

**VEVAY TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
Special Meeting/Public Input  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.  
Vevay Township Hall – 780 Eden Road, Mason**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chair Roger Cargill, Vice-Chair Coe Emens III, Secretary Mary Ruttan, Member Patricia McNeilly, Member John Fischer  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Staff Present:** Supervisor John Lazet  
**Others Present:** Robert Ford, *Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc.*  
Eight Interested Residents and Guests

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cargill at 5:33 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call/Excuse Absent Member.** Chair Cargill, Secretary Ruttan, Member McNeilly, and Member Fischer were present.

**Set/Amend Agenda.** There were no additions or deletions.

**MOTION Fischer, seconded McNeilly, to set the agenda as presented.**

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| <b>Roll Call Vote</b> | <b>Ayes: Cargill, Fischer, McNeilly, &amp; Ruttan</b> |
|                       | <b>Nays: None</b>                                     |
|                       | <b>Absent: Emens</b>                                  |

Vice-Chair Emens arrived at 5:38 p.m.

**Recreation Passport Grant Application General Public Input.** Supervisor Lazet provided a synopsis of previous actions taken by the Vevay Township Board of Trustees. Vevay Township has applied to Ingham County Parks for a Trails and Parks Millage Grant to develop the Vevay Township 5-Year Community Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

**Robert Ford, Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc.** Mr. Ford provided a complete overview of the Master Plan. The plan implementation is in phases. Phase I includes one-half mile of a paved pathway around the park, increased ADA accessibility to all the park amenities such as expanded playground, parking areas, and athletic fields. Mr. Ford explained the future development of the extension of the Hayhoe Riverwalk and Trailhead. The three categories of grant funding were discussed. Vevay Township will be applying for a Passport Recreation Grant to fund Phase I. This grant requires a 25% matching fund. The public was invited to comment.

Jolee Hamlin and Jim MacLean from the Capital Area District Library (CADL) presented and offered their partnership, at no cost to the Township, on a StoryWalk Project. A “StoryWalk”

displays pages of a picture book on a covered display along a trail as you walk. They can be placed strategically along the path as not to interfere with other activities in the park. CADL will maintain the StoryWalk, as well as change the books out three times per year. William Diamond spoke about two parcels in the Shawanee Estates. Richard Bailey from the Lions Club spoke in support of the project, especially the pickleball courts. Mr. Bailey provided information on an exercise machine that could be included in the park as well as the Lions Club holding events at the park. Gary Evans offered support for the overall project including the pickleball courts and the extension of the Hayhoe Riverwalk. Mike Raab from the Mason Baseball Softball Club spoke in support of the plan especially the addition of restrooms.

Chair Cargill respectfully requested letters of support. All the participants were overly supportive and offered to send e-mail request for letters of support to all their members. Several letters of support were received and acknowledged that same night. Community involvement is crucial to the success of the plan including volunteerism, funding support, and momentum building.

The Public Input session was closed.

**Review/Recommendation of the Recreation Passport Grant to the Board of Trustees.** The Commission is in full support of Phase I of the 5-Year Community Park and Recreation Master Plan and highly recommends submission of the Recreation Passport Grant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**MOTION Cargill, seconded Emens, to recommend to the Vevay Board of Trustees, submission of the 2022 Recreation Passport Grant Application due April 1, 2022.**

**Roll Call Vote**

**Ayes: Cargill, Emens, Ruttan, McNeilly, & Fischer**

**Nays: None**

**Any Other Business.** Member McNeilly read a letter of support from the Tri-County Bicycle Association which is a strong advocate for the project. It was the consensus of the commission that the next meeting agenda should include a discussion/plan for fundraising and messaging. Mr. George Hayhoe, will attend the next meeting and provide information about the Hayhoe Riverwalk Project.

**Public Comment.** None.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Mary Ruttan, Secretary