

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF THE SPORTSMAN'S PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2022 7:00 PM

1. Call Monthly Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chairman Erkens called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Kevin Dierkhising, Jane Welle, Gene Welle, Levi Feldhege, Robb Feldhege, John Willenbring, Charlie Braegelmann, Adam Gorres, Shawn Garding, Herb Hesse, Jill Wuertz, Gene Hesse, Becky Peart, Kristopher Bellmont, Jim Dwyer, Deb Sorenson, Lonnie Drontle, Wendy Drontle, George Drontle, Mary Huettl, Wally Backes, Mark Stalboerger, Cyril Erkens and Heidi Stalboerger.

Clerk Stalboerger reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the group members introduced themselves.

2. Property Review

The group reviewed the history of the property. Shawn Garding gave an update of the history of the softball fields. Wally Backes recalled that the parcel was gifted to the Sportsman's Club by Dr. Koop over 50 years ago, along with the conditions under which the property was gifted; that the property never be sold and if the Sportsman's Park no longer existed, the property be gifted to the township for park purposes.

The Wakefield Township Board had a soil study conducted over the summer to reveal if there is possible lead contamination due to the previous use of gun safety instruction, target practice and the like. The soil study results are incomplete currently.

The group reviewed the current use of the parcel, including many Scouting activities as well as boat storage in the park pavilion.

The group reviewed surveys of the property and discussed boundary issues with adjacent property owners as well as possible resolution and impact to the park property.

3. Potential Use

The group focused on three primary areas of use: Recreation, Gather/Community and Nature. Potential uses mentioned were disk golf, trails, softball, scouting activities and camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding/tubing, ice skating and warming house, batting cages, fishing dock and pier, archery, volleyball, community garden, bird watching, community center. Additionally, the group included that safety and security is of utmost importance and should not be overlooked.

4. Evaluation Process

The Board Members discussed with the group the need for professionals to help with applications, design of park, feasibility of ideas and potential use, engineering, etc. The Board explained that since the township owns the park, a governmental entity, additional criteria and requirements may need to be met versus private ownership or civic ownership.

5. Funding Sources

The group discussed current funds available to the township through the Park Dedication Funding program at Stearns County. The electors of the township added a line item to the levy beginning in 2023 for park funds. The group discussed other possible funding sources, such as grants and donations (monetary and in-

kind). Jim Dwyer also mentioned that the Town Board consider an Endowment Fund for the park as well as an Operating Budget.

6. Future Meetings

The group discussed future meetings and communications. Clerk Stalboerger urged the group members to list their contact information, including an email address for future communications. The group will watch for future information regarding the Sportsman's Club through emails from the Town Board.

The group agreed to meet at the Sportsman's Club Park entrance at 15400 224th Street, Cold Spring, MN on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 1:00 pm. Parking on the grassy area just south and west of the gate on 224th Street.

7. Motion to Recess or Adjourn:

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Heidi M. Stalboerger, Clerk

/s/Cyril Erkens, Chairman