

Sparta Recreational Authority
Kent County, Michigan
Meeting Minutes
April 3rd, 2014
Sparta Township Office

Opening

The meeting of the Sparta Recreational Authority was called to order at 7:30 pm on April 3rd, 2014 in Sparta Township Office by Steffens, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Hibbard, Pinckney, Steffens, Peak, Hibbard, Whalen, Cowdrey

Approval of Minutes: March 6th 2014: Motion by Whalen, Second Pinckney.

Additions and corrections to agenda:

Public Comment:

Dick Hendler 11885 N. Division

How many parks will be on this site? Where will all the cars go, is there enough parking? There will be a lot of traffic coming/going, is the appropriate permits (township/county) taken out?

Doc Eary 221 Harper Dr

Will there be a fence around the property? Concern for deer

Athena Eary 221 Harper Dr

Where will everyone park?

Jim Lynema

Request consideration to utilize the Village website as the main resource for meeting notices, minutes, etc. concerning progress of SRA.

Tabitha Gonzalaz 41 W. Mark

Will there be fencing on the East side to separate residential housing? How will the road be maintained? How do we keep the kids out at night time?

Public Hearing opened at 7:45 pm for Master Plan Revision.

Dick Hendler 11885 N. Division

There are a lot of people at one major event, with only 225 car spaces, where will the rest park?

Doc Eary 221 Harper Dr.

Is there enough money to start construction? When will it start?

Jim Lynema

Request the SRA take time to pause for pro/con study with professional assessments, general safety, traffic flow, open space, wetlands concerns. There should be no construction until this is completed.

Mary Riley 1850 O'Conner

Is there room on the current road for a 2 lane road and bike path?

Brian Pekala 1850 O'Connor Road

Has fencing concerns, will there be a privacy fence to block the view in and out on the north side of the property because people won't like to see what's on the north side. What efforts will be made to make sure people aren't trespassing on neighbor property?

Doug Ostman

There is 66' of width for the road, he has seen any kids yet back there. The police will have to patrol the area and is a great thing for the town. It could have been low income housing.

Tim Driscoll 1169 Phelps

The majority of the population in the village that uses the youth sports programs and they ride bikes to practices. We don't won't our kids crossing M-37 to reach a practice field, this is a much safer place for

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kids to go. It will also be much easier for the Police to patrol at night with the paved road and parking lots.

Marybeth Dame 4100 – 12 Mile Road

What are the size of the baseball fields, the majority of fields used for Little League? What will the multiuse fields be used for? Will Sparta Little League be in jeopardy if SRA hosts travel ball/tournaments, who will get preference of space?

With no further comments, the Public Hearing closed at 8:05 pm.

Unfinished business:

A . Approval of revised Master Plan by Whalen, second by Pinckney. These priorities for this project were listed:

- 1) This is being built first for community and kids
- 2) The Sparta Police Dept will have ability to monitor it
- 3) The Rodeo Grounds is not a flat piece of ground
- 4) Pedestrian (especially youth) traveling across M-37 is not a safe route
- 5) There will be a natural buffer zone as a 'fence' for neighboring properties
- 6) The economic impact will be very positive for Sparta
- 7) The need for more fields in Sparta is evident. This master plan is a working tool that WILL change based on this conceptual plan to fulfill the needs of the Sparta community.

All Approved.

All approved.

New Business:

Committee Reports

Construction committee (Hibbard, Steffens, Pinckney):

Finance committee (Whalen, Maier, Cowdrey):

Working to create an annual maintenance expense/revenue plan, doing more research

Fundraising committee (Peak, Gordon, Steffens): Continuing to cultivate benefactors

Communication committee (Pinckney, Cowdrey, Budd) : none

Public Comment: Village representative Bob Whalen commented the Village is entertaining the 33 Doris Property as a trail or accessibility point for the SRA.

Dick Hendler 11885 N. Division

What will be done with the runoff from this parking lot?

Doc Eary 221 Harper Dr.

Not against a fence to separate the neighbors

Jim Lynema

No construction can begin until the Township votes on the master plan. It is equal distance from downtown as the Rodeo Grounds. The majority of kids are driven to practice and do no bike.

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Tabitha Gonzalez 41 W. Mark

Please do not create a bike path on Doris.

Brian Pekala 1850 O'Connor Road

It must be embarrassing to have the neighboring view.

MaryJo Hibbard

It sounds like everyone wants a park, but no one wants to make a sacrifice to make it happen.

Next Meeting: May 1st at 7:30 pm

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 Motion by Hibbard Second Whalen

Minutes submitted by: Greg Peak