

TOWN OF LEO-CEDARVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL & PARK BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2011

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:

John Clendenen – Council President
Paul Steffens
Gordon Liechty, Jr.
Tim Richards

PARK BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Cindy Kimm – Park Board President
TerryJo Lightfoot
Mark Hamilton
Peggy Garton

Martin Spees – Engineer for Flies & Vandenbrink
David Bailey – Attorney representing Leo-Cedarville
Pamela Spannuth – Clerk-Treasurer

3:30 – Council President Clendenen called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Clendenen provided a status update on the LWCF (Land Water Conservation Fund) Grant application. The application deadline is June 1.

Mr. Mark Hamilton recognized that there is a concern regarding the inclusion of a splash pad at the park within the grant application as it was not part of the park's five year plan. Mr. Clendenen stated that the grant favors a combination of land and water and since the river's edge belongs to the City of Fort Wayne, the river cannot be viewed as the water component element of this grant. The proposed splash-pad would satisfy the water component of the grant application; Mr. Spees stated that water features such as this are weighted favorably when evaluating applications. Mr. Hamilton stated that he is in favor of the park board pursuing this application; he was excused following his input due to a prior commitment.

Ms. Garton asked Mr. Spees to address the topic of how the estimates were compiled. He stated that common cost standards were considered but are conceptual at this stage.

Ms. Lightfoot asked for input on the scope of the splash pad proposed. The water would not be re-circulated or discharged into the sewer system, but would drain to a proposed pond.

Handicap accessibility was addressed; any improvements made to the park using grant funds must be handicap accessible, however previous improvements do not have to be made

handicap accessible; ie. Trails and walkways that may lead into the woods or water's edge do not have to be upgraded.

Discussion ensued regarding fitness stations. Fitness stations are not included in the grant application. Ms. Kimm stated that the board has been looking into a fitness trail called "life-trail" which is geared towards age 55 and older. Ms. Lightfoot stated that she would like to see the park still establish fitness stations in the future.

Mr. Richards expressed several concerns such as the town's potential cash outlay is substantially higher than originally thought. He feels that the Hosler Road trail project is a priority and he is concerned with committing to both potential projects at the same time. He asked about the schedule of costs and timing of the improvements. Mr. Spees stated that the schedule with the DNR grant would be flexible. The quickest that something could begin would be spring/summer 2012. He stated that the DNR will likely take approximately a month to review the applications, a public hearing would be in July, and the earliest that funds would be awarded to the town of Leo-Cedarville would be fall/winter 2012. The design phase which would be when the specific design plans are finalized, as the proposed design is only conceptual. It would likely be a year from now before there is a bid package prepared.

Ms. Lightfoot stated that a plan or project like this is a living changing process. She feels that there is significant public benefit from the town's parks and feels that continuing to enhance the parks should be priority along with maintaining and improving infrastructure. She feels that completing this park with additional features would significantly increase the use of the park. Mr. Richards does not disagree with the importance but expressed his concerns about the pending financial commitment and timing of such.

Mr. Bailey asked for clarification about what point in the grant process the town would be committed to the proposed project. Mr. Spees stated that that would be viewed as the advertising/bidding process.

Ms. Spannuth expressed her concern with the commitment of funds and the certifications that are being requested to go with the grant applications. She feels that by submitting over \$600,000.00 of financial commitment certifications between the two grant applications, the council may be limiting future capital improvement options. Mr. Spees stated that the DNR is very flexible with scheduling and the applications do not commit the town to the projects.

Ms. Lightfoot stated that the decision should be made whether or not to pursue something or not. Mr. Richards stated his concern that implementation before education is dangerous and he has concerns that these decisions are being made quickly and prior to the proper education of the community.

Mr. Clendenen stated that the town's infrastructure has been improved significantly with the recent road improvements and he feels that now is the time to allocate funds towards quality of life improvements such as parks and trails.

Further discussion ensued regarding the certifications of funding to back the projects that are required by the town. Mr. Spees said the letters mean that the funds will be appropriated/budgeted for the project.

Ms. Lightfoot made the motion to move forward with the DNR grant application. Ms. Garton seconded the motion. Ms. Kimm stated that she has a lot of questions regarding the details of the grant and hasn't had the opportunity to be involved in the application process. She stated that if it is a good thing now, it would still be a good thing in the next grant cycle, a year from now. After reading the grant documents she has a lot of specific questions and stated that after reading the paperwork it is her understanding that there are points awarded during the first grant cycle that may not be awarded in subsequent cycles if the first application is not approved. She asked Mr. Spees if the itemized engineering cost is a total for all engineering services involved; Mr. Spees stated they do represent the total representation. Ms. Kimm expressed her frustration that the full park board has not been involved in the application process or in deciding the scope of the specific details implemented into the plan. Ms. Spannuth stated that the board needs to be aware that none of the specific details of the grant can be removed if the grant is awarded. She also stated that she is concerned that the emphasis on creating a strong grant application could determine the future development of the park. Mr. Liechty, Jr. added that he noted in the grant application that by accepting the grant, the town is committing that this land always remains a park. Mr. Baily confirmed that the town would be committing that the land would remain a park. The motion to proceed with signing and submitting the grant application passed by a majority vote of the park board with Ms. Kimm voting against; Mr. Hamilton was absent for the vote.

Ms. Garton stated she voted in favor of this as she was appointed by the council to fulfill the goals of the council which is to provide recreational opportunities and to pursue grants.

Discussion ensued regarding the council's participation in supporting this grant application. Ms. Spannuth stated that since the park budget cannot support the financial commitment needed, the council should vote on whether or not they would approve the commitment of CEDIT dollars to back up the financial certification letter required for the application; Mr. Bailey agreed. Mr. Clendenen moved that the council plan to commit the CEDIT funds to support the LWCF grant application. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. Mr. Liechty, Jr. stated that he is concerned with the scope of the project and the inclusion of the splash pad in the plan. Further discussion ensued about the application. The council voted unanimously to support the project by the commitment of CEDIT dollars to back this application. Ms. Spannuth will draft the necessary letter certifying that the funds will be appropriated and available for the project.

Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST: