



Park Township

From the Desk of Howard Fink,

Township Manager

10/30/2020

Hi Everyone. Attached is this week's management report. As always, please let me know if there is anything I have missed.

South Side Kayak Park

The South Side Kayak park is progressing. We are waiting on removal of the old pylon and dock structures from DK construction. Unfortunately, that business is quite busy. The Kayak Launch and rack system will be installed in the spring of next year. We will also work this winter to determine the best new dock for the boat launch. That was not in the original contract, as we chose to consider it an owner install item.

South Side Kayak Park Fence

Regarding the fence issue at the South Side Kayak park, the Eding's are requesting that we engage and negotiate with them. Jerry, Jim, and I met with the Eding's. Jerry has requested we look at various options including a picket fence and tapering the area lower near the water and the road. I have requested information from the contractor and will wait to get what possibilities are available and the cost for such a change. This will be on the next board meeting for discussion and possible action.

Max Transit

You have now received the contract that Max transit is proposing. PLEASE review it in detail. It will be on the agenda for the upcoming meeting. Jerry, myself and Jim Gerard will be working with MAX to bring this to conclusion. I have confirmed that Elisa will be present at the upcoming board meeting.

Short Term Rentals

At the P.C. strategic planning session (which was excellent – well done Jeff and Rosemary) the issue of short-term rentals was discussed. The P.C. would like data on the issue. Where are the rentals, how many, how often are they rented, etc. We have called on a company called Granicus to provide us any analysis of this data. The meeting will be held next week. Staff will be present and present the findings to the P.C. and board at the appropriate venues / times.

Bowerman's Blueberries

Bowerman's is requesting a expansion of their farm stand. I have enquired with our zoning and planning officials to try and rectify what many believe; that Bowerman's current footprint is larger and more extensive then what was originally approved. Given they have to go through the process, we mine as well rectify this issue if possible.

Right to Farm Act / Agricultural exemptions for storage buildings

One of our residents (Jeff Ward) had applied to receive a permit for a storage building on his property. Under the Right to Farm Act and Michigan Building Code, if a person claims an agricultural exemption (not zoning – but actively farming) they are able to bypass zoning and building laws on these types of structures. The law is reserved for active farming. Unfortunately, no one believes Mr. Ward is actively farming. In particular, we believe that what he put on his application for the permit does not fall under the category of farming, and thus should have been denied. Our new zoning administrator, myself, Dan and others are evaluating the situation and I will update you on how we wish to proceed.

We are also looking at altering our policies so that the law is not manipulated. We are currently investigating how best to do that.