

Cascade Township Parks Committee
February 17, 2015
Minutes

Article 1. Community Development Director Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Members Present: Ron Goodyke, Alan Rowland, Dawn McDonald. Others present: Rob Beahan, Sandra Korhorn.

Article 2. Consider improvements at Cascade Rec Park.

Peterson reminded the committee that we did not get any grant funding from the State for the planned improvements to the Rec Park. We now need to decide what improvements we would like to make. The amount in the budget for 2015 is \$450,000. This amount includes the \$150,000 commitment from the Cascade Community Foundation for the basketball courts.

After some discussion the Committee wanted to proceed with the improvements at the Cascade Rec Park and would like the Township Board to consider the following:

1. Basketball courts, with associated rain garden,
2. dog park, with associated parking
3. Accessibility trail from Forest Valley with the associated parking along Forest Valley.

Based on the engineering estimates these improvements would cost about \$360,000. The Parks committee would like to carry over the surplus amount and be able to budget next year for the all-inclusive playground and associated improvements. Based on the engineers estimate that would cost about \$382,000 in 2016.

McDonald indicated that she would look into local fundraising for the playground.

The committee asked for an update on the landscaping at the Cascade Rec Park. Peterson informed them that the Buildings and Grounds crew has removed several of the older pine trees that didn't look good. The crew will also be doing the same work along I-96. We have submitted for a permit to work in the MDOT ROW but that has not been issued yet. We have money budgeted to landscape and plan to do that along I-96 but we plan to hold off replacing any trees in the interior of the park, which will allow for people who wish to donate a tree, which is a common request.

The committee also discussed the need for a skate park in the township. Peterson stated that this has been an identified need/wish for some time. The difficulty has been finding the right spot. The consensus seems to be that a skate park should be located in

a highly visible location and the corner of 28th and Jacksmith seems to be the spot people like. Currently the Township Board is doing a needs space study that includes the evolution of the use of the township property at 28th and Jacksmith Ave. Once this study is done the Township Board will have to make some decision that will enable the parks committee/DDA to proceed.

Beahan asked if we have had any reported issues with leaving the gates open at Leslie E Tassell Park. Peterson said that we had not but that the real test will be this spring and summer.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

Minutes recorded by –
Steve Peterson
Planning Director