**Approved AS PREPARED**

Minutes Torch Lake Township Day Park Committee

September 10, 2015

Present: Leon Darga, Mary Schoenherr, Jeff Dawson,

Absent: Michael Healey, Robert Hicks, Deborah Graber

Audience: Three

Alan Martel as Secretary/Facilitator

1. The committee met at the Day Park. Sharon Schultz as Ordinance Enforcement Officer was not able to attend and will be meeting with the committee in the coming weeks. While at the park the committee looked at the boat ramp, the vehicle with boat trailer parking and turn around area. They noted the roped off swim area and the problems with boaters going under the buoyed swim line areas to beach their boats. They were shown the boat launch payment envelopes and process. They noted the children’s play area, basketball court, volley ball court, and the two pavilions. The committee left the Day Park and resumed their meeting at the Community Services Building.
2. There were no minutes to approve
3. There was no correspondence or announcements.
4. Motion by Darga, seconded by Dawson to accept the agenda content. Motion passed.
5. There was no citizen commentary
6. Martel explained some of the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Rather than assign a township e-mail address to each of the committee members, he asked if they would send all e-mails between committee members to him first to be forwarded to the recipient. Because his address is automatically archived, their e-mail to another member through his e-mail will insure that it is archived.

**Approved** Minutes Torch Lake Township Day Park Committee September 10, 2015 (continued)

1. The committee asked Martel if he would chair the committee meetings and to also continue with the idea of obtaining information and resources for the committee. He said he would but that he did not want to be a part of the deliberations on their study. His goal was to have the recommendations for the Day Park by this committee to represent that of a study by a citizens of the township other than elected officials.
2. General discussion continued in an attempt close in on a focus for the study. The history of the park and its meaning to the community was discussed. Does the community want to keep it as a local treasure or would they rather see it gain more visibility? It was said that one way to determine the desired character of the park is to determine what would not be a desired outcome. This reflected some of the behavioral uses or misuses, especially recently, primarily related to boaters and swimmers this past summer.

Martel mentioned the statement by Mike Healey at the August township board meeting, that he felt the park should be “Good Neighbor.” There is a need to formulate a mission statement(s) or a hierarchy of attributes that would reflect what is meant by being a “Good Neighbor.” Will the attributes of that idea as formulated today, be viable (reasonable) five years from now? Should the park be a “hidden” treasure for township and its residents or do we expect it to grow [in use and reputation]. Do we want growth? Are the people that are moving into the township putting down roots that reflect a change in occupancy and/or in change in values.

It was noted that there is a piece of land on the water that is a park. With this piece of land there is a boat launch. What is the impact of the boating on the park? What outcomes does the community want from the landside, the park, and what do they want from the waterside? To what extent should we consider the non-township resident use of these facilities? What would we want to see next Fourth of July on both the landside and the water side of the park compared to what was witnessed this past holiday?

**Approved** Minutes Torch Lake Township Day Park Committee, September 10, 2015 (continued)

1. It was decided to attempt to chart out in hierarchal form the various aspects of the currents uses of the park and their attributes, recognizing that the boating/swimming safety is the greatest concern. This will help to give some perspective to the development of a mission statement for the park as it relates to the entire township. Once the committee is clear on what they believe the park should be, they then can recommend what can be done to meet those outcomes.
2. The committee ask Martel to see if he can find answers to the following:
3. How many citizens of the township do not live on the water?
4. To who was the 2010 Community Survey sent? Voters versus non-voters?
5. What has been the growth in the township over the last five years?
6. The committee would like a copy of the Land Use Plan [Master Plan].
7. The committee asked if Martel would ask the board at the meeting on September 15, 2015 the following:
8. What do they think is represented as it related to the Day Park in the statement, “Being a good neighbor?”
9. What kind of time table would the board expect for this committee?

The next meeting of the committee will be Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Community Services Building.