

VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE LAKE
VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION
JOINT SESSION WITH THE PARK & RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Magee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Miller, Malbin, Douglass, Scott, Siko, Sienkiewicz, Braykovich, Magee, Dumont, Duff, Stack, Fredericks

Absent: Pisha, Nedrow

Others: Administrator Burd, Chief Ellsworth and approximately 12 members of the Public.

Nedrow notified Council that he could not attend the meeting tonight.

MOTION by Duff, seconded Stack, to excuse the absence of Nedrow. Motion carried.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Magee explained the format of the meeting. Magee noted the Village would like to see what the vision of Clara Miller Park is for the future.

Kristin Nedrow (515 Laguna Court) Nedrow has looked over the plan and likes what she sees. She likes the idea of a handicap accessible splash pad. She would also like to see an exercise pad where parents could work out while watching their children. She would like to see improvements to the existing baseball and soccer areas. Bathroom upgrades are definitely needed. She would like to see the butterfly garden remain and or be expanded.

Dave Renwick (685 Amenia) doesn't see why this Master Plan had to happen now, he thinks it was propelled by CW3. He feels Council needs to apply what he calls the lake factor to the Park in terms of the parking spots that are being proposed. Magee noted the parking lot expansion was part of the soccer fields and Renwick stated he didn't feel Council knew what a bad idea that parking and soccer fields were. Renwick asked if Village really needs a splash park and amphitheater at such a large cost? Renwick was also questioning the amount of money in the general fund. He feels like the general fund balance is obscene and it should go back to the residents. He thinks spending in a large amount should go back to a vote of the people.

Kathy Frost (1609 Apple Orchard Lane) stated her privacy fence backs up to the parking lot. She had some type of parking blocks that were installed many years ago that need to be updated. They are in bad repair and need to be replaced.

OVERVIEW OF CLARA MILLER PARK MASTER PLAN DRAFT – CHRIS NORDSTROM, CARLISLE WORTMAN ASSOCIATES, INC.

Chris Nordstrom from Carlisle Wortman was in attendance to discuss how there could be more people brought into the park. The more people using the park, the more eyes you have and the less crime. He's trying to bring more people through the park because there is more use at one end of the park. All the things in the plan currently are considered to be Draft #1. Things change over time and these projects can be completed in phases. His role tonight is to listen and see what everyone has to say.

An amphitheater was proposed because Clara Miller Park really is the center of the Village. If the roller hockey rink was recessed a foot it could be flooded out in the winter for an ice rink. There are a lot more trees on the plan than there are there now. His experience is that wooded parks are used more. His idea for a BMX trail would be the current bike trail area with signage. He suggested crushed limestone in the Vita Trail because it is ADA compliant.

RE-OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Sue Ellen Keith (2593 Terry) doesn't want to see volleyball and parking over near her house. Volleyball is noisy and the houses are so close. She thinks the parking lot should be expanded within the Vita Trail park.

Linda Champagne (250 Oak Island) noted Commerce Township will be putting a splash pad at Dodge Park. She would like to see natural playgrounds. She would like to see water fill stations.

Kyle Dorcey (2425 Brisbane) is grateful that the park end of Brisbane won't be opened up. She feels parking shouldn't be brought into the neighborhoods but loves open areas. The playground equipment needs to be updated and made ADA compliant. She thinks the Veteran's Memorial is a good idea.

Roger Weisenberger (2601 Woodlawn) thinks the Veteran's Memorial is a great idea. He said people really speed through the area of the BMX trails. He would like to make sure there isn't too much of an environmental impact with park improvements.

Jeff Miller (2612 Brisbane) loves the idea of the Veteran's Memorial. He thinks the bathrooms may need to be hooked up to water and sewer because the septic may be too old. Miller stated the Cheboygan area let the kids have input on what they would like to see in the parks.

Larry Scallon (2432 Brisbane) likes to see open spaces.

Dave Keith (2593 Terry) loves the idea of the Veteran's memorial. He likes the idea of quiet parks. He would like to see the pathways better maintained because they are a little rough.

Dave Renwick (685 Amenia) noted it's not real easy to push a wheelchair over the pathways either. He thanked Julia Miller for rallying the people against the soccer park.

Renwick is concerned about costs associated with amphitheaters, etc. He is concerned with what the average person wants. He thinks the Village should be concerned with needs and not wants. The play structures do need to be updated. The lake is not the city center, not everybody has access to it. Clara Miller Park should get the attention that the lake gets.

Brian Frost (1609 Apple Orchard Lane) agrees with Sienkiewicz and that the Village should spend the money where the people want. He suggested a Frisbee park and studying what people want before its implement.

COUNCIL & BOARD DISCUSSION

Magee suggested that Council members and Board members discuss what they liked and didn't like about the plan.

