet point regarding the consideration of life guards for public safety. In addition, there was general agreement for the support of the New Buffalo Shoreline Alliance and the continued efforts to access any available local/state/federal resources for the purpose of addressing the shoreline erosion issue. Ed Trainor suggested development of a long-term master plan for the protection/enhancement of the beaches in the Village. In addition, the Committee discussed and tentatively agreed upon development of additional sub-objectives under 1.1: a) creation of a comprehensive beach maintenance program; b) removal of all exposed or submerged metal near the shoreline for the safety of swimmers and boaters; c) Maintain and enhance water quality of all beaches situated within the Village.
 - b. Objective 1.2 (beach access points):** There was general agreement about keeping all the elements of 1.2 as drafted. In addition, Steve Slater suggested an additional sub-objective under 1.2 along the lines of developing a plan to make the Whitewood pier safe and accessible and develop plans to expand the viewing area for all existing shoreline viewing platforms, including the harvesting of private and public grant money to fund the effort.
 - c. Objective 1.3 (golf course):** After extensive discussion, there was general agreement to a) add an additional sub-objectives under 1.3 for development of a comprehensive plan for the long-term improvement of the course. In addition, it was generally agreed to delete last bullet of the existing draft regarding utilization of a preferred zoning alternative;
 - d. Objective 1.4 (land and facility standards):** There was general agreement to delete Objective 1.4 in the next draft as it is no longer applicable to the current environment.
 - e. Objective 1.5 (enhancement of existing parks and facilities):** Agreed to maintain as drafted except for the addition of the phrase: "...and abilities" at the end of the introduction to 1.5;
 - f. Objective 1.6 (acquiring additional land):** General agreement to leave as-is for now with the existing of taking out the 2nd bullet. In addition, add another bullet to reference the finalization of the 42 Acres land acquisition in 2019;
 - g. Objective 1.7 (exploring additional alternatives for funding development/operational costs of recreational facilities):** Steve Slater suggested adding an additional sub-objective for consideration of an increased millage (in addition to grants and sponsorships) as a means of raising additional funds for improvement of Village parks and recreational facilities. Keiran McHugh raised concerns about whether a millage increase has an appropriate place in a 5 Year Parks and Rec Plan document.
- 6. Schedule Out Future Meetings to Complete the 5 Year Plan:** Chair Steve Slater summarized the upcoming schedule for completion of the draft Plan by the Committee and release of the draft

for public comments as required by the State of Michigan. Questions were raised and addressed about the need for final Village Council approval of the Plan before it is finalized and released.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION: As the Chair moved through various agenda items, he solicited and received input on the agenda items as they arose in the course of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: On motion made by Steve Slater, seconded by Keiran McHugh and approved at 7:40 pm (EST)

Next Meeting: September 4, 2019 at 5:00 pm (Central)

Respectfully Submitted: Edward P. Brandes; Meeting Secretary