

Village of Bellaire

PARKS COMMITTEE

Patricia Drollinger, Chairman

Eldon McPherson

Helen Schuckel

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2016

2:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Drollinger called the meeting to order in Richardi Park at 2:00 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Chairman Drollinger, Trustee McPherson, and Trustee Schuckel

Absent: None

Staff Present: Lori Lockett, Clerk; Ken Stead, DPW Supervisor

Also Present: Deana Jerdee, Paddle Antrim Executive Director and Harry Burkholder, LIAA

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Stead requested that “Little League Payment of Locks” be added to the agenda under new business. The agenda was approved as amended.

Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Trustee Schuckel to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting were approved.

Motion by Trustee McPherson, seconded by Trustee Schuckel, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.

5. **Old Business:** None presented.

6. **New Business**

- a) **Water Trail Assessment:** Deana Jerdee introduced Harry Burkholder from LIAA who was hired to assist with the site assessments of the water trail heads in four different communities. He will prepare an evaluation and report that will be provided to each community. Mr. Burkholder explained that LIAA is a non-profit group located in Traverse City with offices on Munson Avenue. They have been working on the water trail concept for almost 6 years. 5 years ago there were 9 water trails; today there are 41 with the Chain of Lakes on the precipice of being number 42. The water trails are existing; he is working with communities to improve access by using natural landing places for entry into the water. The committee walked to the old boat launch site adjacent to the bathhouse. Mr. Burkholder informed the committee about the EZ Dock system available for \$10,000 to \$25,000 depending on the size. He added that universal accessibility is a benefit to all and that the launches do not have to be permanent structures. He was optimistic about the potential use of the site because of its proximity to amenities including restrooms, potable water, benches, parking, lighting and security; not to mention the proximity to downtown. He suggested signage to identify Richardi Park and the possibility of installing some sort of kayak storage. Once Mr. Burkholder’s report is complete, it may be put in the parks and recreation plan, which is a key component when applying for recreational and water trail grants from the DNR. There was a brief recess for all to travel to the

Ohio Street access. The meeting reconvened for the site evaluation of the Ohio Street boat launch. Mr. Burkholder asked whether the committee wanted a second kayak launch at the site? Chairman Drollinger indicated that the village would not want to take away motor boat parking and asked if a site north of the launch would be a possibility. It was noted that the site was missing the amenities offered at Richardi Park. The site might not be suitable for a universally accessible launch given the available space. It is also a boat turn around site. Mr. Burkholder went through the site evaluation checklist for this site; there are no restrooms, no potable water, no picnic tables, no signage or trash receptacles. Deana Jerdee asked whether the village was interested in making this a more of a water trail access site? She said there is great potential for kayakers coming up to the village. Mr. Burkholder noted that there is a gap in the water trail between sites. Richardi Park makes better sense for getting people in and out of the water. Because the Ohio Street launch is the first access point for kayakers to head south on the water trail, signage would be an important component. Signage indentifying the water trail and village amenities would get people downtown. Ms. Jerdee suggested that a restroom facility and trash receptacle would be important additions to the site.

- b) **Covered Trash Receptacles in Richardi Park:** Trustee McPherson asked if the trash receptacles in Richardi Park could be upgraded because varmints are getting into them? The committee reviewed possible options from materials Supervisor Stead had gathered. Due to the expense of sturdy, covered receptacles, the number to be purchased, and the remaining maintenance items to do in this fiscal year, the committee decided to wait to include them in next year's budget.
- c) **Little League and Payment of Locks:** Supervisor Stead reported that there was an issue with locks for access to the little league fields across from Meadowbrook. He explained how the system of two locks has worked to accommodate access for the portable restroom company. According to Supervisor Stead, one of the locks was replaced and installed incorrectly. That lock had to be cut to allow access. The little league director purchased three locks with 12 sets of keys, and deducted their cost from the usage fees payable to the village. Supervisor Stead thought that the cost of the lock should not have been deducted from usage fees or in any way passed on to the village. Additionally, a key has yet to be provided to the village. The committee agreed that a key needed to be provided. Because the cost information was not available for the committee's discussion, no action was taken at this time.

- 7. **Discussion Items:** None presented.
- 8. **Communications/Informational:** None presented.
- 9. **Member/Public Comment:** None presented.
- 10. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Compiled by Lori Luckett, Clerk
Minutes Subject to Approval

Approved: _____

Date: _____