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| <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP</b><br/> <b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b><br/> <u>Special Meeting</u><br/> <b><u>Community Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan</u></b><br/> <b><u>For January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2023</u></b><br/> <u>Thursday, April 12, 2018</u><br/> <b>6:00 p.m.</b><br/> <b>Yankee Springs Township Hall</b><br/> <b>284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333</b><br/> <b>MINUTES</b> </p>   | <p> <b>FINAL MINUTES</b><br/> Page 1 of 5<br/> 4.12.18 Pub. Hrg.<br/> Pk. &amp; Rec. 5 Yr. Plan<br/> Circulated draft Date:<br/> 4-19-18<br/> Approved May 10, 2018 </p> |
| <p> Meeting called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Englerth.<br/> <b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</b><br/> <b>Roll Call:</b> All Present: Jansma, J. Lippert, Englerth, M. Boysen, VandenBerg.<br/> <b>Staff Present:</b> Chuck Biggs- Constable, Nancy Near, Sandy Marcukaitis, Frank Fiala, John Frigmanski.<br/> <b>Visitors:</b> (1) Bill Medendorp </p>   | <p> <b>CALL TO ORDER</b><br/> <br/> <b>PLEDGE</b><br/> <b>ROLL CALL</b> </p>   |
| <p> Motion by J. Lippert with support from Boysen <b><u>to Open Public Hearing for the purpose of Community Parks and Recreation Five Year Plan For January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2023 at 6:08 p.m.</u></b> All ayes. MOTION CARRIED.<br/> <b>BOARD COMMENTS:</b><br/> <p><b>A. Jansma</b> commented that the plan is pretty well filled out and taken care of. The open comment period was held from Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> to March 22<sup>th</sup>, 2018 “The interest isn’t as good as we’d like to see,” added Jansma.</p> <p><b>J. Lippert</b> would prefer not to have any electric at the park because it brings more vandalism into the park. Lippert commented that the porta-john is okay and should be screened in with low-growing plants so it doesn’t look so out of place.</p> <p><b>M. Boysen</b> commented that electric at the park would stop vandalism. “It makes no sense that if you add electric to the park that it would cause vandalism. Typically when you bring electric to a park you are able to have lights, things like that. And usually lights inhibit vandalism quite a bit. So I would love to see electric brought to the park for the purpose of lights so that they could enjoy the courts on into the evening. It would make the park more useable. Further, I would like to see us talk at a future date, maybe tonight, about getting public restrooms put in for the same reason so that the park is just more useable.” Boysen commented that when you have elderly people and kids, you need a bathroom. “Being able to control vandalism with the technology we have now is quite simple. And I’ve talked to other people that have public restrooms, that sort of thing, that are not monitored other than by cameras, on the outside, obviously, and they really don’t have a problem. They have automatic door locks ... and at a certain time of night it just locks up. There are all kinds of technology we can use to make a public restroom and lighting serve the public more. I think</p> </p> | <p> <b>Open Public Hearing at</b><br/> 6:08 p.m. </p>  |

that's the point of the park is to serve the public the best way possible. I would love to see us talk about what that might cost to bring those to the park beginning with electricity and lighting."

**J. Lippert** asked Boysen, "What community park did you see this at?"

**Boysen** commented on observing Burnips Park next to their township hall and fire barn and also parks spread up and down the coastline.

**J. Lippert** commented that our park closes at 11 p.m.

**S. VandenBerg** commented that he agreed with everything that Boysen just said. "Once it's (electric) there, you are going to find positive ways to use it," added VandenBerg. VandenBerg agrees with J. Frigmanski that the park is greatly appreciated. "We keep making addendums to it. And let it grow. I'm very happy that it's there. Years ago, I wasn't a big park guy, and now that it's there, I've had a little bit of a change of heart. It's pretty darn nice. Obviously the pickle ball courts need a little bit of work. Mark and I, we did stop over there and look at that...we gotta do a little maintenance... I think it's wonderful."

