

# **Coldsprings Township Parks & Recreation Committee Public Meeting Minutes February 25, 2013**

A Public Meeting of the Coldsprings Township Park & Recreation Committee was held on Monday, February 25, 2013. Committee Members present: Brenda Lambert, Chuck Vernon, Lynnette Cervone, Marge Bagnell, Dan Sharp and Grant Writer: Pam Stuckman. Two members of the Coldsprings Township Board were also present: Ray Hoffman, Trustee and Skip Bagnell, Trustee. Members of the public: 6: Wayne Jonker, Secretary Treasurer of the Manistee Lake Improvement Board, Amos Graves, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Don Smith, business owner of D.J.R.K. Maple Syrup Co., Cheryl Collins, Coldsprings Township Deputy Clerk, Carol Pratt, manager for Summertree residential homes for disabled adults and daughter, Shannon Pratt.

Chairperson, Brenda Lambert, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Brenda welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the meeting was to gather public input for a proposed playground and additional boat parking at Sands Park, and to include the information in the 2013 Passport and Trust Fund Grant applications from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**2013 MDNR Passport Grant application for playground** – This grant is being sought for playground equipment. The objective of the committee is to have approximately 75 – 90% of the play equipment ADA accessible. Brenda shared some playground designs with the group which consisted of a small tot lot for ages 2 – 5 and a larger one for ages 5 – 12. Additional items the committee is looking at purchasing are sand diggers. The one currently at the park is well liked by both children and adults. The new diggers will, however, be ADA accessible allowing an individual in a wheelchair access to this fun. Carol Pratt asked if there was any possibility for a handicap swing. Pam suggested a possibility to expand one of the playground designs to include a bar to add a swing later down the road. The committee will need to review the liability of having swings at the park prior to committing to this. The designs being reviewed have interactive panels and a transfer station so a wheelchair could be pulled up to the play structure and then the individual could pull themselves onto the structure and climb/pull themselves up to use the slide. Designs from two companies were being reviewed: Snider and Associates and American. Carol asked about the product used on the base of the playground. Brenda shared the material is fibar and conducive to moving wheelchairs. Pam shared the same material already exists in the nature trail out at the park and encouraged Carol to bring her group out to enjoy the trail. Carol shared what she thought to be important for a park based on her experience as manager of a home for severely handicap individuals. She wanted to ensure the general experience for the individual was being reviewed i.e. climbing, spinning, sliding, swinging, rocking, balance, and ensuring accessible routes were available connecting the play area with the rest rooms, pavilion etc. The committee assured Carol these needs will be complete through a previous grant. She also requested picnic tables that are ADA accessible. A TransCanada grant for 8 picnic tables has already been submitted to accommodate this need. Carol suggested a raised sand box, a changing table in the rest rooms for the bigger children, slides with round edges for

grasping, and contrasting colors for the equipment for the visually impaired. Equipment beneficial for kids with autism would include monkey bars and slides. The proposed play structures meet these needs. Carol stated she believed the committee is doing a wonderful job and meeting a need of the community. Pam shared with the group the process for the grant application; due by April 1, 2013, will not hear results until late fall, funding will not occur until next year. However, past successful grants are allowing the completion of the ADA accessible walkway throughout the park, ADA accessible restrooms, ADA accessible nature trail, spring animals, and drop shot with fibar around it. Carol shared what requirements she needs prior to taking her adult residence into a community: will the experience be interactive for them, is there a place to feed and wash them. The playground will be interactive, the pavilion will be available with electricity, and the restrooms are large enough to accommodate cleaning up the residents.

The group decided with the input from the Township residence to see what the cost would be from both American and Burke on the design chosen by the group. Township Board Trustee, Ray Hoffman shared how wonderful it will be to have the park complete with the playground, pavilion, restrooms, lake, and beach. He and his grandkids will love it!

**2013 MNRTF Grant application for boat parking** – Brenda shared the schematic for the proposed additional boat parking. The question brought before the group was should the committee apply for the MNRTF grant or should the Board be approached to finance the additional boat parking with the monies already set aside for park renovations. Along with the boat parking possibly include the fence, posts and stairs. The group agreed to propose to the Board that the monies for the boat parking, fence, posts and stairs come from the renovation fund instead of applying for the grant.

**Public Comment** – No additional public comment was given at this time.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. with a motion by Lynnette, support by Chuck and then unanimous approval by the committee.