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**Department of Parks & Recreation**

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**HESS-HATHAWAY PARK COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, July 8, 2021, 6:00pm**  
**MINUTES**

Meeting Location: Hess-Hathaway Park-Hilltop Pavilion

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 6:03 pm, Art Frasca
- II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**  
**Members present:** A. Frasca, K. Callahan, M. Carlock, J. Barker, L. Hardacre, J. Matsura, S. McCready, and M. Carlock  
**Others present:** A. Swanson, and T. Heglin  
**Members excused:** J. Himmelspach, K. Gertsen, and N. Ristich  
**Guests:** Robert Matsura
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to approve, K. Callahan, 2<sup>nd</sup>, J. Matsura.  
Motion passed.
- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:** Motion to approve, L. Hardacre, 2<sup>nd</sup>, S. McCready. Motion passed.
- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** none
- VI. REPORTS:**
  - a. Director's Report: Alison Swanson**
    - i.** Everyone was excited to attend the concerts, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Next year we will have five concerts, because there are 5 Thursdays in June of 2022.
    - ii.** Playground improvements of \$20,000 for the All Kids Playground at Hess-Hathaway Park include repairs to the tube slide. In addition, after a resurfacing bid is submitted, our priority would be a zero entrance spinner that would be accommodating to individuals with wheel chairs as well as all others.
    - iii.** Parking lot sealcoating and painting is scheduled for August 2. Parking lot will be closed, but the park will still be open. The grass area by the volleyball courts fields will be used for parking.
    - iv.** Kris Miller, Kindness Rocks project: There will be a ribbon cutting on August 19.
    - v.** Staffing has been a problem this year, as it is for many different parks and recreation departments and other entities. We only have three permanent year-round staff at Hess and their hours are limited. Due to this concern, we are not booking any more evening rentals at this time.
    - vi.** Township budget meetings start up in September.

**With us there are no boundaries**

- vii. Rotary Club has a goal to raise \$15,000 for new playground to be installed. Interested individuals are encouraged to go to [rotaryclub.org](http://rotaryclub.org) to donate to this worthy cause.
- viii. Nature Center Bridge Project: Oakland Press covered the unfortunate vandalism that occurred at Drayton Plains Nature Center in regards to an Eagle Scout project that had just been completed. The community has raised funds (including Pontiac Waterford Stamp Club, Eagle Scout connections) and the Township will help secure the area so that concrete can settle overnight to ensure proper progression of this project.

**b. Parks and Recreation Programs: Tori Heglin**

Hess Trust Grant application was submitted by the deadline of July 1. Request this year is for funds to address fencing project to ensure animal security and address changing water level on pond and erosion. Commercial contractors have been consulted in regards to water retaining walls.

- c. **Animal Report: John Barker and Tori Heglin:** Two guineas were lost to a predator. A red fox has been spotted. Staff is spending additional time with steers, and farm volunteers give staff assistance at the 10am feeding. Youngest steer is still receiving a bottle and will until approximately mid-August. The steers are usually walked once or twice per day to train the steers to be comfortable and responsive to the halter.
- d. **Hay Fields & Equipment: Steve McCready:** Inventory currently is 100 first-cutting bales and 100 second-cutting bales. The rain has interfered with the opportunity to harvest hay.
- e. **Community Garden: Kelie Callahan:** Four community gardeners have been notified that they needed to properly tend to their designated garden plots or forfeit the plots in question. Deadline for compliance is July 14.
- f. **51<sup>st</sup> District Court Garden: Linda Hardacre:** Weeds are growing faster than normal due to all the rain. Steve will try to address this issue.

**VII. Old Business:**

- a. Blue Slate heirloom baby turkeys have arrived at the park due to a collaborative effort between Kelie, Jessie and Vickie.
- b. Dexter Steers: Dr. Pytel castrated older steer on July 3. Dr. Pytel is our cattle-specific vet who cared for Bubba, the steer at the farm who was with us until the winter of 2016. Name suggestions are being collected from staff, committee members and the public. Deadline for submittal is July 16.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. Harvest Happening is scheduled for Sunday, October 3.
- b. Funtober is scheduled for Saturday, October 16.

**IX. Round Table Discussion**

- a. **L. Hardacre:** Linda has a contact that has a pregnant donkey, the mother and foal may be available. We will try to visit soon.
- b. **M. Carlock:** Financial information for the concerts is needed. 2XL concert attracted the largest attendance. Merrie suggested monthly pictures of steers and turkeys.

**X. Public Comments –** Robert Matsura found the meeting to be very interesting.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** 7:11pm. Motion to adjourn: L. Hardacre, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Carlock, Motion passed.

**Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 9 @ 6:00pm,  
Location: Hess-Hathaway Park-Hilltop Pavilion**