



Park Township

From the Desk of Howard Fink,

Township Manager

12/18//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

If you have not driven by, the South Side Kayak launch is looking fantastic. Some landscaping has been installed by the Outdoor Discovery Center, including bushes, shrubs, and native seeds. Plugs will be installed in the spring. The ODC will continue what landscaping work they can do in the winter months, but the bulk of the work will be next year. I anticipate a beautiful new park. Thank you to our Parks Team! Daniele, Ryan, Connie and Myself.

Daniele will be ordering benches for the park, and Ryan's team will be installing them. We will be working on a new skid pier and or boat dock, signage and buoys for the park.

Please note, that the South Side Kayak Park is still in need of a name.

Strategic Planning

I have finalized the agenda for Strategic Planning. Jim and I will be reviewing it later this afternoon. Unfortunately, the meeting will need to be canceled as the Governor has issued a new executive order limiting in person meetings.

Board Orientation

Al Vanderberg is confirmed for board orientation. Unfortunately, the January 4th date is canceled given the Governor's executive order. When we are able to reschedule, we are planning on presentations from myself, Al Vanderberg, Dan Martin, and others. I will be working on the agenda and finalizing documents after the holidays.

Sign Complaint

I updated the board previously on a sign complaint on the south side. Both Paul and I explained to the home owner our reasoning behind why we did not feel a violation occurred. The homeowner wished for additional information, and because our basis was that we believed doing so would be unconstitutional under how the Supreme Court is currently interpreting sign regulations, we asked that Dan Martin communicate that directly. As of today, I have not heard any response from the resident lodging the complaint.

This incident does bring to bear that we should revise our sign ordinances to be compliant with the new Supreme Court rulings. IMO, this is most critical with regulations around residential and political signs. There are items that need to be updated and clarified in our ordinances.

Tree Preservation

As you know, we have previously adopted a tree preservation ordinance. Great Job! I will be creating a summary of the ordinance to be sent out in our online newsletter and on our website.

Covenant / Resident Complaints

Over the last few months, there were dust complaints from residents related to construction at the Reserves. Joe Bush's office was contacted and the inspector, I and various residents met to discuss the issue. Covenant was clearly in violation. During the meeting, everyone agreed to a solution and both the residents and Mr. Bush's office agreed to provide Covenant with a few weeks to rectify the issue. Last week, a follow up meeting occurred and the situation has been resolved.

Maintenance

I previously informed the board that Paul Wren had gone over his allotted 30 hours per week average maximum, and thus would be eligible for a health insurance opt out payment. We calculated incorrectly, partially due to how payroll was accounting for hours worked during COVID. Paul did not go over the 30-hour threshold.

Building Inspector / Building Department

After the holidays, the building team, myself and Connie will be meeting to review revenue, permit activity, and trends over the last few years. We will be looking at whether Chad Warden, our building inspector should be full time. This will not impact the General Fund, as the building inspector is paid from revenue received from building permits. We will also be looking at slight increases in electrical, plumbing and mechanical inspections. We currently charge \$60 and keep \$10 for administrative efforts. We are looking at increasing that to \$65 and keeping an extra \$5.

Cooper Van Wieren

Previously, we were quoted \$28,000 to build the first loop of the Cooper Van Wieren trail. This would have included an accessible 6-foot trail, removing top soil and creating a gravel base. This also would require a wetland delineation (there are wetlands) and permitting would be necessary. To keep the park more rustic and avoid additional costs and a possibly lengthy permitting process, we will be brush cutting in the main trail without disturbing any top soil or adding fill material. Moving forward, we will be working with the mountain biking group to identify and map additional trails.

Park Signs

Daniele and I are working on identifying a new sign design for our park system. We need new signs for Cooper Van Wieren, the South Side Kayak Park, and few others that are looking a bit tired. Our parks team agrees that a new design is in order. Previously, we were going to use a custom design provided by Prien & Newhof. To save on cost, Daniele and I will be looking at various sign catalogs and see if there is a stock design by a particular company that seems attractive. This would be similar to what the City of Holland has done with the signs in all of their parks. We will keep the board posted.