

Florence Township Park Commission

Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2013

Attendance: Bill Siewert, Julie Karlsrud, Ron Knudsen, Dean Nelson and 13 guests

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Park Activity Applications: 1 pending for Carolyn Hedin

1 approved for Ron Knudson

Park Business: Wakondiota – Roof over bleachers – pending

Frontenac Station – Projects completed

Community Center – Projects completed

Steamboat Landing – This is pending until the Town Board finalizes ownership

Valhalla – questions on the current proposal

New Business:

Bill Bleckwenn from McGhie and Betts was in attendance to answer questions that came up at the last meeting.

What does the \$700 cover for Grant Writing? This will cover one grant application for a Small Parks grant. This would be for up to \$50,000 which would help with the removal of the invasives and replanting – basically for vegetation management.

What are the hourly rates for McGhie and Betts? The rates are based on the type of work being done: Bill is \$123/hr, Tree specialist is \$96/hr, Grant specialist is \$76/hr.

What is a construction document? It is a 24x36 plan that shows the plan/design for the project which would include details for stairs, sidewalks, structures.

What is the total going to be? We won't know until a design is agreed upon.

Bill said he did a walk through in October of the park with Brad Stone and the end results are worse than he originally thought as far as the amount of invasive species. Jim R questioned who authorized payment to have Bill do this and Bill said it was done voluntarily by him so he would be able to access the amount of work that needed to be done before the season changed. Thank to Bill for doing this! To hire out the work to get the invasives out and replanted done will be between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per acre. There are about 10 to 12 acres in the park. We can use volunteers to help with this part of the project.

If the contract is approved and signed they would be billing us monthly.

Bill understands that the community that is coming to the meetings does not want a lot of trails, certainly not blacktop or cement. Any trail that would be there would be very informal such as crushed rock, bark or just a mowed path. Once the design is set and approved then we can move ahead, but it is important to lay this out in the planning stages and get the entire township input and not just the park neighbors.

The Small Parks grants can be applied for at any time and take 1 to 4 weeks to be submitted, then reviewed and then response – all totaling about 2 to 4 months.

It was suggested to do an inventory of the trees in the park and Bill said it would be very costly and not necessary. The best plan would be to identify the areas for the vistas where the heritage trees are and place the vistas accordingly. This is much less costly than doing an inventory of trees.

Red, pin and black oaks are all very susceptible to oak wilt. Most of the trees that are in the park are red and pin oaks. Red oaks, if not infected, will live 150 to 200 years.

Everything that was billed and paid at this time was to develop the process that got us to where we are at this time with the park development.

A motion was made and approved to present the proposal to the Town Board for approval.

Residents were reminded that they can work on removing the invasives on their property on their own. If they have any large trees, they should contact the park commission for approval.

Thank you to the residents for attending the meetings and showing an interest in the process.

The next meeting will be December 23, 2013 at 6:00 pm.

Park Commissioners contact information:

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Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Julie Karlsrud