

Hayes Township Planning Commission
January 16th, 2024
Regular Meeting
Hayes Township Hall
9195 Major Douglas Sloan Rd.
Charlevoix, MI 49720

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairperson Roy Griffiths called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Members present: CT Martin, Marilyn Morehead, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, Matt Cunningham, and Roy Griffiths (Chair)

Also, present: April Hilton (Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary), Ron VanZee (Zoning Administrator) and Julie Collard (Parks and Rec Chair)

Audience: Winnie Boal, LuAnne Kozma, Jim McMahon, Mel Czechowski, Jeff Harmon, Janet Simon, Doug Kuebler, Andrew Wilson, Betty Henne, Ellis Boal, Diane McMahon, Shelly VanWart, Tom Darton, and Tim Boyko.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

REVIEW AGENDA:

Mr. Snyder made a motion, supported by Mr. Greenslade, to approve the agenda as amended.
Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, CT Martin, and Marilyn Morehead
Nays: none **Motion Carries**

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS:

None

CORRECTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 19TH 2023 MINUTES:

Mr. Greenslade made a motion, supported by Ms. Morehead, to approve the September 19th, 2023, minutes as corrected.

Yeas: CT Martin, Matt Cunningham, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, Roy Griffiths and Marilyn Morehead.

Nays: none **Motion Carries**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES December 12Th, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Snyder made a motion, supported by Mr. Greenslade, to approve the December 12th, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented.

Yeas: CT Martin, Matt Cunningham, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, Roy Griffiths and Marilyn Morehead.

Nays: none **Motion Carries**

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 6th, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Martin made a motion, supported by Mr. Greenslade, to approve the January 6th, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented.

Yeas: CT Martin, Matt Cunningham, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, Roy Griffiths and Marilyn Morehead.

Nays: none **Motion Carries**

PUBLIC COMMENTS UNRELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS:

Public comments opened at 7:08 pm.

Comments included:

- Asked for explanation of public structure. Looks forward to hearing everyone's input on the Parks and Rec Master Plan.
- Suggested a new survey be conducted. Feels the shoreline should be the focus of the Parks and Rec Committee. Suggested a swing set for Bay Side Homes. Would like to see a fence enforced at Reith Riley.
- Thanks for Saturday's meeting being canceled due to weather. Would like names to be added to public comments. Believes the minutes should be corrected and approved at the next meeting.
- Would like to know how many residents took the survey and how was the survey conducted or produced. Would like to see a safe swimming area at Hayes Township Park.
- Disbelief that the Township would have a park on Lake Charlevoix and not have a swim area.

Public comments closed at 7:20 pm

REPORT OF TOWNSHIP BOARD REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Next meeting February 12, 2024, at 7:00pm.

REPORT OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPRESENTATIVE:

N/A

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Written report available at Hayes Township Hall.

New Business:

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PUBLIC HEARING ON HAYES TOWNSHIP RECREATION MASTER PLAN:

Public Hearing opened 7:24pm

Ms. Collard presented a brief explanation of the Recreation Master Plan Draft.

Public Comment Open

Comments included:

- Does the end of Townline belong to Charlevoix or Emmet County. Julie clarified it belongs to Charlevoix County.
- Correspondence attached.
- Hopes their comments are constructive, does not feel the survey reached enough people within the township. Would like to see the comments made in the survey and would like the Parks and Rec committee to have a meeting discussing the comments. Feels the Parks and Rec Master Plan Draft was rushed. He would like to see the Pickle-Ball courts somewhere else other than Hayes Township Park.
- Tom Darton (member of P&R) stated when the park was purchased, it had derelict buildings and worn-out infrastructure. All that is now cleaned up and the Parks and Rec Committee is working on a plan for future improvements and uses for the park. The original plan created when the park was purchased included every possible outcome for the park, however, was not practical for cost. For the Swimming area concern, there is nothing preventing people from swimming there. However, the Township cannot bring sand in there because the Township must keep the shoreline natural.
- Would like to know how the Township would be able to create a swim area? Was surprised if there is going to be parking for the bike path, there should be consideration for installing bathrooms at the top part of the park. Would like to see a list of the top prioritized projects for the Parks and Rec.
- Would like to see a swim area created at Hayes Township Park, instead of dumping sand, whether it's just putting up signs recommending swim shoes, installing a railing for people to hang on too. Would like to see more participation in the survey.
- Would like to see a safe access point installed at Hayes Township Park. Believes it is very difficult in a small township to get a census of every resident's wants and needs. Would like an explanation how the Parks and Rec Master Plan was processed from the survey.
- Supports the upper-level bathroom ideas. Would like to see the skid pier that has the dock lengthened. Has spoken with many in favor of Pickle-Ball courts.

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- Would like to see a designated swimming area, to protect swimmers from boats going in and out. Would like the public questions answered and would like to see the survey and Parks and Rec Master Plan redone.
- Lake Charlevoix is known to have a rocky beach. No environmental group recommends adding sand. Would just like to see an accessible and safely mark swimming area. Does not believe the survey reached enough people in the township.
- Would like to know when the survey was conducted and how many were received. Would like to see names added to Public Comments.
- Supports the comments wanting a swimming beach at Hayes Township Park.
-

Public Comment Closed 7:56 pm

Julie Collard clarified questions and concerns brought up during public comment.

- The 2019 Parks and Rec Master plan update did not include a new survey, the survey is referenced was from 2013.
- The 2019 Parks and Rec Master Plan was not prepared by a professional planner.
- All the photos included in the Parks and Rec Master plan is all township property thus no photo credits.

Public Hearing Closed 7:59pm

Ms. Morehead made a motion, supported by Mr. Greenslade to record in the minutes the ideas brought up at this public hearing and submit these suggestions to the Parks and Rec committee for them to reflect on.

Yeas: Marilyn Morehead, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, CT Martin, Roy Griffiths and Matt Cunningham.

Nays: none **Motion Carries**

Old Business:

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Greenslade made a motion, supported by Ms. Morehead to revert to two different public comment sessions with the session at the end of the meeting being limited to one minute.

Yeas: Marilyn Morehead, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, CT Martin, Roy Griffiths and Matt Cunningham.

Nays: none **Motion Carries**

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2023 HAYES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT:

Ms. Morehead made a motion, supported by Mr. Greenslade, to send the 2023 Hayes Township Planning Commission Annual report to the Board of Trustees as corrected.

Yeas: Marilyn Morehead, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, CT Martin, Roy Griffiths and Matt Cunningham.

Nays: none **Motion Carries**

SET/CONFIRM PUBLIC HEARING DATES:

N/A

SET/CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PC MEETING – FEBRUARY 13th, 2024.

Next Planning Commission regular meeting will take place on February 13th, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENT:

NA

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Morehead made a motion, supported by Mr. Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Yeas: Marilyn Morehead, Rex Greenslade, Mark Snyder, CT Martin, Roy Griffiths and Matt Cunningham.

Nays: none **Motion Carries**

Respectfully Submitted by:
April Hilton
Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Feedback

1 message

Jim McMahon <jim_mcmahon_jli@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 12:07 PM

To: Roy Griffiths <rwgriffitts3@gmail.com>, Mark Snyder <snyderhtp@outlook.com>, Derek Burnett <burnett.pc@outlook.com>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Rex Greenslade <greensladerex@gmail.com>, Marilyn Morehead <morehead.m@gmail.com>, "C. T. Martin" <ctmagnetics@aol.com>, "hayestownshippr@gmail.com" <hayestownshippr@gmail.com>, Kristin Baranski <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>
Cc: "hayestownshippr@gmail.com" <hayestownshippr@gmail.com>

Dear Planning Commission members,

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan has lots of positive township information and has colorful imaginary, photos, and diagrams. I believe the plan would be more complete with development in two specific areas:

1. The survey was not mailed to each household and property owner. The mailing of a hardcopy survey provides ease of use and assurance that 100% of township households and property owners would be reached. To my understanding, the survey was only available online.

A potential survey respondent needed to know where the survey was located online and to have internet access. For most township property owners and residents, accessing or reading township website information is not high on their personal to-do list. This online approach makes the survey into a chore for most people. Were the survey questions professionally designed, unbiased, and administered?

2. This document does not provide a proposed plan for implementation. There is no list of proposed development priorities in priority sequence.

For example, one of the 1st responsibilities of the township is to protect its assets. Some township waterfronts are under threat of erosion. Protecting the Camp Sea-Gull shoreline using a natural, non-hardened, methodology would be more important than installing a \$350,000 pickle-ball court. Additionally, the most important feature of Camp Sea-Gull is the waterfront. All features at this waterfront park should be supportive of waterfront-related activities.

Many people come to Camp Sea-Gull for relaxation and relative quiet in the late afternoon. Could there be more appropriate places in the township than a waterfront park, with its beautiful vistas and its relative-quiet atmosphere, to locate a pickle-ball court? Please consider locations such as the property adjacent to the township hall for the pickle-ball court?

Recommendations:

1. Re-execute the survey using a township-wide methodology with proven, professional, survey methods to ensure all residents and property owners are reached. A professionally drafted and executed survey would better guarantee broader and unbiased responses.
2. Using a professionally-administered survey, create a vision for the entire township and for all of its parks. Additionally, Camp Sea-Gull requires a general timeline (Gantt chart) for future development.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide constructive feedback.

Jim McMahon
phone: 231-347-9829



clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>

Important to Discuss the Parks and Recreation Survey

2 messages

Jim McMahon <jim_mcmahon_jll@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jan 15, 2024 at 10:13 AM

To: Roy Griffiths <rwgriffitts3@gmail.com>, Mark Snyder <snyderhlp@outlook.com>, Derek Burnett <burnett.pc@outlook.com>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Marilyn Morehead <morehead.m@gmail.com>, Rex Greenslade <greensladerex@gmail.com>, "C. T. Martin" <ctmagnetlcs@aol.com>, Kristin Baranski <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>, "hayestownshippc@gmail.com" <hayestownshippc@gmail.com>
Cc: "hayestownshippr@gmail.com" <hayestownshippr@gmail.com>

Dear Planning Commission members,

This email is in addition to my earlier January 11, 2024, email regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Please consider both emails.

The Parks and Recreation public hearing must be opened up to audience participation and discussion of issues regarding the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The single 3-minute public comment period is hardly enough time for public comment, open discussion, and audience participation. Below are just a few points for discussion. I'm sure there are many more topics for consideration, if property owners are given reasonable notification and opportunity.

1. The survey is a key element in getting property owners input and feedback. However, there was no broad communication of the survey with all property owners. It appears that **the only communication was a mention of the survey in a township newsletter for online participation only.** The newsletter is now thought by many residents as a political, self-serving, mailer and it is viewed that way.

This newsletter only reaches occupied homes (addresses) in Hayes Township. My understanding is that this USPS delivery does not reach all township property owners.

There was no "official" hardcopy mailing of the survey to all township property owners.

2. The survey was not professionally designed and independently conducted. There is bias shown in some survey questions. There were significant park topics that were not put into questions.

3. What was question # 2? It is not shown in the master plan document.

4. What method was used to validate each survey responder? There appears to be no survey response security. Was there an opportunity for duplicate responses?

5. Why were there no mentions of the beach area and the swimming area in question # 3? However, many of the respondent replies talked about the beach and swimming areas.

There were were no questions about the beach and swimming areas. Isn't this one of the primary uses for waterfront parks?

6. How were the replies from the respondents' and their feedback factored into the development of the master plan? Were there sufficient public meetings to discuss the survey replies? There appears to be no attempt to reply to the concerns expressed in the survey? This leaves the impression that replies and feedback had little value.

7. Specifically, how many online surveys were submitted?

These are just a few questions about the survey. Wide public, active participation in a meeting(s) specifically about the parks and recreation should have been conducted prior to finalization of the master plan. These meetings should be widely publicized and held at the Charlevoix Public Library gathering room, with Zoom participation, in good weather. Holding a meeting in the dead of winter accomplishes few transparent objectives and does not allow broad participation.

The planning commission should re-do the survey, how it is drafted and conducted, and utilize the survey's important role in the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Thank you.

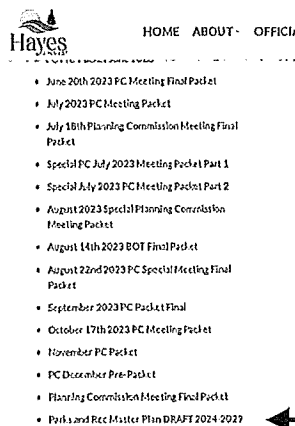
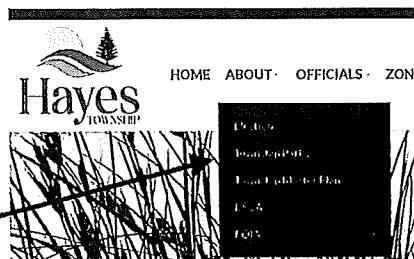
Jim McMahon
phone: 231-347-9829

January 15, 2024

To: Hayes Township Planning Commissioners
From: LuAnne Kozma, Hayes resident, 9330 Woods Road

RE: Comments on Draft Hayes Township Recreation Master Plan 2024-2029

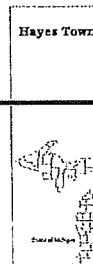
1. The draft master plan varies greatly in numerous ways from the last one, and is not based on the demonstrated desires and needs of the community. The title was changed, too, leaving out the word "Parks." The planning process did not follow the DNR's guidelines for "early public input methods." Once drafted, the Draft Plan has had no community review or even Parks and Rec Committee review at parks and recreation meetings in October or November, and there was no December meeting. When the Draft Plan was available for public comment for 30 days, the draft plan document was not readily visible on the Township website homepage nor posted as a blog post for download. Under the "About" menu where there is a drop-down menu called "Township Parks," the old Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been there for the past 30 days. Not the Draft 2024-2029 Parks and Recreation Master Plan! You had to know where to dig for it under Planning Commission documents for 2023.



Introduction and Regional Setting

New 2019-2024 Parks and Recreation Plan. Click to view

Hayes Township with its abundance of natural resources is enjoyed for its many recreational opportunities. Hayes Township has 30.1 square miles of land area. Hayes Township is located on the north central portion of Charlevoix County, which is situated in the north western part of northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula



2. The Board of Trustees approved a \$10,000 proposal on October 9, 2023 by Beckett and Raeder to write an "update" to the Parks and Rec Master Plan. However, as I wrote the PC previously, I spoke with Tim Knutson of B&R and he said he was not involved in the survey, did not see survey results, and, did not do any rewriting of the master plan. He only did the 3 drawings for Camp Seagull. However that is not what the proposal said the company would

do. This new draft is solely a draft revised by Julie Collard, with three renderings by B&R thrown in. This is a breach of the contract.

BECKETT AND RAEDER PROPOSAL:

Ms. Collard made a motion, supported by Mr. Kuebler to approve the Proposal from Beckett and Raeder for the Camp Seagull schematic design and 5-year park and recreation master plan update, and approve Julie Collard to sign on behalf of the township.

Yeas: Matt Cunningham, Julie Collard, Ron VanZee, Doug Kuebler and Kristin Baranski.

Nays: None **Motion Carried**

3. I agree with Jim McMahon's comments about the **survey** and its unscientific and unreliable methods. Additionally:

- the methodology is not described
- it has reliability and controls issues. I responded twice to the survey.
- it was not confined to Hayes residents. I asked an out-of-area friend who has been working on the history of Kamp Kairfree for years, to take the survey and he did. Other non-residents could also have responded and skewed results, especially about pickleball. Appendix C is called "property owners survey" but it was not that either.

Re-doing the survey is necessary to include more questions and use the correct methodology (hard copy surveys mailed to every resident so that more than one person per household could respond). Proper process should be done above all else, or else the plan is based on falsehoods.

