

MINUTES
Newwaygo Community Recreational Authority
Newwaygo County, Michigan
April 10, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM at Winter Sports Complex located at 4684 Evergreen, Newwaygo MI 49337.

Present: Rich Blachford (City of Newwaygo), Jane Parsley (City of Newwaygo), Chris Haynor (Brooks Twp), Nancy Kinniburgh (Garfield Twp), Erik Larsen (Garfield Twp), Les Salacina (Brooks Twp), Rich Kooistra (Newwaygo County)

Absent:

Guest: Ron Welton (Newwaygo County Parks Director), Harry Burkholder (LIAA)

MINUTES

Motion by Salacina, support by Kooistra to approve meeting minutes from 03/12/08. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Frazier of Sidock Group, Inc. hired Norm Ochs to survey and stake trail way from Newwaygo to the County Sports Park along M-37.

Salacina and Welton noted that the spur from the County Sports Park to the North Country Trail (NCT) has been laid out by NCT. Constructing the trail needs to be pursued and the environmental impact review are underway for the spur.

The board discussed the need to have a volunteer day to paint Graves Lodge and do some landscaping. Welton volunteered to scrape and paint the windows. It was also discussed to have the Amish do some cleaning / clearing of part of the hillside behind Graves Lodge to open up the view to the lake below. This could be done for an approximate cost of \$3,000.

Regarding the Sports Complex, many projects have been proposed but need to balance all of the projects as there are limited funds to accomplish all of the projects. Many ideas were discussed by the board such as:

1. Improving the track, football field, lighting and concession stand at the high school.
2. Putting a park at the corner of Barton and Ewing Streets.
3. Putting in baseball fields behind Klub Sports on M-37 South of Newwaygo. Fields could then be shared with City of Newwaygo and City of Grant with both entities helping to fund the fields.
4. Preparing the fields next to the City cemetery for soccer fields. Approximate costs were discussed to prepare the land.
5. Finishing repairs to the tennis courts in Henning Park. Welton has received a bid of approximately \$12,000 to resurface and stripe the courts.
6. Where and how to put in a basketball court(s). Discussion on putting at the corner of Barton and Ewing Streets along with a skateboard park
7. Discussion on revitalizing the existing baseball fields located on Evergreen (old M-37).

Motion by Kooistra, support by Haynor to repair the tennis courts (seal and stripe) at Henning Park not-to-exceed \$13,000. AIF/MC

Motion by Haynor, support by Kinniburgh to put skateboard park, basketball and ice skating at the corner of Barton and Ewing Streets. AIF/MC

Motion by Salacina, support by Larsen to pursue putting baseball fields at a location between the City of Newaygo and the City of Grant. AIF/MC

Motion by Kooistra, support by Haynor to pursue to prepare land, level and plant grass next to the City cemetery for soccer fields.

Motion by Larsen, support by Parsley to pursue, in conjunction with the City, the revitalization of the baseball fields on Evergreen.

Motion by Haynor, support by Kinniburgh not-to-exceed \$3,000, assuming there is money budgeted, to clear some of the tree's and brush on the hill behind Graves Lodge.

The board discussed assembling a "Friends of NCRA" group to promote and fundraise for creation projects. Need to get cost amounts for the various projects and set a clear plan for accomplishing all of the projects.

The board tentatively plans to paint Graves Lodge on May 3, 2008.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Blachford updated the board on the cultural center and the remote work center ideas.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2008 at 8:00 am at the Winter Sports Park building.

Meeting adjourned.

Jon Schneider, NCRA Secretary