



Call to Order: Supervisor Walls called the April 10, 2018 Special Meeting of the Springfield Township Board and Springfield Township Park Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Rd., Davisburg, MI 48350.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Collin W. Walls	Township Supervisor
Laura Moreau	Township Clerk
Jamie Dubre	Township Treasurer
Marc Cooper	Township Trustee
Judy Hensler	Township Trustee
David Hopper	Township Trustee
Dennis Vallad	Township Trustee

Park Commissioners Present

Roger Bower	Park Commission Chairperson
Diane Baker	Park Commissioner
Anne Loncar	Park Commissioner
Dennis Omell	Park Commissioner
Rich Parke	Park Commissioner
Jean Vallad	Park Commissioner

Park Commissioners Absent

Angela Spicer	Parks Commissioner
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Others Present:

Mike Forst, Property Manager
Mike Losey, Natural Resources Manager
Sarah Richmond, Parks and Recreation Director
Mike Donnellon, Chief of Park Facilities, Maintenance and Development, Oakland County Parks & Recreation

New Business:

1. Parks Master Plan – Update

Director Richmond informed the Township Board that the Park Commission awarded the bid to Carlisle Wortman for the 5-year Master Plan update. She summarized the tentative timeline that was shown in her prepared memo. In the past, the Park Commission has held the Public Hearing portion, adopted the plan and then it was brought to the



Township Board for their approval and this process will be followed again this time. There will be some public input meetings scheduled that will be impacting the planning. They are optimistic about working with Carlisle Wortman.

Commissioner Parke asked what was driving the March 1, 2019 completion deadline.

Director Richmond replied that the Master Plan must be updated and adopted every five years so that the Department can be eligible for grants in the cycle that begins in April 2019.

2. Pathways Committee – Report

Clerk Moreau summarized the report provided regarding the Pathways Committee findings and recommendations. The Pathways Committee is recommending a revised Priority Pathways Map to be incorporated in the zoning ordinance amendments to Section 40-851, addition of Definitions to Section 40-2, and to rescind the Pathway Master Plan that was adopted in 2013.

Commissioner Parke commented on other communities and the fact that they require pathways to be installed as various properties are developed which creates a patchwork of pathways to be formed. He stated that it makes sense because over time, the pathways get built and there are only areas leftover to complete the full pathway.

Clerk Moreau stated that by designating those priority pathway areas, this is essentially what is in place. If a development goes in and they are on the roadway designated as priority pathway, then it is the property owners responsibility to put in the pathway.

Supervisor Walls commented that Commissioner Park's suggestion is in our current ordinance. Even if a developer does not put in the pathway, they are required to establish a fund to build the pathway in the future.

Commissioner Parke commented that the pathway development along Clarkston Road in Independence Township was an effective approach.

Commissioner Vallad commented that the committee did a great job on the definitions.

Trustee Vallad asked why a part of the priority pathway is shown along Big Lake Road.



Supervisor Walls explained that this is the portion that goes to Indian Springs and it is in the current Priority Pathway Plan in the Master Plan. Supervisor Walls stated that there is another plan in Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the result should be that all departments are planning to use the same Plan.

3. South Shiawassee Prairie Management Plan – Report

Mike Losey, Natural Resource Manager, summarized the Prairie Management Plan that was included in the packets. He stated that this is a plan to revitalize the prairie areas in front of the Civic Center which are the gateway to the Civic Center. They do not look as good as the original vision. Mr. Losey continued with a summary of the 3-year Plan that he developed.

Commissioner Bower asked if any thought had been given to signage to advise the community what is taking place.

Mr. Losey commented that this would be a good idea.

Commissioner Baker suggested using it as an educational component in the newsletters and brochures to raise awareness.

Mr. Losey replied that this is a very visible area and unlike other areas of the Township that he treats, is visible to residents.

Supervisor Walls stated that the Township Engineer's performed some grade shots at the Civic Center along the drainage route between Davisburg Road and the ponds west of the Civic Center.

Clerk Moreau and Trustee Hopper commented that a "Prairie Restoration in Progress" sign would make sense.

4. Shared Maintenance Garage – Update

Director Richmond stated that after the Budget Priorities Meeting in September, a committee was formed comprised of herself, Mike Forst and Mike Losey. They were tasked with investigating and determining the needs of the departments for a shared maintenance garage. They visited Fire Station 1 to determine how they could utilize that space once it is vacated. A three-year budget was prepared and submitted showing the necessary repairs to that facility. The Committee visited other sites that have



maintenance garages including Townships, HCMA, etc. and they discovered a lot of items that should be incorporated and considered. The Committee is still in the process of developing a footprint for a future maintenance building considering current needs and future needs. The Committee is looking at storage needs for all equipment, what portions of the building need to be heated or not. The next step is to find an architect to work on building design; their goal is to have the square footage and a general idea of the building design by the end of May. The Committee was also tasked with finding a location for the new maintenance garage and she summarized the process the Committee undertook. The location that they recommend is Schultz Park and she summarized the adjustments that would have to be made and the priorities that they considered when choosing this site.

