

APPROVED MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.
Grosse Ile Township Hall – Merle Solomon Boardroom 2nd floor
9601 Groh Road

9:04 a.m. Call to Order

Present: Supervisor Loftus, Clerk O'Connor, Trustees Frucci, Johnson, and Kantz
Absent: Treasurer Van Os and Trustee Ranka

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING: Airport Recreation Area, Phase II Grant Application, Land and Water Conservation Fund

Motion by Clerk O'Connor and second by Trustee Kantz, to convene the Public Hearing at 9:06 a.m.
Motion approved 5-0.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment regarding submittal of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for park improvements at the Airport Recreation Area consisting of five (5) athletic fields (soccer/football), a gravel parking lot, a paved handicap parking area, ADA compliant access walk/bike pathways and drainage improvements.

The proposed project site is located at the public recreation area located north of the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport Commerce Park, 9505 Groh Road.

The proposal includes commitments of matching funds or in-kind donations of \$75,000.00 from GISA and GIYRA.

Recreation Director Tim Rooney gave a summary of the proposed projects and their history as follows: The project site is within the Township's Brownfield district and protects one of the last remaining open outdoor areas for active recreation programs (field sports). In addition to the recreation value to the community, the airport recreation area serves as a usable buffer between the commerce park and the wetlands, wildlife habitat and woods to the north.

The Airport Recreation and Commerce Park area is critical to the sustainability of the ecosystem south of Grosse Ile Parkway due to drainage courses and wetlands that gradually converge to join the Frenchmen's Creek on the western side of the recreation area and the island of Grosse Ile.

The Grosse Ile Master Plan identifies the Airport Recreation Area as a top priority for facility development. Under the grant guidelines for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the minimum project amount can be \$30,000 and the maximum amount is \$150,000. If the Township Board approves the submittal of the grant application, we will be able to provide a \$75,000 match (50%) for a total project cost of \$150,000. The DNR requires the match to be exactly 50%.

A major project requirement in the grant guidelines is universal accessibility; meaning it must exceed the minimum requirements of ADA, the pathways have been the most difficult to fund in recent applications.

Our local sports associations (GIYRA and GISA) have encouraged the township to proceed with the 2009 application and they will generate the local match through existing funds, in-kind services and donations. Supervisor Loftus opened the hearing to the Board for questions or comments.

Trustees Kantz and Johnson both asked if \$150,000 is enough to cover the scope of the project.

Mr. Rooney responded that the proposed pavilion would not be included at this time.

Mr. Greg Kish, representing GIYRA, supported the project and is looking at ways to provide restroom facilities at the site. GIYRA currently has \$20,000 earmarked for the restrooms and an added \$10,000 in cash, plus some in-kind donations from various methods.

Additional discussions occurred about the types of in-kind donations and fundraisers would be needed to reach the required funding.

Trustee Kantz asked for clarification of exactly what would be included in the \$150,000 project.

Recreation Director Rooney indicated there would be five sports fields constructed with drainage, leveled and seeded, ADA compliant pathways, paved ADA parking and gravel parking.

Supervisor Loftus opened the hearing to public comment:

Liz Hugel, from the Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy, supports the project but has some concerns about the potential encroachment on the wetland areas near the proposed ball fields. She suggested that perhaps the orientation of the fields could be changed in order to protect the wetlands. Ms. Hugel also suggested that the grant proposal include some interactive trails and boardwalks that would include informative/educational signage and asked if the trails could be included in this grant if the Conservancy could provide additional funds.

Mr. Rooney reported that the DNR and Engineers will be reviewed to insure the wetlands are protected.

Clerk O'Connor asked if there is time to tweek the site plan if and when the grant is received. Mrs. O'Connor commented that while the interpretive trails would be wonderful, it is not part of this grant opportunity and would need to first be considered by the Community Recreation Commission before being brought to the Board for approval. The trail system and Conservancy funding can't be included in this current proposal, but can and would be considered as part of the Recreation Master Plan.

Supervisor Loftus concurred with Clerk O'Connor's summation that the two projects need to be separate with the interactive trails being sited for the future as part of the township's vision.

Supervisor Loftus asked for any further comments.

Motion Trustee Johnson and second by Clerk O'Connor to close the Public Hearing at 10:25 a.m.
Motion approved 5-0. Public Hearing adjourned.

Special Meeting reconvened.

09-031 Motion O'Connor, second Johnson, to authorize the Grosse Ile Recreation Director to apply for the Airport Recreation Area, Phase II Grant, Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, in conjunction with matching funds in the amount of \$75,000 from both GISA (Grosse Ile Soccer Association) and GIYRA (Grosse Ile Youth Recreation Association) as outlined in the Grant Proposal with recognition that the Board and community will stay informed and involved in future development.
Roll Call Vote.

Yeas		Nays
<u>X</u>	Brian Loftus	_____
<u>X</u>	Ute O'Connor	_____
_____	Ted Van Os (absent)	_____
<u>X</u>	Pamela Frucci	_____
<u>X</u>	James A. Johnson, Jr.	_____
<u>X</u>	Peter Kantz	_____
_____	Erik Ranka (absent)	_____

Motion carried 5-0

Supervisor Loftus announced that State Representative Deb Kennedy would be holding a town hall meeting on “Moving Forward in Michigan’s Economy” this evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Woodhaven Community Center on West Road.

Mr. Loftus also announced that the Board had received notice from Wayne County Elections of a Recall Petition regarding the deer cull having been filed.

Motion Johnson, second Kantz to adjourn the Special Meeting at 10:30 a.m. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned.

Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk