

Wilson Township Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
November 5, 2014

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Jon Mathers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Planning Commission (PC) Members Present: John Mathers, Mark Wuerth, Ray Guzniczak, Mel Nowland, and Aaron Nordman. Absent: Jeff Argetsinger and Jon Jasinski. Also present: recording secretary Marilyn Beebe, planner Scott McPherson, and Cheri Leach from Raven Hill Discovery Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by Ray Guzniczak and second by Mel Nowland to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2014 Wilson Township Planning Commission meeting as written. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Absent - 2. Motion carried.**

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Raven Hill Visitor Center Project Update: Cheri Leach, Vice-Chair, CEO and Co-Founder for Raven Hill Discovery Center gave a brief overview of the proposed Visitor Center plan. Cheri noted the Board of Directors have been working on a 5-year succession plan. Part of the succession planning is thinking about how to support Raven Hill in the winter. For most of the year Raven Hill's location is fine . . . except in the winter when no one wants to come up the hill. The site at the bottom of the hill – three parcels owned by the Hellebuycks – has accessibility and visibility. Cheri initially approached the township as a partner due to the availability of DNR grants. She is aware that the township is in support of the plan but isn't in a position to help financially. Consequently, she has been soliciting private donors and stated that the township is "off the hook".
2. Fall Park Improvement Plan: Discussion took place regarding affordable park improvements, which could be applied for with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. Dredging is cost prohibitive. Potential projects that were identified were: ADA fishing dock/site, paved parking lot, and picnic tables. Paving of the parking lot could be done in sections. Aaron Nordman indicated that paving a 200 ft. section would cost approximately \$20,000. Scott mentioned that park improvements along with ORV usage on township roads and Raven Hill will be discussed at the joint meeting with the trustees at the November 12, 2014 meeting (6:00 PM).

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Boyne Valley Storage Condominiums: Scott reported that Mr. Jasper has fixed the breach in the berm. Some dirt has been moved but no permits have been issued.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

1. Planner and ZA Report: Submitted.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Mel Nowland to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM, second by Ray Guzniczak. **Voice vote: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Absent – 2. Motion carried.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Beebe, Recording Secretary

Mel Nowland, Secretary