

Minutes Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation Commission
7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021
Thornapple Township Hall

Chairwoman Getty called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

In attendance: Catherine Getty, Brian Hammer, Anne Hamming, Sherry Ronning, Tom DeVries, Nick Iveson, Jackie Schneider, Mike Bremer, Emily Dock, Patricia Reyl, Brian Urquhart, Alec Belson.

Motion by Schneider, seconded by Hammer to approve the agenda. Motion carries 8-0.

No public comment

Sheridan Park Plan: Maleah Rakestraw and Nate Mehmed from William & Works recapped the process of gaining community input to get to two final site plan proposals. Mehmed walked through the results of the second community survey. The trails proposed for the east side of the property in both plans were the most commented upon by community members.

Board members overall supported plans for walking and mountain biking trails, five diamonds (one T-ball, two 60-foot, two 90-foot fields). Additional features that can be explored later in the planning process include the items in a small adventure course and the possibility of creating an outlook platform or tower on the trail.

Belson estimated it would take about 15 hours of Villlage DPW staff time to maintain the park and consideration will need to be given to funding the staff hours in the future.

DeVries asked board members to consider ways to make the park broadly appealing to the community beyond baseball. Board members worked through the possibility of turning one of the five fields in Plan 1 (the T-ball field) into eight pickle ball courts. Consensus emerged around pickle ball on the proposed T-ball field. The elimination of the fifth field would not inhibit the ability to host baseball tournaments or impede joining the Little League organization if the board wishes to join the organization someday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25