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Department of Parks & Recreation
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Linda Zabik

HESS-HATHAWAY PARK COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 12, 2020, 6:00p.m.
MINUTES

Meeting Location: Virtual

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 6:02 pm, John Himmelspach
- II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**
Members present: J. Himmelspach, A. Frasca, L. Hardacre, J. Beseau, S. McCready, K. Callahan, M. Carlock, J. Barker, and J.P. Torres
Others present: A. Swanson, T. Heglin, K. Gertsen, and Mark Monohon (new Trustee elect)
Members excused: N. Ristich
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion to approve, L. Hardacre, 2nd, M. Carlock. Motion passed.
- IV. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO MINUTES:** None
- V. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES:** Motion to approve, J. Beseau. 2nd, L Hardacre. Motion passed.
- VI. FINANCIAL/DIRECTOR REPORT: A. Swanson:**
 - a. Township's final budget meeting held the last week of October (27-28). Reduced revenue by 25%. \$92,000.00 expenses above revenue. COVID concerns and restrictions affected revenue at Hess-Hathaway, but rental revenues were positive. The Recreation Center missed some important program revenue. Sponsors have been instrumental in helping to offset costs for programming being offered in the summer through present.
 - b. Veterans' Recognition Event: Held in front of the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 10. Very successful but, a lower than expected turnout due to COVID-19.
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE: NONE**
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Caretaker Report:** Position not filled yet. Caretaker house projects (repairs) need to be completed before position is filled. Plan to complete through winter. Hope to interview and bring someone on board before our busy season gets going. We will revisit applications that were submitted before COVID hit as well as re-posting open position.
 - b. **Animal Report:** J. Barker: All animals are doing well.
 - c. **Hay Fields and Equipment Update:** S. McCready - Equipment put away for the winter. Will start winter maintenance.

With us there are no boundaries

- d. **Community Garden:** K. Callahan - Great harvest this year! Garden has been closed for the season. Need plan for bees & butterflies next year. Alison to get Kelie an aerial map of the proposed spot for the pollinator garden.
- e. **Court Garden:** L. Hardacre - One of our best harvests ever! Approximately one ton of food donated to Oakland Hope. Garden was closed on October 31. Still sending community service workers to the park to help John and Deby on Saturday and Sundays. No more than 5 people at a time on the following schedule: Saturdays 9am-12pm and Sundays 9am-2pm.
- f. **Program Updates:**
 - i. There will be a Holiday Barn Photo Shoot taking at the newly restored Hess Barn on Saturday, November 14 from 11 am to 5 pm. Pre-registration was required and all time slots have sold out.
 - ii. Tree Lighting event will be transitioned into Holiday Hoopla event. We are still planning, but have decided on Saturday, December 12 at the Civic Center, 11am until 5pm. Old Montieth area will be used for hayrides and Warming House will be used for campfire for s'mores. Santa on a John Deere tractor, skating, reindeer, Tater and Tot (visit for Hess farm), games & more. Nick, John Barker, Steve and Linda are volunteering. We are interested in recruiting more volunteers. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Tori Heglin thehglin@waterfordmi.gov.
 - iii. Banner year for cross-country meets. West Bloomfield is interested in securing dates for 2021. We will want to meet with Waterford Schools to determine some set policies.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

IX. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

- a. K. Gertsen: Looking forward to animals remaining healthy throughout the upcoming winter. It is not supposed to be too cold, but they are calling for a good amount of snow.
- b. L. Hardacre: Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, stay safe and healthy.
- c. J.P. Torres: Not having many P&R programs this year really gives an appreciation of all that the department does in a regular year. Missing all of the programs and activities that are typically held that were cancelled due to COVID-19.
- d. M. Carlock: Was at the park over the nice weekend and it was full of patrons.
- e. K. Callahan: Looking forward to being back in the park in the spring working in the gardens and at the farm.
- f. M. Monohon: May be able to assist with replacing Marshmallow in the spring with a new equine. Asked about animal therapy programs in the area.
- g. A. Swanson: A non-verbal communication board was installed this afternoon in the park at the All Kids Playground. This will allow patrons that are non-verbal to communicate to their friends, caregivers, etc. while using the playground.

X. MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion to adjourn, M. Carlock at 6:35pm. Motion passed.

**Next meeting will be on Thursday, February 11 @ 6:00pm.
Tentatively scheduled at Recreation Center, 5640 Williams Lake Road.**

J.P.B.