

LEROY TOWNSHIP
8156 4 Mile Road
East Leroy, Michigan 49051

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER-

Chairperson VanVranken called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL-

Members present: Travis Arbogast, Kevin Smith, Mark Christoff, Pete VanVranken, Bobbie Suchan, Randy Lang, and Phil Qualls

Others present: Township Planning & Zoning Administrator Rob Behnke, Tiffany Smith, President, MCSA Group, Inc., and Anna Barry, Assistant, MCSA Group, Inc.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES-

A motion was made by Kevin Smith to approve the June 14, 2023 meeting minutes as presented, supported by Phil Qualls. **Motion carried with unanimous approval.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS-

Parks & Rec Survey Results- Tiffany Smith, President, MCSA Group, Inc., went through the survey results with the board members. There were a total of (118) surveys completed which represented a very high participation rate. Highlights included the following: More females completed the survey than males by 61.95% to 38.05%, 43.24% of respondents indicated that they had utilized the Graham Lake Boat Ramp, residents appeared very interested in biking and walking trails, 75.53% of respondents felt the maintenance at the Graham Lake Boat Ramp was somewhere between fair and good, a majority of respondents indicated that they had used a state and county park in the last 12 months and 73.45% of respondents knew that the Leroy Township Community Center was available for rental.

Review of DRAFT Parks & Rec Plan-

Tiffany Smith, President, MCSA Group, Inc. lead the discussion on what they had prepared in terms of a plan. The plan is for the years 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028. The plan uses a lot of language, maps, and information that was used in the 2021 Master Plan. The plan has an Introduction, Community Description, Administrative Structure associated with the proposed plan, a Recreational Inventory of what currently exists in the Township, Planning and Public Input Process which includes the public survey, Recreational Needs and Deficiencies, Goals and Objectives, Action Program & Capital Improvement Schedule, Local Adoption & Certification Plan. Board members asked questions and made suggestions. Tiffany also outlined some of the next steps.

Graham Lake Boat Ramp Master Plan Review-

Tiffany Smith, President, MCSA Group, Inc., presented a concept plan of possible improvements to the Graham Lake Boat Ramp. *The plan outlined updating of the current boat dock, the addition of boardwalk fishing piers, barrier kayak launching area, entrance updates, additional lighting at the park, concrete pathways, accessible picnic tables, and additional parking spots.* This particular concept plan represented more of a ‘wish list’ of items that would take years and years to fund and construct.

The board members then decided to create a **Phase 1** listing of items that were more realistic over a period of time. That list included the following: *dual boat ramps, an accessible kayak launch, dock repairs, additional lighting, and a boardwalk fishing pier (location undecided).* It was mentioned that the Township would have only money from the county parks millage to pay for any type of improvements. This year that amount is approximately \$11,000.00. To qualify for any matching dollars through the State of Michigan, a Parks & Rec Plan is needed. Tiffany indicated that they would work up a cost estimate for these items.

Chairperson VanVranken suggested that someone make a motion for the recommended creation of **Phase 1**. A motion was made by Travis Arbogast to include the items listed above in a proposed Phase 1 Project in the Parks & Rec Plan, supported by Phil Qualls. A Roll Call vote was asked for by Chairperson Van Vranken.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

VanVranken- YES
Qualls- YES
Suchan- YES
Arbogast- YES
Smith- YES
Christoff- YES
Lang- YES

Motion approved.

GENERAL DISCUSSION/MEMBER’S QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS-

There were no other questions or comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-

There were no public comments

ADJOURNMENT-

A motion was made by Travis Arbogast to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm, supported by Bobbi Suchan.

Motion carried with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BEHNKE
Zoning Administrator
Recording Secretary