4. The **safe swimming area on Lake Charlevoix at Camp Seagull** that a vast majority of residents wanted—and still wants—for this park in past parks and rec plans and in grant proposals, AND one of the main reasons why this park was purchased and donations raised for it— **is being eliminated in this plan**. This is unacceptable and it must be added as one of the top priorities for the park.

On page 17, a swim area at Camp Seagull is not mentioned. It doesn't even say the park has 1400 feet of frontage on Lake Charlevoix.

In the so-called "survey" in Appendix C, there was an open-ended question: "What amenity would you most like to see at Hayes Township Park Camp Seagull?" I can see 9 responses that said:

- swimming
- swimming beach. Can't readily access the lake. My answer to #1 would be different if I could swim there. You don't even list it as an option below.
- a place to safely swim
- Swimming area (without sand) and rewinding the vegetation in a 100 foot shoreland with only native plants
- Safer access into the lake at the swimming area
- access [sic] to lake
- a beach. With that we would visit at least once a week
- a beach
- swimming

On page 36, the Goals and Objectives section, however, a safe swimming area is not listed as a goal or objective. On page 37, swimming area has been eliminated from the list of facilities

that will be developed. In the former plan, the recreational goal for Camp Seagull read:
“Continue access for non-motorized boats, **swimmers**, picnickers and land-based recreational users.” While a new objective of a shoreline restoration project is good, it is not necessary to compromise or eliminate a swimming area with that objective. Both can and should co-exist. Both meet the goal “to maintain and improve all Hayes recreation areas.”

In the current 2019-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan on page 23 of the Appendix, according to the previous survey (which went out to 1209 distinct property owners and which 321 people took—see page 35), an overwhelming number of people wanted to see:

Restrooms, 83.7% said strongly agree or agree

Picnic area 79%

Swimming area, 78.9%

Covered pavilion for group use, 67.9%

Trail head for planned bike trail, 62.8%

Boat launch, 62.0%

Winter activities, 58.6%

Fishing opportunities, 56.3%

Campfire area, 55.7 %

Tennis courts, 23.0% (48.2% said disagree or strongly disagree)

Canoe/Kayak rental, 31%

There’s no evidence in the draft plan that the community’s desire for a “swimming area” at Camp Seagull has evaporated. On page 34 describing the process that took place from 2008-2023, it does not mention the above survey and results.

Very disturbing is the following email exchange among parks and rec committee members, appended here (obtained just today via FOIA), after Julie Collard shared the Beckett & Raeder renderings with the committee on Nov 9., Tom Darnton wrote on Nov 14: “I think this is a good starting point. The coir log shoreline design is similar to the successful project at the East Jordan Tourist Park. **It also moves us clearly away from any idea this is an organized swimming area while still allowing an access point to the water for small boats and those with a strong urge to get in the water.**” [emphasis added]

To which committee member Leslie Cunningham replied: “I’m missing some information. When did we decide that we are NOT promoting swimming at Camp Seagull? Remember the first survey regarding the park and what the first priority was.”

To which Darnton replied to the whole committee:

From: Tom Darnton <tdamton@me.com>

Subject: Re: Lower CSG Rendering/Shoreline Restoration

Date: November 15, 2023 at 1:19:39 PM EST

To: Leslie Cunningham <lesliecuth12@gmail.com>

Cc: Hayes Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipml@gmail.com>, Paul Zardus <paulzardus@gmail.com>, Laura White <lewwhite1383@gmail.com>, Becky Stauffer <bschollstauffer@gmail.com>, Gregg Stauffer <ggstauff@gmail.com>

My first answer to Leslie’s question is there seems to be some confusion about language. This is a place for swimming. It will not be a place to play in the sand at the edge of the water. We’ve decided on a shoreline treatment that is as natural as it can be, given that the boat launch is there. This is not an area where a sandy beach could be maintained without constant replenishment, which we now understand is bad for the lake. The plan creates a safe place to enter the water for swimmers, paddleboarders, etc. Passage from the upland to the waters edge along much of the length of the area will be discouraged by the design, which must stand up to the rise and fall of the lake and wave action. I don’t think we decided not to promote swimming. There won’t be a “swimming beach” like at Eastern Avenue. The site has limitations which impact what can be done. Not sure how best to describe this distinction.

