

**FREMONT AREA
PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 11, 2006
Fremont Municipal Building**

The meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair Rhondi Davis.

Park & Recreation Members Present: Rhondi Davis, Todd Blake, Brian Hettinger, Jeannie Caris, Roger Tuuk, Dave Lue, Linda Blais & Pam Zuchowski

Public Present: Dennis Henry, Dusty Bitson, Joe Hunt, Steven Fowle, Paul Krapp & Koni Howell

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Jeannie Caris, seconded by Brian Hettinger to approve the meeting agenda; motion approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Dave Lue, seconded by Brian Hettinger to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2006 meeting; motion approved.

Town & Country Path

Roger Tuuk reported there is an estimated \$350,279 available for construction of Phases 2 of the Town & Country Path. He also reported the Town & Country Path Endowment Fund has a current value of approximately \$7,600, with available grant funding of \$684.

Todd reported Nordlund & Associates completed the surveying and is preparing the final engineering specs for Phase 2. Easements are being drafted for the Path and construction could still possibly begin this late Fall, with final paving taking place next Spring. This will allow for proper ground settling, possibly avoiding pavement sinking in areas fill was placed.

Biking Trails @ Sheridan Township Property

Mr. Dusty Bitson gave a brief presentation on plans to develop various bike enthusiast trails (mountain biking, bmx, x-country...) on the 170 acres of semi-wooded land, owned by Sheridan Township. He identified areas for trail placement for various types of biking activities. He requested a recommendation from the Committee to Sheridan Township, to grant permission for the development of "starter" trails. Following development, if the trails are used and accepted favorably by bike enthusiasts, his group will then seek funding for further development and promotion of the area as a biking park.

Motion by Todd Blake, seconded by Linda Blais to recommend the proposed development of said property to Sheridan Township Board; motion approved.

Request for Grant Support Efforts for Nature Area Around Redeemer Lutheran Church

Ms. Koni Howell, of Redeemer Lutheran Church, requested support from the Parks & Recreation Committee towards their submission of a grant application to the Foundation to help fund the development of a public "Nature Area" on the Church's property located south of their building on East Main Street. The Church would like to develop walking trails, a prayer garden, pavilion for weddings and ceremonies and various other sitting areas to enjoy the wooded wetlands surrounding the pond located in the center of their property.

Their project is estimated to cost \$10,000 for a 3-phase development of a rustic trail system that will traverse around the pond and through the wetland areas. They are proposing a floating trail in the wetland areas.

Motion by Jeannie Caris, seconded by Brian Hettinger to authorize Committee Chair Rhondi Davis to draft a letter of support for the project and their grant submission; motion approved.

5-Year Recreation Plan Update

Todd reported the Committee should meet to review the recreational inventory within the participating jurisdictions for purpose of updating the 5-Yr Park & Recreation Plan. Coordinating the update with the Joint Comprehensive Development & Growth Management Plan update has taken too long and may take over a year to complete. He noted the same consultant would help coordinate the update of both documents, but a separate agreement may allow for our Plan to be updated sooner.

Todd will forward a list of recreational items to add to the inventory, for the committee's preliminary review before the next meeting.

Old Business

Todd reported the City received a check for \$4,000 from the Foundation, to be spent on the new electronic scoreboard in Branstrom Park.

Pam submitted an inventory list of recreation facilities owned by Sherman Township, for the committee to review. Todd suggested a more comprehensive list entailing "all" recreational facilities be included on the list

Roger reported the West Michigan Trails Greenway Coalition has raised \$4.3 Million for further West Michigan trail development.

Jeannie suggested the placement of exercise stations along the Town & Country Path and presented several ideas to be considered for such, from other path/trails.

Next Committee Meeting

The next meetings for the Park & Recreation Advisory Committee were set for the 2nd Wednesday of each month when needed, of which the next meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2006.

Adjournment

Motion by Jeannie Caris, seconded by Linda Blais to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:52 PM; motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd M. Blake
City Clerk/Finance Director