

St. Clair Township Park Committee Meeting 7-12-2017

Meeting called to order 7:00pm. Present: Don Wallace, Brian Dulski, Dean Wallen

Absent: Diane Wickline, Jaynie Wells

Minutes – Reviewed, Wallace moved to accept minutes from previous meeting, Wallen second. Motion passed.

Board Activity

- Bids on cameras for Loop Creek received. To be presented in July for approval.
- Playground installed at Loop Creek. More mulch coming.
- Roller rink and tennis courts resurfacing approved at Wolf Branch.
- Barnes will attempt to invest resources into grant process in an effort to leverage funds.

Grants

- Morton Arboretum grant application deadline extended to Aug 7. Wallace would like to submit for tree planting and park inventory. Need to know ash tree count at Centennial to determine course of action (leave or remove), and what other species are present. Will be up for approval at next full board meeting.
- Will move forward with grant application to MEPRD and St. Clair County Parks Grants Commission.

Loop Creek

- Wallace met with lighting district. Lighting district has agreed to install lights at Loop Creek. Are discussing with Ameren.
- Wallace met with Barnes and engineer, walked Loop Creek. Engineer created potential park facilities map.
- Amenities ideas submitted (see appendix A).

Centennial Park

- Wallace walked with state DNR forester. Results are that there are many ash trees that will eventually be killed off by the ash borer. Will need to phase out ashes and plant new native hardwoods, grasses, wild flowers.
- Honeysuckle was not a huge problem in forester's eyes. Manage piecemeal.
- Yawanamis (ground cover) is a problem, but can be controlled with herbicide. Recommended herbicide.
- "Tree of Heaven" is a poisonous tree that was found in wooded area. Need to be removed. Basal spray recommended.
- Stinging Nettle located. Precaution signs will inform users.
- Amenities ideas submitted (see appendix A).

New Business

Old Business

Adjournment

- Wallen moved to adjourn, Wallace second. Passed
- Meeting adjourned 8:01pm

Next Meeting - 7:00pm August 9, 2017 St. Clair Township Building

Appendix A

Park Needs

Loop Creek Park

- Walking and biking path
- Dog park
- Benches
- Pavilions with picnic tables and grills
- Adult swings
- Shade trees
- Splash pad
- Renovate field for softball, youth hardball, or 10U soccer
- Restroom facility
- Additional lighting
- Security cameras
- Parking lot expansion
- Water fountain

Centennial Park

- Tree inventory
- Forest management plan
- Tree planting
- Tree removal, especially in proposed nature play space and along paths, ash as well
- Nature Play Space
- Benches along paths
- Upgrade existing trail to ag lime
- Add additional path in wooded area to create a loop
- Extend bike trail
- Invasive plant control
- Picnic areas in wooded section
- Bike repair station
- Bike rack