Tom

Contrast this to what the Parks and Recreation committee members told me verbally (and I recorded) at their October 2023 meeting. I was given a raft of conflicting answers:

- Julie Collard explained that a swim area is "a possibility at the park," an "up in the air amenity that we don't know if we are going to be able to have a designated swim area at Camp Sea-Gull," "an engineer said it might not be feasible and there's "not a strong area for it," and that even a bioengineering shoreland restoration project might make one not *feasible*.
- The two caretakers, Gregg and Becky Stauffer clarified that the reason why the question isn't asked on the survey is because "people swim there all the time, there's no designated area." That he's there every day and he watches people swim "through the whole stretch," "we already have a swim beach," "they come down and swim now!" The survey listed "all the things we don't have." "We already have a beach area for swimming. That's why it's not on there because people swim already." "It's a great swim area, there are tons of people that come down there." "You ought to come down on a Sunday night and sit there in the summer and see all the local families that come down there on the fishing pier, they're out on their paddle boards, their kayaks, they're swimming, more on Sunday nights than I've ever seen this year. And they're all enjoying it. So it's such a weird thing to ask 'cause, it is a swim area. It's already there. People use it."
- Asked if he was satisfied with it, Mr. Stauffer replied he was "totally satisfied and I am not sure what else you could possibly do to make it any better."
- Julie Collard and Paul Zardus, another committee member, said contradictorily, that we don't need swimming at Camp Sea-Gull because we have Eastern Avenue Beach.

5. On page 16, the **budgets**: To depict honestly what the Township actually spends on parks and recreation, it should be added that actual expenditures made were lower than budgeted. As we know from the terrible audit reports, the Township regularly overspent on other budget categories, without amending the budget, violating the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act. The Park Master Plan says \$84,200 was budgeted in 2022-2023, but according to the annual financial statement the Township spent only \$77,488. The Draft Parks and Rec Master Plan has inaccurate info for Fiscal Year 2023, stating \$102,800 was budgeted. Actually \$111,500 was budgeted last June. But given that in Fiscal year 2021-2022 the same thing happened, (the expenditures were way below the budget), I don't have any faith that this Board will spend the parks and rec budget on parks this fiscal year either. The township's trend is to defund our planned park improvements. I don't see a commitment to fully funding the parks. The park budget is being raided to fund other Board priorities, such as a fire truck when there is no fire department. Put both the budgeted and actual amounts.

6. **The photos**: quite a few photos do not depict recreation or parks in the township. Too many depict sunsets, bales of hay on private farms, private property fences and docks, a flagpole, flower boxes, three private golf courses, and a private pool at a private hotel. There are no photo credits. Many poorly depict the actual recreation resource, such as the Eastern Ave beach photo and the wheel-way photo.

7. **Pickleball**. There has been no demonstrated need or even an identification of pickleball players in the township that would necessitate a large, 4-court complex that would allow 16 people to play pickleball at the same time. There was no effort to describe in the inventory, area pickleball courts. The survey cannot be relied upon. The pickleball grant applied for by the Township with the DNR last spring did not demonstrate a single Hayes resident who played pickleball. There were only letters of support by: an out-of-town pickleball promoter; the supervisor; the planning commission chair; the park caretaker; and a resident who wanted to watch pickleball but due to disability cannot play. Supervisor Van Zee wrote: "*We have received*

overwhelmingly positive feedback from our residents regarding this project." And that's just not true. PC Chair Roy Griffiths wrote: *"There are many residents who play Pickle Ball and are excited at the prospect of having courts in our area."* With no proof or evidence whatsoever. A 4-court complex is for tournament play, not for residential use by a community as small as ours, with only 2,000 residents. How many pickleball players do we really have? Would there really be 16 people using it at one time? Are area pickleball courts being used to capacity? Where are these other pickleball courts in the recreation inventory of nearby facilities?