Commissioner Omell asked if Schultz Park is all cemetery property.

Director Richmond answered not to her knowledge.

Supervisor Walls stated that the property was originally purchased for cemetery use.

Commissioner Bower commented that it sounded like a good location for the maintenance garage.

Commissioner Vallad stated that the view into the park from Davisburg Road would be obstructed.

Commissioner Parke commented that the garage would create regular traffic in and out of the area, which would allow for better monitoring of the park.

Director Richmond stated that it is a good location for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Supervisor Walls stated that there are two key decisions that can and should be made before they go to an architect. They could put together a preliminary cost estimate with square footage and basic building info. The building design will be partially site dependent so site choice should be discussed with the Park Commission and Board.

Meeting participants further discussed possible need to expand Davisburg Cemetery in the future.



Clerk Moreau stated that she likes the idea of shared parking if there is going to be a maintenance garage there. There is going to be ongoing interest in the cemetery but there are a lot of spaces left. This site has the potential to solve more than one challenge. She suggested that whatever is proposed it need to provide a nice view from the cemetery because this is important to patrons.

Board and Commissioner members discussed the Township acquiring Andersonville Cemetery and what impact this might have on future expansion needs at Davisburg Cemetery.

Director Richmond stated that the committee would move forward looking at their square footage requirements and approximate cost so they can determine a basic budget.

Commissioner Omell suggested putting up a post and beam construction and working on it a little each year.

5. Mill Pond Park Committee – Report & Initial recommendations

Clerk Moreau provided a summary of the Mill Pond Park Committee Report and a summary of the activities of the Committee. She summarized all the organizations that have an interest in the dam. She outlined the preliminary priorities and findings for both options, maintaining the dam and improving the pond or removing the dam and restoring the river corridor. She also reviewed the initial recommendations shown in the report. She stated that the committee looked at the current use of Mill Pond and Mill Pond Beach, the condition of the dam, and the environmental impact. The committee does not support dredging Mill Pond or a major treatment plan that would improve the pond for recreation. This recommendation was based on the environmental impact of dredging and other required treatments and a cost benefit analysis. The committee also looked at the natural resources priorities in Springfield Township and how improving Mill Pond for recreation does not align with these priorities. The committee recommends that any improvements should be aimed at the aesthetic value of the pond but they also recommend holding off until the preferred option for the future of the dam is identified. There are so many questions remaining even after reviewing multiple case studies in other communities. The closest example is the dam removal in Dexter, Michigan which also involved a mill pond and a roadway over the dam. But, every situation is unique and the Township has very unique circumstances. All the organization the committee consulted with recommended a feasibility study first. The draft RFQ was prepared to have something to present for all groups and it is a good overview of what they are looking for. The intention tonight is to discuss it between the two bodies.



Treasurer Dubre asked how much the feasibility study was going to cost.

Clerk Moreau replied that there is a wide range of proposed costs. They estimate between \$10,000 and \$20,000. It was recommended that they do an RFQ and then negotiate costs when they have found the right contractor.

Commissioner Loncar asked where Springfield Oaks Golf Course gets water for irrigation.

Mr. Donnellon replied the ponds along Andersonville Road are used for that purpose. They are filled via natural runoff and springs. He stated that he is excited about the collaboration with Springfield Township and the Committee work that has been done.

Trustee Hopper asked about the DNR process on the State Game Area.

Mike Losey answered that the Trout Pond dam had its own set of management issues and repair needs. It never met its envisioned purpose and the DNR has concluded that it is an impediment to the land. On the Master Plan for the State Game area, one of the recommendations was to remove the remainder of the dam. They are interested in partnering with the Township to see if there are some cost savings.

Commissioner Baker asked if one of the options connects closer to the Board's vision for the downtown area.

Clerk Moreau stated that the Board had discussions about priorities at their meeting in September. The Board has not had a visioning session exclusively about this topic. The feasibility study would get them closer to having the information that they need to know.

Treasurer Dubre supports the RFQ to gather more information through the Feasibility Study.

Commissioner Baker stated that the 5-year plan can be guided by what they find out through the Feasibility Study.

Commissioner Parke asked what is the condition of the dam.

Supervisor Walls stated that the State does an inspection every 5 years, it is scheduled for this year. The last inspection indicated that the embankment was still safe; the structure is not perfect. The control mechanism was repaired and is working.



Treasurer Dubre indicated that the budget has funds set aside for the dam.