**A. Jansma** commented that that's her biggest complaint. "We don't maintain what we have. We aren't maintaining it at all. We have Mr. Kok helping us out by putting up nets and taking them down. Before that Mark said he would and then it didn't happen. Because he's so blasted busy. But maintenance is a big problem. We are not maintaining what we have. There's no excuse for it."

**Boysen** commented "The excuse is probably that we haven't organized and set these things in motion for maintenance, but we certainly can."

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Nancy Near, of YS Twp. Office, Resident**, and has been working at township since 1996. N. Near asked, "How many of you have actually used the park?" (Englerth commented that it's comment, not discussion). Near suggests the board visit the park more than once or twice. Near commented "The park is becoming more used but it is what somebody referred to as a pocket park... It's out of the way. It's not really a park like in the middle of Wayland...It's not accessible easily to neighborhoods. People have to basically bring their kids to the park. That is one reason why it doesn't get used as much as it possibly could... It needs to be maintained. Is the memorial going to the park or not? Has that been decided yet? Because that is kind of important to how we get these future plans for the park. Whether the memorial is going to go there or by the fire station. We have taken many polls from the township residents about what we want to see at the park, etc." N. Near noted that the pickle ball and tennis courts are being used. "Unfortunately we didn't get a sign up to stop/keep kids from doing their skateboards and stuff on the courts so they have been somewhat destroyed... Nobody wants to play soccer on the field because you are going to twist an ankle in a heartbeat...That's something that should be done. There are a lot of things that should be done before a bathroom...Last summer I only took one or two calls about people using the gazebo. There has not been that much interest in doing that...There should be more discussion on what really should be done first. I would say taking care of those courts

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**PUBLIC**

**COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)**

should be the number one priority there. And as far as electric goes, you know I don't see where it is something that is necessary right now. I don't know that maybe there has been some vandalism down there I'm not sure as far as maybe the porta john went. But I have not heard any of that really.

I think our money should be spent in some different fashion as far as putting grills down there. People go to McDonald's. They bring their kids. That's what they do. There really hasn't been that much interest in a group of people using the park. I really meant to go and checkout some other parks our size. The size of our community. Orangeville Township, theirs is right there by their hall. They don't have electric; and they don't have bathrooms there. Nothing. Because there's another situation where it's not a neighborhood park... You talk about stuff. I was on the park committee for as long as it was functioning. It fell by the wayside.

Because we were always taking one step forward, two steps back for years, I would really like to see a serious committee of residents. The people know what they want. I think that you members of the board should really makes some trips down there to see actually what goes on. What time of the day and what have you. The park at night in the summer time, that's when it is used later. It's lighter later. I don't know of anybody asking about lights down there so that they could play 10:00 at night. I think that we really have to have some more serious discussion about how we go about this. I think it might be time for one more chance to actually getting a committee to actually sit down and do some things. I've been on vacation so I just got back to work last week. I guess it was this week. We were going to have the Memorial at the fire station, and then I heard it was going to be at the park.

**Boysen** commented, "I don't think it has been decided."

**Near** commented "That's another reason we should slow down a little bit, because we don't know if the Memorial is going to be there or not. And that would be something where we would put a bathroom and what have you."

**Sandy Marcukaitis, as a taxpayer,** commented "Like Nancy, I've been on the park committee for umpteen many years, whatever. Was kind of instrumental with the pavilion going up. Helped Alice a little bit on the tennis courts and the pickle ball courts. Have a really vested interest in the park, basically because when I came into it there was no pavilion. Being a nurse there was no place for kids to get out of the sun. As you know the sun can be detrimental. So that's where my energy was channeled. In building that pavilion, my vision was that people would have a place to go, sit, picnic, do whatever. And we put in the pavilion electrical outlets. At one time I got the approval from the board to go ahead and get how much it would cost/quotes to bring it in. We could never get it past that stage. But there were quotes. I had to have three at that time before I could do anything. So I firmly believe that there has to be electric there, not necessarily for lights like you are talking. But just basically because as a tax payer if I want to use the park as a picnic, I want to be able to plug in a crockpot; I can't do that. Nancy and I have gone back and forth and I said, 'You know I don't need lights. I don't want to necessarily see lights. It will happen some day. But it's not the big thing right now. We just need electric for me to plug in a crockpot.