8. Camp Seagull was purchased for its passive recreational features of swimming area, fishing, boat launch, picnicking, and conservation based on a lakefront on Lake Charlevoix. The trailhead for users of the future bike trail is a passive use. The park was not acquired as an *"active recreation"* sports park. The two uses are incompatible. The quiet and peacefulness of activities on the peaceful lakefront serenity would be broken by a loud pickleball tournament with 4 games going on at the same time, and probably accommodating tournament play by out of town groups.

9. No bathrooms are planned for the upper part of the park. The building of bathrooms is always done first before other amenities are developed. At the very least, a bathroom would be needed if there is a playground and shelter/trailhead facility for bike trail users, in the upper part of the park.

10. And finally, honesty in grant writing and assessing the community's real park and recreational needs. It's important to be honest about our needs and base those on valid survey tools, so that when applying for grants, the use of public money is being spent on something actually needed. Without a good survey process, the DNR is not going to grant money for facilities that are not documented with solid community support. The problem with pickleball is that it is a current fad that is enjoying a rise in popularity but also being pushed heavily by promoters of the sport. The various grant programs are for specific allowed projects. I've spoken with several DNR grant staff who report that everyone is pushing for pickleball projects. With a limited number of grants to be granted statewide, 4 pickleball courts in a rural northern Michigan county isn't going to cut it. This administration is being foolish to think hopping on that bandwagon without real support from the community is a winnable grant project. Other needs were properly identified.

Fwd: Lower CSG Rendering/Shoreline Restoration

1 message

Hayes Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>
To: Kristin Baranski Clerk <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>

Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 3:25 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tom Darnton <tdarnton@me.com>
Date: Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 1:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Lower CSG Rendering/Shoreline Restoration
To: Julie Collard <treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov>

Re record request

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Darnton <tdarnton@me.com>
Subject: Re: Lower CSG Rendering/Shoreline Restoration
Date: November 15, 2023 at 1:19:39 PM EST
To: Leslie Cunningham <leslieruth12@gmail.com>
Cc: Hayes Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>, Paul Zardus <paulzardus@gmail.com>, Laura White <lawwhite1383@gmail.com>, Becky Stauffer <bschollstauffer@gmail.com>, Gregg Stauffer <ggstauff@gmail.com>

My first answer to Leslie's question is there seems to be some confusion about language. This is a place for swimming. It will not be a place to play in the sand at the edge of the water. We've decided on a shoreline treatment that is as natural as it can be, given that the boat launch is there. This is not an area where a sandy beach could be maintained without constant replenishment, which we now understand is bad for the lake. The plan creates a safe place to enter the water for swimmers, paddleboarders, etc. Passage from the upland to the waters edge along much of the length of the area will be discouraged by the design, which must stand up to the rise and fall of the lake and wave action. I don't think we decided not to promote swimming. There won't be a "swimming beach" like at Eastern Avenue. The site has limitations which impact what can be done. Not sure how best to describe this distinction.

Tom

On Nov 15, 2023, at 11:33 AM, Leslie Cunningham <leslieruth12@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm missing some information. When did we decide that we are NOT promoting swimming at Camp Sea-Gull? Remember the first survey regarding the park and what the first priority was.
Les

On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 2:16 PM Tom Darnton <tdarnton@me.com> wrote:

I think this is a good starting point. The coir log shoreline design is similar to a successful project at the East Jordan Tourist Park. It also moves us clearly away from any idea this is an organized swimming area while still allowing an access point to the water for small boats and those with a strong urge to get in the water.

Tom

On Nov 9, 2023, at 2:24 PM, Hayes Treasurer <treasurerhayestownshipmi@gmail.com> wrote:

Just got this from Tim.
Take a look and let me know what you guys think!

