

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF THE SPORTSMAN'S PARK SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 14, 2024 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Shawn Garding. All participants introduced themselves. Board members present: Shawn Garding, Dave Dold, John Willenbring, Heidi Stalboerger. Others present: Jim Kraemer, Mark Stalboerger, Mary Huettl, Wendy Drontle, Herb Hesse, Kevin Dierkhising, Vern Salzl, Mark Mix, Tim Mackey, Gene and Jane Welle, Anthony Conrad, Brenna Bryant, Kurt Hemmesch, David Ashfeld and Dan Theis.

The group reviewed the master plan, as presented by a WSB, Inc, based on ideas and suggestions of a park committee in 2023. The group discussed the process of beginning to develop plans and ideas. A Disc Golf presentation was given by Tim Mackey and Anthony Conrad. The group discussed the placement of some of the activities, and areas reserved for parking or roads. The group agreed that the Disc Golf Course might be the first activity area developed partly due to the St. Cloud Disc Golf Club's willingness to volunteer and donate time to clear the area, the idea that the disc golf area could be a multi-use area for hiking, skiing, snow shoeing and year round use, as well as the cost to establish the course as well as fundraising per basket. The group further discussed grants, funding, and volunteerism. The group reviewed the proposed road to the park to lighten the traffic on the populated 224th Street. The members present generally agreed that the youth baseball field and/or soccer field would likely not be necessary, as there is less demand for it, it would save money to remove it from the plan; furthermore, that area may be better served by another use, such as additional parking, a rain garden, monarch sanctuary or a community garden. The group recognized and appreciated that the Boy Scouts/Scouting has typically cared for and used the park over the last several years. The group overwhelmingly stated that no development commences until funds have been raised. The group discussed the proposed alternate road systems and parking areas to protect the current resident's property from traffic and pedestrians. Ideas included moving the proposed road and parking, fencing (natural and built). It was suggested that as much of the pavilion be salvaged as possible, seal the building, and update the facility, with the intent to install a septic system and well and to ensure handicap accessibility be met, including the grading/excavating. Other suggestions were offered near the river, such as installing and renting boat slips and eliminating the fishing pier since there is a fishing pier nearby. It was suggested that the camping/tenting area be eliminated. There was a request for the amount of money spent on the park to date as well as tracking expenses going forward so as not to exceed the amount of funds levied for the park fund.

Group members were asked to rate the next best steps:

1. Resolve road issue
2. Identify disc golf area

3. Seek local civic organizations to become involved (potentially donating handicap accessible playground equipment)
4. Fundraising
5. Endowment fund – maintenance and future evolution of use

Members of the group were asked to volunteer to form a five-member Park Board. Adam Gorres (or another member of the disc golf group) was volunteered and Kurt Hemmesch, Kevin Dierkhising, Wendy Drontle and Jane Welle volunteered to be on the committee. John Willenbring volunteered to be the Wakefield Township Board liaison member.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Heidi M. Stalboerger, Clerk

Approved by:

/s/Shawn Garding, Board Chair