APPROVED Minutes Torch Lake Township Day Park Committee -AS PREPARED

September 24, 2015

Present: Leon Darga, Mary Schoenherr, Michael Healey, Deborah Graber

Absent: Jeff Dawson, Robert Hicks

Audience: Three

Alan Martel as Secretary/Facilitator

1. Motion by Healey seconded by Graber to accept the minutes of September 17, 2015. Motion passed.
2. Martel noted that he found no conclusive list of boat launch sites for Antrim County. Private marina boat launches are not listed. Martel also noted to the group that the “chart of park attributes” did not include the pier.
3. The agenda content was approved by motion.
4. No citizen comment.
5. Schoenherr stated that the committee should look at each of the uses in the park and determine, generally, who are the persons who use that aspect of the park. This group may also represent the stake holders, those who would have an interest in the improvement and maintenance of that particular use.

Darga directed the discussion to the pier as way to begin an analysis of those uses listed at the last meeting. A list was made of the purposes of the pier. They are 1), temporary tie up for boat launching and taking a boat out of the water, 2) fire department access to water for fire tankers during a fire emergency 3) sightseeing (looking out at and into the lake’s waters), and 4) pictures. Adverse kinds of uses include 1) diving and jumping into the water 2) mooring of boats, 3) fishing, and 4) using the pier for beach activities such as sunbathing, group gatherings and picnics.

Darga noted that from this list what do we want the pier to be?

Schoenherr noted that the first three are positive attributes of the pier or things to which are provided by the existence of the pier. The adverse kinds of uses are uses of the pier that are not desirable. It was noted that Golf Carts, and bicycles are often on the pier.

It was noted that Elk Rapids has numerous signs along the walkways around the water related to “No Swimming, Diving or Jumping” into the water.

In the development of recommendations by the committee, there seems to be a direction that would, 1) increase for residents and property owners, the park as a destination for particular activities, and 2) that future development focus be as a park for the persons who live in the township. In addition, recommendations that would discourage the park as a destination for persons who do not live in the township also are being considered.

Additional discussion focused on prohibition of smoking and the use of alcohol. Traverse City has an ordinance against smoking in the beach areas.

The pavilions currently rent for residents $15/half day and $30/full day. For non-residents the fees are $50/half day and $100/full day.

Schoenherr stated that boat launching considerations need to include the following:

1. Trailer parking; how many spaces can be available?
2. Is there a limit as to the length of the boat and/or length of the vehicle with boat trailer?
3. Is it first come first serve, or will there be limits that favor township residents?
4. Parking needs to be distinct- lines, signs, monitoring, etc.

Healey stated that boulders are an easy fix for traffic flow and creating parking areas.

Schoenherr stated that the committee needed a base map of the park to make decisions. How many cars [people] can the park accommodate?

Summary:

Darga; Parking should be able to distinguish vehicle/trailer, parking for pavilion use and regular parking. Prioritize uses and conditions based on safety, improvement and function.

Schoenherr: Determine the current state, then the desired state and then prioritize. Then develop a plan, develop stages of implementation and a plan of evaluation.

Graber concurred with both summaries and saw this as a possible agenda for the next meeting on the first.

The committee asked Martel to find the following for the next meeting:

1. Current liability and coverage
2. Legality of buoy placement
3. Check on the width of the street in the village
4. Towing- legal issues
5. Current township road end and park ordinances
6. A scale map of the park.