Magee likes the centralized idea of the plan and ADA compliant playground equipment. An updated bathroom and concession stand would be good. Additional wooded areas would be nice. He's not as keen on the splash pad because of the maintenance involved.

Stack would not like to see the park dump out on Brisbane, it would make it a cut through. He would like to see ADA equipment. The concession and bathroom need to be improved.

Duff stated the bathrooms need to be improved and an adequate power drop. ADA compliant equipment is important.

Dumont would like to see better signage and scattering Vita Trail equipment. Dumont stated he spent a lot of time in the BMX trails as a kid. He would like benches underneath shade trees. The parking lot should be resurfaced. If the bathrooms aren't barrier free they should be. The bathrooms could be expanded for storage.

Fredericks agrees with Stack, Dumont and Duff. Fredericks would like to see the other park areas opened up and connected better. He would like to see trees and open spaces.

Braykovich agrees about the road not going through. She would like to see better signage for the park and her son loved the BMX trail. She likes the idea of moving more equipment down and the bike rack idea. She thinks the amphitheater would be great and she works in a community that has one and it has events there all year. She likes where the Vita Trail equipment is.

Sienkiewicz thinks opening the drive through to Brisbane is a bad idea. Sienkiewicz didn't know this plan was for Wolverine Lake with the amphitheaters and splash pads when he looked at it. He doesn't think the boulevard is a good idea. He likes the equipment in the front of Clara Miller Park. More ADA equipment is needed. A concession stand is not needed for one or two events per year. He doesn't think the horseshoe pits are used anymore. He thinks the ideas should be tested before using them.

Siko would like to see signage added to the road at the Vita Trail. She would like to see updated equipment and more greenery. She doesn't see the roller hockey used a lot and wondered if it was an ice rink too if it would be used more. She likes the idea of breaking up the exercise and a little pavilion there. She would like to see a new building with storage, bathrooms, power and possible a big enough area for people to rent out for events.

Scott ranked the concession stand, bathrooms and powers would be first. Equipment upgrades over three years. Scott likes the idea of an amphitheater. If you build it, they will come. Scott likes the BMX location and volleyball. He would like an ice rink and splash pad within 10 years.

Douglass would like to move the playground equipment a little bit away from Benstein. It's noisy and kind of an open fence. She would like natural play areas. She likes the idea of a small water feature. More signage would be good. She would like to see signs along the path explaining what is available in the parks. She likes the BMX trail, it's very well used.

Malbin would like to see more seating and bike racks. It's a beautiful park, but very under used. She would love to see the Veteran's Memorial. She's not a big splash pad fan, but small water features would be nice. Butterfly gardens would be nice.

Miller likes the thought of upgraded restrooms. She is not a splash pad person, it would require a lot of maintenance. She likes the more natural approach. She likes the BMX path. She stated that the Village isn't Walled Lake, Wixom or Novi – we don't have a city center.

Malbin was up north and going through different memorials and wondered why there wasn't anything in Wolverine Lake. She had a packet with some ideas from other cities. Residents have to go elsewhere to celebrate veterans. The Village has a perfect location for a memorial. Phil Peters thought it would be great at the Vita Trail. Stack thinks it's a great idea and that Malbin presented ideas and costs and some possible grants (from Miller).

Fredericks might not get ideas for a good plan, but if there are bad ideas people will let you know. When there is involvement you get good ideas.

Magee put together a list with the major initiatives and he will give everyone five votes to gauge their importance.

The results are:

Playing field upgrades:

Playground equipment: 9

Bathrooms/Storage/Concession: 9

(Electrical drop is very important)

Auditorium/splash pad: 1

Message sign:

Additional picnic pavilion:

Hockey/basketball: 1

Stormwater detention:

Veteran's memorial: 13

Vital trail upgrades: 3

Bike racks: 1

Volleyball/horseshoes:

Abandon streets:

Small picnic pavilions: 1

Signage and kiosks: 4

BMX bike improvements: 4
Natural play areas: 2
Chess grove:
Forestry/landscaping: 6
Parking: 2
Move exercise equipment along trail: 5

Magee feels this is a useful experience for prioritizing interest.

Nordstrom has worked with communities big and small and this gives him great ideas to work with.

Administrator Burd asked Nordstrom to speak about the Master Plan and grants. Nordstrom stated that having a specific Master Plan leads to more grants. It greatly strengthens the chances later on for grants. DTE has grant programs for forestry and landscaping. Burd wanted to be clear that there is a goal in place for adopting this Master Plan and that it can be used to apply for grants for many of the identified priorities.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Sienkiewicz, seconded by Siko, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Nathan Burd, Administrator
Sherri Ward, Recording Secretary

John Magee, Council President

Scott Fredericks, Chairperson