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Department of Parks & Recreation

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HESS-HATHAWAY PARK COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 11, 2021, 6:00pm

MINUTES

Meeting Location: **Virtual**

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 6:04 pm, John Himmelspach

- II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**
Members present: J. Himmelspach-Waterford, A. Frasca-Waterford, J. Beseau-Waterford, S. McCready-Waterford, K. Callahan-Waterford, M. Carlock-White Lake, J. Barker-Port Charlotte, Florida, and J. Matsura-Waterford
Others present: A. Swanson-Waterford Township, K. Gertsen-Highland
Members excused: T. Heglin-Waterford, L. Hardacre-Waterford.

- III. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to approve, A. Frasca, 2nd, M. Carlock.
Motion passed.

- IV. REVIEW AND APROVE MINUTES:** Motion to approve, J. Beseau, 2nd, A. Frasca.
Motion passed.

- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** None

- VI. REPORTS:**
 - a. Director's Report: Alison Swanson**
 - i. Our department is busy with the re-opening of the recreation center. We are adding new programs every month.
 - ii. Outdoor fitness classes were popular last spring through the fall. We are planning to move some of the fitness classes back outside. The yoga class instructed by Steve Guth will start up again at Hess, tentatively in May. Outdoor fitness classes will also start up again at the Nature Center.
 - iii. Our seasonal jobs are posted on the Township's Human Resources website and shared on our Facebook page. We are hiring day camp counselors, park maintenance workers, and a nature center attendant for the Drayton Plains interpretive building, farm attendant to work Friday nights, athletic field attendants, etc. The plan is to be back in business as usual with COVID Safety Precautions in place.
 - iv. Another couple of department projects include completion of new windows at the Recreation Center. The Waterford Rotary Club is working on a fundraiser and some grant opportunities to replace a play structure that was removed last year at Rotary Park. They are doing a fundraiser called *pennies for the playgrounds*. You may see little jars on local business counters.

With us there are no boundaries

- v. The National Council of Jewish Women expressed an interest in installing a smaller, assessable merry-go-round-type ride structure for the All-Kids Playground at Hess-Hathaway Park. We did obtain a quote prior to COVID-19, and the organization committed to the funding. We will be checking on whether there has been an increase and the timeline.
- vi. Park pavilions need to be power-washed and re-stained. In the winter of 2020, we received a quote for getting Pavilion 2 closed up by the rafters and adding a flat ceiling. We would drop down for the electrical. We have a constant battle with the birds nesting up there and creating an unsanitary mess on the picnic tables. We will revisit that project.

b. Parks and Recreation Programs: Alison Swanson

- i. We are excited to announce our summer concert series. We plan to implement precautionary measures as needed for all four concerts. Right now, there is a 300 person outdoor gathering maximum with social distancing protocol in place. Billy's Tip 'n Inn will be providing "BBQ & BREW" for every concert. All four bands that were lined up for last year will be with us for 2021
- ii. We will be running our Youth Sports and keeping up on any changing COVID-19 protocol. Summer Ball registration runs through May 7.
- iii. Registration begins for Little Farmer's Camps, Farm Camps and Nature Escapade Camp on March 22. All camps will be running at Hess, except the Nature Camp will run at Drayton Plains. We are only allowing 50% of our regular registration maximums. We will update that if COVID precautions change. There will be no off-site field trips. Oakland County Parks and Recreation has a grant program for outreach to local camps. Four weeks of our camps will benefit from one of these programs.
- iv. We are re-visiting our Spaghetti Dinners in a completely different format. This year the first dinner is scheduled for Friday, May 7. Pre-registration is required.
- v. Hop into Spring event is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 starting at 10am. Even though it is after Easter, people are always looking for fun activity to do in the spring. There will be egg hunts, photos with our farm bunnies, games and a craft. Registration is set up to allow for only so many per time slot. Masks and social distancing protocol will be in place.
- vi. Sheep Shearing event is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 with just the shearing of the sheep scheduled for 10am. This is limited due to COVID concerns. We will not be hosting the annual pancake breakfast fundraiser.
- vii. Senior Softball is starting up. A 60 and Older team is looking for players. Ballplayers' ages range from 60 to 93 years old.
- viii. Golden Age Games for those 50 and older will be June 8 through 17. Some of these activities could be expanded out to Hess-Hathaway. We are able to allow for larger groups outdoors.
- ix. Rentals are being booked for the week after Easter. Indoor rentals only allow for 25 at this point. Potential renters are hesitant due to the low number allowed. Pavilion rentals are getting more action than indoor facilities, because a larger group is allowed. A decision has not yet been reached on the birthday party packages. Hayrides are on hold and that is an important part of this package.
- x. In May, we are working with Oakland County Parks and Recreation to offer a ten-day scavenger hunt to ten of our parks on May 14-23.
- xi. Egg My House program scheduled for April 1 and 3 is sold out. Parks and Recreation will be delivering close to 60 packages.

- c. **Animal Report: Alison Swanson:** New additions to the farm are still being considered for this spring. Alpacas were discussed and the position that they are high maintenance. We do definitely plan to get new animals this spring.
- d. **Hay Fields & Equipment: Steve McCreedy** No updates
- e. **Community Garden: Kelie Callahan**
 - i. Tori and I will be meeting next week to measure out where some of the new plants will go on the north side of the garden in Zone 4 or the court garden.
 - ii. We are getting ready for our annual meeting April 20.
- f. **51st District Court Garden: Alison Swanson**
 - i. No update on garden specifically.
 - ii. Community Service through Linda Hardacre and the 51st District Court Garden started up again on Saturday, March 6. At this point, Hess staff are directing the workers in farm and park chores. When the weather cooperates, Linda Hardacre will start up the garden opportunities for our District Court individuals.

VII. Old Business:

- a. **OCC:** Art Frasca commented that the contact from OCC said as the weather breaks they would start putting out some boulders to help restrict unauthorized vehicle traffic from coming into our park.
- b. **Waterford School District:** An upcoming meeting is being discussed between Alison Swanson, Allison Sartorius, Waterford School District Athletic Director and Tori to discuss cross-country fees and trail maintenance. There was an increase in other schools using the trails at Hess and not assisting significantly with the effort that goes into trail maintenance or at times respecting the course set-up. Our policy is to give Waterford Schools priority in regards to scheduling.
- a. **Caretaker:** Park staff, Todd and Shane have finished up the bulk of improvements at the Recreation Center. They will be busy with soccer preparation. After that, they will work to prepare the house for a new occupant.

VIII. New Business - None

IX. Round Table Discussion

- a. **Ken Gertsen:** Alpacas are an interesting animal (would need to be sheared). It would add a novelty to the farm. Advice would be to get a pair.
- b. **Merrie Carlock:** Still interested in shopping for turkeys for this spring. Usually there is a minimum needed to purchase. Tractor Supply usually only has the Bronze species.
- c. **Kelie Callahan:** Kelie's Input on turkeys is that we should consider Heritage breeds and/or protect an endangered breed. Plans to proceed on the pollinator patch and butterfly habitat. Kelie needs to submit growing site photographs, so is waiting for the current plants to grow in the spring. Application will be submitted this summer for approval in autumn.
- d. **John Himmelspach:** Interested in knowing when we will go back to in-person meetings. Alison will keep us posted.

X. Public Comments – none

XI. ADJOURNMENT: 6:38pm. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, April 8 @ 6:00pm.

Location TBA