Mr. Donnellon commented that when a dam is owned by a municipality, and the State will conduct the inspection as “a cost of doing business”. Oakland County requests the inspection and the State does it. There are some other studies that have been done regarding the dam that can be made available. The intent is to be proactive rather than reactive.

Supervisor Walls thanked everyone involved in the process. The report shows a lot of effort and work. He has some concerns about the RFQ but they can address those before it is actually awarded. The Township Board should also have the opportunity to review the information when it comes back.

Clerk Moreau replied that this is the intent.

Commissioner Baker asked what the flow rate would be for the river if the dam was removed.

Clerk Moreau replied that they don’t know. The best indicator would be for them to look at what the river flow looks like on the other side of the dam and what is flowing by Eaton Road.

Mike Losey stated that the Mill Pond has more evaporation of water than what is being put into it; the flow might actually increase without the dammed pond.

Clerk Moreau stated that the Feasibility Study would address this question.

Supervisor Walls stated that the control mechanism was updated in 1984. They do have a copy of the as built plans.

Clerk Moreau stated that they will notify Oakland County Parks and Recreation that the Township is in support of doing the Feasibility Study and putting out the RFQ but the Township wants direct involvement in the finalizing the RFQ.

Supervisor Walls stated that it might require more than the hydrological study that the engineers are predicting. The final decision making is not meant to be part of the RFQ, if so, they need to modify it.

Clerk Moreau asked if he meant to have an expanded look at the historical and social.



Supervisor Walls stated yes but this would not be a good time to review the economic impact on downtown Davisburg.

Township Board members agreed with the process of moving forward with the Feasibility Study insuring with Township having direct involvement in finalizing RFQ.

6. Shiawassee Basin South & Storybook Trails – Discussion

Supervisor Walls stated that there are two parts to this item. The first is improving the existing limestone trail by removing the large stones and providing a hard surface. The second is expanding. The crushed limestone on the path is not crushed enough. A possible alternative might be the crusher dust used on ball fields. The other part of this is to extend the trail from the pavilion along the edge of the parking area and along the edge of the driveway. It is easier to install path on the northern edge. This will create a loop which will create opportunities.

Commission members agreed to continue the meeting past 7:00 pm; the Regular Meeting of the Park Commission will begin after completing all Special Meeting agenda items.

Commissioner Vallad agrees that something needs to be done on the trail. The surface is difficult to walk on.

Director Richmond replied that the asphalt pathway behind the pavilion needs repair. This might be the time to take out the asphalt and complete the pathway with limestone. The exact location next to the driveway would need to be discussed because the area next to the drive is used for parking during some events. Improving the trail to make it easier for strollers is ideal.

Supervisor Walls stated that this is a live and learn situation; we need to be more careful about how the specs are put together.

Clerk Moreau stated that using crusher dust through the natural areas is a good idea but prefer a paved pathway along the drive. She appreciates Director Richmond's comment regarding the parking along the drive so location is an important consideration.

Commissioner Loncar asked about having handicap access trails.



Director Richmond stated that a person in a wheelchair can get out to the ballfields currently but there is not wheelchair access from the library to the ballfields.

Clerk Moreau replied that if it was a pathway from the Civic Center entrance out to the ballfields; this would be accessible based on the new definition.

Supervisor Walls stated that they have not determined who is going to work on what.

Clerk Moreau asked if they wanted to address the project in stages. She suggested that they start with improving the Storybook Trail portion.

Supervisor Walls stated that the only limitation is time and finding someone to take the responsibility.

Mike Forst suggested that he could work with Sarah Richmond, Mike Losey and another person. He stated that it is maintenance in his viewpoint.

Clerk Moreau asked if Erin Mattice worked on the grant that was responsible for expanding the trails.

Mike Forst replied yes, she worked with the Enbridge Grant to get this done.

Clerk Moreau suggested that Erin Mattice join with the other three individuals.

Supervisor Walls answered that this is not his suggestion although she could be of assistance.

Director Richmond asked if someone from the Library would like to be involved.

Mike Forst replied no, not in improving the surface of the existing trail although they would agree that using a finer material would be beneficial. When they talk about expanding the loop and going back to the Library, perhaps someone from the Library could be involved at that point.

Director Richmond and Commissioner Vallad asked what the next step is.

Supervisor Walls stated that he will work with people under his administration to establish priorities to determine whether or not there is realistically time to work on this and if not, make recommendations accordingly.



7. Safety Committee & MIOSHA – Update

Supervisor Walls provided an update regarding the recent visit to the Township by MIOSHA, their report and findings, the formation of a Safety Committee, training opportunities and next steps for the Township and Committee.

8. Other items as unanimously agreed – None

Adjourned: 7:18 pm

Collin W. Walls, Supervisor

Laura Moreau, Clerk