APPROVED Minutes Torch Lake Township Day Park Committee

September 17, 2015

Present: Leon Darga, Mary Schoenherr, Jeff Dawson, Michael Healey, Robert

Hicks, Deborah Graber

Absent: None

Audience: Five

Alan Martel as Secretary/Facilitator

Sharon Schultz as Ordinance Enforcement Officer (OEO)

1. Motion by Darga seconded by Hicks to accept the minutes of September 10, 2015. Motion passed.
2. Martel passed out the following information:
   1. A second summary of the 2010 Public Opinion Survey which summarizes the findings based where respondent resided, Torch Lake, East Bay or off the water.
   2. A chart showing the number of homes located on Torch Lake, East Bay and not on the water. These were further broken out by those residents that claimed the Principal Resident Exemption (PRE).
   3. The 2012 Land Use Plan (Master Plan).
3. The agenda content was approved by consensus.
4. Sharon Schultz spoke briefly about her experience as OEO emphasizing the lack of parking as a major issue.
5. Michael Healy stated that what he has observed is that those who are using the park itself are well behaved, but it was the boaters who are creating most of the problems. They are the ones who have moved the swim buoys and who move their boats into the swimming area and beached or moor their boats.

Mary Schoenherr said that it is important that we prioritize the character of the park, quiet, peaceful, etc.

Someone spoke as to the wishes of Bill Good who donated the land for the park. He wanted it to be a peaceful and safe place for families.

The committee utilized a large white board and outlined attributes, issues and recommendations that should be considered in forming a mission statement for the Day Park. The following is this draft Chart of Issues which will be further discussed at the next meeting:

Day Park Study Committee Chart of Issues Part of committee minutes 09-17-2015.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ATTRIBUTES** | **ISSUES/CONSIDERATIONS** | **POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS** |
| GENERAL   * Family friendly * A good neighbor   + Polite   + Respectful * Maintain Bill Good’s Intentions for the Day Park * “Destination” for local township residents | * Revenue Requirements | * Do not market the Day Park as a destination spot outside the township * Prohibit alcohol & smoking * Tow parking violators * Increase presence of Ordinance/Enforcement   Officer during busy times   * Increase Signage “Violators will be towed, fined etc.” * Enforce laws impacting moving swim buoys |
| LAND SIDE   * Picnics   + Working grills,   + Clean * Pavilions- nice facility for groups to hold events (rented) * Safe Playground * Clean and Safe Beach – Well Marked and separated from Boats | * Increase level of drinking, and bad behavior * Increase trash * Limited room for parking * Adding areas for designated uses-e.g. Pickle Ball * Adjacent parking for pavilions when rented often not available | * Have raft available for use in swim area * Limit capacity * Develop process and plan for parking-trailers, cars |
| WATERSIDE   * Ramp (boat launch)   + Available for Fire Dept. * Clear separation between boaters and swimmers | * Organized access * Lack of routine for “putting   in and taking out”   * Boats tied to pier impacts   fire department and other access   * Boaters move swim buoys * Pull boats up to beach | * Limit size and length of * boats |

Mike Healey stated that 17 years ago when he used the south end sand bar, it was a nice place. Twice a year it was busy but it was no big deal. We need to be pro-active now or the day Park will become something we do not want. Right now he believes the Day Park is no longer a nice park.

Mary Schoenherr said that potentially too much [township] generosity can be misused as has been experienced at the south end sand bar where efforts to accommodate the crowds appears to have backfired. We need to do avoid the problems being experienced elsewhere on the lake.

Jeff Dawson stated that he and his family no longer use the park because of the misuse.

Leon Darga asked the committee what is the downside to limiting the access to the boat launch to township boaters and the park to a limited number of people? There would be 1) reduced revenue, and 2) the possibility of accusations of snobbishness. It was mentioned that maintenance may go down with restricted use. Leon stated that based on the input from this meeting, it appears that the issues happen on weekends and usually on only one of the week-end days. On the surface this may not seem like a lot, however given that there are approx. 12 weekends from June thru August and that the weekends are prime time for people to use the Day Park, this disruption may be having a big impact on those wanting to use the park during these prime times.

Martel stated that there are other boat launches on the Chain of Lakes that would provide access to Torch Lake. He thinks there is a list of these available at the county and will see if he can get copies for the next meeting. The committee also wanted to do some kind of reach out to the DNR to improve their access on the north end.

Leon Darga suggested that the committee consider any downside risks to the recommendations made tonight and to bring those to the next meeting. The agenda for the next meeting will include looking at the items in the chart and further defining their ideal use and function.

The next meeting of the committee: Thursday September 24, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the CSB.

Respectfully submitted pending formal approval at the next scheduled meeting,

Alan A. Martel

Secretary/Chairman