

Parks & Recreation Plan Subcommittee

Work Session

Minutes
October 26, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Dawn LaVanway, Karen Bargy, Christian Marcus

Members Absent:

Others present: Jenn Wright, Margie Boyd, Pete Garwood, Ed Boettcher

1. Call to Order

The work session came to order at 9:30 a.m.

In line with recommendations included in the Emergency Public Health Order issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, this meeting was held virtually.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Review Park Descriptions and Maps

The subcommittee reviewed the County parks descriptions and accompanying maps included in the draft plan. Ms. Bargy asked that the pages be reworked to appear less clunky. Administration Office staff will make those adjustments.

4. Set Goals and Objectives

Ms. Bargy gave a brief overview of the results of the public survey, noting the parks most visited are the parks that the public would like to see most improved. Specifically, the top improvement requested in the survey were restrooms at the most used facilities. Ms. Lavanway noted there may likely be an increase in outdoor activities such as cycling, hiking, and ORVing, due to COVID19.

The subcommittee discussed various goals and objectives that they felt should be highlighted in the plan. Those goals included:

- Improvements at Grass River Natural Area, county-owned mixed use trails, and hiking/walking trails;
- Increasing awareness for the less-utilized parks, including promotion of the parks via websites and interactive trail maps;
- Interactive mapping of the parks system over the next five years;
- Increasing the availability of restroom facilities
- Partnering with interested activity groups to increase interest and usage of available trail system;
- Expanding the County trails systems, including multi-use and mixed-use trails as well as non-motorized and motorized trails;
- Parking lot improvements;
- Addressing the potential need for a Parks Department and Parks Manager.

Ms. Wright suggested a number of the goals could be combined into over-arching topics (improving access to parks, expanding trails system, and improving amenities). The subcommittee asked the Administration Office to flesh out goals for an action plan.

5. Discussion: Plan Format

The subcommittee agreed the current draft of the plan needed some changes to the format. They asked that Ms. Wright create a summary of the plan. Mr. Garwood indicated the finished product would include a number of items as appendices including survey questions & results and local unit parks & recreation inventories.

The next meeting of the subcommittee will be November 16th at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.