

Laketon Township Planning Commission
August 14, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Don Nellis called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

- Present: DJ Hilson, Don Nellis, Dave Mieras, Paul Hoppa, Eric Anderson and June Earhart
- Absent w/notice: Cindy Zaagman
- Also present: Zoning Administrator Theresa Maner and Recording Secretary Veronica West

APPROVAL OF AGENDA June Earhart moved to approve the agenda as presented. Paul Hoppa supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Eric Anderson moved to approve the minutes as presented for July 10, 2019. Dave Mieras supported the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: **NONE**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Planning & Zoning News – July 2019 issue distributed. Zoning Administrator Theresa Maner noted only that this issue is #17 in the series covering marijuana laws. No further discussion.
- ZA Conference: ZA Theresa Maner discussed another free workshop from the MSU Extension she was able to attend cover the topic of protecting lakes and shorelines. She noted she was able to forge good contacts via networking with others present.
- Community Playground Build – ZA Theresa Maner distributed a flyer for a Laketon Township Playground Community Build Project coming up next month (Sept. 2019)- discussed looking for volunteers, Lori Archer is the contact person, also noted the Northside Lions Club will be on hand volunteering and providing breakfast and lunch for all the volunteers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Park & Rec Plan Open House Summary of Public Comments** – Public Comment summary presented and noted to be incorporated into the draft rec plan, ZA Theresa Maner noted there is a number behind each topic/amenity attendees asked for and stated that number denotes how many people asked about that item – she will clarify that better. Eric Anderson commented that the biggest item asked for/about was again bike paths. Paul Hoppa discussed the group of pickleball players that attended a regular PC meeting a few months ago and wondered if their comments were incorporated. ZA T. Maner noted that only comments from the open house event were included. June Earhart noted that the players did not attend the open house because they thought they had already represented their interest at the regular meeting they attended. There was other discussion that revealed there were many comments regarding pickleball on the public survey conducted online via Survey Monkey, results were tabulated and given to PC members at a meeting earlier this year.
- **Park & Rec Plan – Review** - Don Nellis commented on the next steps with regard to getting the Park and Rec Plan adopted: next steps being to release the draft plan to the public for 30 days to gather their comments, then hold a public hearing, then make a recommendation about the plan to the Board of Trustees who makes the final decision on adoption of the plan. Discussion covered the inclusion of some new/updated photos, the insertion of an updated bike path map and some new language discussion the citizen input collected via a community survey and an Open House. June Earhart commented on noticing that there is also no mention of pickleball in the park and rec plan capital improvement budget part of the document. Don Nellis noted that the Capital Improvement Plan, which is a wish list, of items to be addressed, was discussed and completed earlier this year, before there was any public comment regarding pickleball. He also noted that just because it isn't in the Capital Improvement Plan it doesn't preclude the township from doing it by applying for a grant or any other means of funding to construct/create pickleball courts. Eric Anderson commented that the pickleball issue will be included in the plan and that should be sufficient and it can be included in the CIP portion next time. Paul Hoppa

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commented on making sure the voices of the pickleball group is heard and asking for a sentence or two to be added to the Citizen Comments section of the draft plan about the pickleball group with the date of the meeting they attended. Discussion also covered scheduling a Public Hearing, which can only take place after the 30 day public review of the draft plan. Several dates were discussed.

June Earhart moved to release the draft park and rec plan to the public for the 30 day review period with the inclusion of the public survey results and added language regarding the pickleball group and their request for pickleball facilities. Dave Mieras supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Dave Mieras moved to hold a public hearing on the draft park and rec plan on Wednesday September 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm. DJ Hilson supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Don Nellis noted that ZA T. Maner and other township staff will have the task of getting word out that the draft plan is available as well as actually putting it out to the public, via the internet and other appropriate means.

NEW BUSINESS: **NONE**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: **NONE**

BOARD REPORTS:

- Board of Trustees – None.
- ZBA – None.

ADJOURN: Paul Hoppa moved to adjourn the meeting. June Earhart supported the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Veronica West
Recording Secretary