Secondly, the Womens' Club, and I'll come in it from that end, is very active as you know in doing berms. These ladies, everyone of them, including me, is over 70. I don't do the park or the berms, because I have got my own piece of heaven over there. But these gals were carrying water for the longest time before we got the water extended. We went three. Mark, right? We got three. So now at least they can hook a hose and they can water. But in talking to Scott Havens, if we could get electric then he could hook up the water sprinklers on those berms and that would all be taken care of. Plus I've also for that park have written two grants for trees and if you notice our trees out here are budding. I'm so happy. But anyway, those trees are dying because we can't get water to them. So if nothing else for those two reasons: the electric to the pavilion, I'm not asking for lights but I see where you are coming from but also, mainly for water just to get that out. I agree and I disagree that vandalism, I don't think we have that out here. I don't see big lights going up there at this point because we have to do baby steps. That's my thought on that. But we need a committee. We can't have just have one or two people doing this because it will never get done right. And that's one of the problems."

**Mark Englerth** commented that he has been involved with the park for the last six years. The park has continuously improved over the last six years. Englerth noted that the Women's Club is involved. "We've got grants for trees, and lost trees, and carrying water to the trees by five gallon buckets of water is not the way to go. Anyway, I think all in all we continue to take baby steps. But I will shut up at this point. I'm willing to accept the piece as it is today and that's really what we want to do is get enough information to move forward..."

**A. Jansma** asked to talk about the grant that she applied for today. A grant from the county. It's a matching grant. **M. Boysen** read the grant's purpose: "Maintain playground mulch, replace and restore picnic tables, benches and plant (replace) two trees."

Grant was signed and brought to **M. Brown's** office today, 4/12/18, because deadline is tomorrow. **A. Jansma** delivered it today.

**Jansma** commented that people live in Drake's Landing and north of the park. The park was meant originally for green space for that area. "And we've kind of taken it and made it a lot more than green space," added **Jansma**.

**M. Boysen** noted "The amenities have to come first and then the people. The more amenities you give them. The more they show up. There's more opportunity.

**M. Englerth** commented about the water and having several trees die and hiring part time help to water with five gallon buckets. "I think the park is a blessing. We will all agree with that," added **Englerth**.

**Boysen** commented, "In order to establish electrical, you need something to attach to and you also need a well house if you're going to distribute water."

**Englerth** commented that it's municipal water down there (at Park), "and it's ready to rock."

**Englerth** commented on having a workshop to dive into the details of the park.

**Boysen** commented that a workshop was needed "to dig into all these amenities whether we do them or don't do them and to what degree we spend the money we are going to workshop it. We are going to have to dig into it.... Let's set a date for just this for just the park. And if we have to start volunteering our own weekends to work on it, I'm for it."

**J. Lippert** clarified that the certified mulch was for the playground.

**VandenBerg** asked if D. Kok was going to donate for the labor to put down the mulch.

**Boysen** commented that Julie Fox is donating the tops (for picnic tables).

**Jansma** commented that she (J. Fox) said "lumber".

**Lippert** commented, "Yes. It was wood."

**M. Englerth** commented on looking at some vinyl composite, and restoring tables.

**Motion by J. Lippert with support from VandenBerg to adopt the five (5) year plan for Community Parks and Recreation. ROLL CALL: VandenBerg: yes, Lippert: yes, Jansma: yes, Englerth: yes, Boysen. Yes: 5. No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.**

Motion to **close public hearing** by Jansma with support by Lippert **at 6:30 p.m.** All ayes. MOTION carried.

**S. Marcukaitis** commented, "So is there going to be a meeting?"

**M. Englerth** commented that the meeting date will have to be decided on yet.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boysen with support from Jansma to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted:  
Deb Mousseau  
Recording Secretary 4.12.18

Date Approved: May 10, 2018\_

Approved : jcl draft circulated date: 4-19-18  
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

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**MOTION TO ADOPT  
Five (5) Year Parks &  
Recreation Plan.**

**Close public hearing  
at 6:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**