

BAY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

AUGUST 2019 MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Dave Skornia called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, in attendance were Steve Van Dam, Wendy Simmons, Xavier Gaudard, Jamie Shepherd, Zoning Administrator Ron Van Zee and Recording Secretary Kristin Baranski. Lynn Maxwell was absent (excused).

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Van Dam, seconded by Gaudard, to dispense with the reading of the June 4, 2019 Planning Commission regular meeting minutes, passed upon unanimous affirmative vote of the Board Members present.

MOTION by Sheppard, seconded by Van Dam, to approve the corrected minutes of the June 4, 2019 Planning Commission regular meeting, passed upon unanimous affirmative vote of the Board Members present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION by Van Dam, seconded by Gaudard, to approve the agenda as presented, passed upon unanimous affirmative vote of the Board Members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments on non-agenda items. Skornia added public comments to follow Parks and Recreation grant and project recap.

PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE

Simmons made a presentation regarding Bay Township 2019 Parks and Recreation grants. It has been a collaborated effort between Bay Township Parks & Rec under the Planning Commission, Dave Skornia (Chairman), Xavier Gaudard (member), Trustee Georganna Monk, Clerk Wendy Simmons, Tip of the Mitt Watershed, Charlevoix County Millage Park Appropriations, Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy, Health Department of Northwest Michigan and the US Department of Health and Human Services-Building Healthy Communities-Greenspace Initiative project. In response to the most recent survey, 70% of respondents said that Bay Township should partner with conservancies and other s to protect farmland and other important natural features. 63% supported expansion of non-motorized trail for recreational opportunities for residents and 63% supported or were undecided in supporting township millage to fund this access.

- 1. Maplecrest Preserve: Nature trail, bike rack, bench and signs.**
- 2. Franklin Avenue: Signage, bench, grade easement and lay woodchips.**
- 3. Sherwood Park: Signage, benches, swing set, bike rack, refurbish picnic tables, demolish pit toilets, install privacy walls for Porta-A-John, gravel parking area and lay mulch.**
- 4. Eagle Island-Lily Pond Access: signage, park bench and removable aluminum steps and deck.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Skornia opened public comment regarding Eagle Island-Lily Pond public access. Jim Anderton, a Bay Township resident, voiced his concern regarding the work that had been recently completed. His concerns included: entrance sign too large, parking area blocks neighbors' entrance, park bench location too close to lot line and step/deck lake entrance too rocky/unsafe for visitors. Anderton urged PC to remove bench, deck/steps and signs. Dr. Helena Pilnick, a property owner adjacent to Eagle Island-Lily Pond Access, also voiced her concerns regarding the recent work that had been completed. Pilnick made a tremendous effort to attend meeting. She feels very inconvenienced by recent work. Pilnick's concerns include: vehicles parked in designated parking area block her property entrance, area not suitable for parking and curve on road make street parking dangerous, bench is a safety issue for snowmobilers who use access all winter long and blue sign at entrance (inviting people to public access) too large. Pilnick, as an adjacent property owner for over 15 years, believes area is not suitable for public access. Simmons explained Eagle

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Island-Lily Pond access location is a possible location for visitors on the waterways trail. Van Dam stated Eagle Island-Lily Pond is public access and questioned if the thought was to prohibit public access. Anderton stated the work that had been completed felt like a “mean-spirited gotcha” to adjacent property owners. Simmons acknowledged the neighbors should have been notified and reminded audience that the intent of all parks project was to beautiful Bay Township parks and public access locations for all visitors. Pilnick would like parking sign removed and the parking idea researched as she feels there is no parking area, the blue entrance sign replaced with a smaller sign, no bench and no deck/stairs. Anderton stated that any work done to resolve issues would be at no cost to Bay Township, some Eagle Island-Lily Pad neighbors would cover.

FLOW CHARTS

Winter (BRI) suggested to Planning Commission that a footnote detailing color codes be added to bottom of flow charts

MOTION by Simmons, seconded by Gaudard, to forward the flow chart to Board of Trustees with color key code footnotes, passed upon unanimous affirmative vote of the Board Members.

OTHER

Master Plan discussion will resume at next Planning Commission meeting in September due to time constraints.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Zoning Administrator Ron Van Zee reviewed the past months activities regarding Zoning Permits issued, Zoning Ordinance enforcement actions taken, and other related zoning activities.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Note: See the Board of Trustees July 11th, 2019 minutes for further detail.
Simmons reported on the Board of Trustees July meeting.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

ZBA will meet on August 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Bay Township Hall to hear 2 appeal cases.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Gaudard, seconded by Van Dam, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37PM, passed upon unanimous affirmative vote of the Board Members.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Baranski
Deputy Clerk/Planning Commission Recording Secretary