Julie



Julie Collard--Hayes Township Treasurer

All the greatest things in life are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.--

Winston Churchill



clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>

Planning Commission meeting and Proposed Parks and Rec Master Plan

JoEllen Rudolph <jobee949@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 16, 2024 at 3:43 PM

To: "Roy Griffiths" <rwgriffitts3@gmail.com>, Mark Snyder <snyderhtp@outlook.com>, Derek Burnett <burnett.pc@outlook.com>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Marilyn Morehead <morehead.m@gmail.com>, Rex Greenslade <greensladerex@gmail.com>, "C. T. Martin" <ctmagnetics@aol.com>, Kristin Baranski <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>, "hayestownshippc@gmail.com" <hayestownshippc@gmail.com>, "Cc: hayestownshippr@gmail.com" <hayestownshippr@gmail.com>

I am very disappointed with the proposed revised and drastically abbreviated Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It is based on a very small number of online respondents. The "results" of the survey do not match the Master Plan recommendations and the inexplicable removal of highly valued park amenities and uses as indicated even in this flawed survey.

SURVEY COMMENTS

1. The survey needs to be redone.
2. The survey must be rewritten with unbiased questions and language. Since the P & R committee could not do that, a professional company should be hired.
3. It must be sent out by U.S.P.S. mail to all township residents and landowners.
4. I also recommend that a check box be included on the survey that indicates if the respondent owns waterfront property in the township. Waterfront owners already have lake access for swimming, boating and picnicking and will not rate those items as high a priority as those of us with no waterfront access especially to Lake Charlevoix.
5. The characterization of a swimming area as a "swimming beach" is not a viable description. Camp-Sea-Gull does not have a sandy beach at the open area of the park. Plus, the removal of a swimming area from the plan because of the lack of a "sandy beach" has nothing to do with the use of the water for swimming.

SWIMMING AREA

1. We need to maintain a swimming area at Camp Sea-Gull. Camp-Sea Gull was the product of years of hard work and grant writing by past Hayes Township Boards to purchase Lake Charlevoix access for its residents. A swimming area was one of the highest priorities. The fishing pier and boat launch were not as highly rated but were necessitated by required conditions for a large grant from the Waterways Commission. We now have boat access and a fishing pier.
2. The cavalier comment that township residents can go to Western Avenue beach if they want to swim is irrelevant and condescending. There is very limited parking there. That is also a lot farther away than Camp Sea-Gull for those of us living in the Northeast part of the township.
3. The use of a shoreline natural protection strip as advocated by Tip of the Mitt is wonderful. However, that should in no way prevent safe access to a swimming area.
4. There must be a safe gently sloped way to enter the water. It should be clearly marked and easily ambulated by residents of all ages. There currently is not a safe way to enter the water. I have seen swimmers carefully pick their way into the water.
5. There should be a highly visible clearly designated swimming area of approximately 3 feet deep.

6. It would be good to consider adding a changing room/bath house to the Camp Sea-Gull Park plan. For those of us who drive longer distances to get to the park, driving home in a wet bathing suit is not desirable. Changing clothing in the current temporary bathroom is not acceptable for adults or a parent helping a child.

PICNIC PAVILION

1. Camp-Sea-Gull needs a covered pavilion in the waterfront area that is large enough for 3 picnic tables and it needs to be located between the parking lot and water. The current covered structure at Camp-Sea Gull is too small, too far from parking and too remote for most. I was in a group of ten couples having a potluck supper who used the new picnic tables last summer. The tables were located in the hot sun, directly off the sidewalk and parking lot. The tables were too heavy to move. It was not a pleasant experience.

BATHROOM ACCESS FOR BOATERS

1. The P & Rec Committee should consider adding a transient boater /temporary "tie up" spot to the fishing pier. I witnessed a boater coming from the lake, the pilot idling the boat in place to the east/ right of the boat ramp, while a passenger gingerly climbed over the large rocks to use the bathrooms at the park. That is a safety hazard for boating visitors to the park.

Thank you.

JoEllen Rudolph



clerk hayestownshipmi <clerkhayestownshipmi@gmail.com>

Important to Discuss the Parks and Recreation Survey

2 messages

Jim McMahon <jim_mcmahon_jii@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jan 15, 2024 at 10:13 AM

To: Roy Griffiths <rwgriffitts3@gmail.com>, Mark Snyder <snyderhtp@outlook.com>, Derek Burnett <burnett.pc@outlook.com>, Matt Cunningham <trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov>, Marilyn Morehead <morehead.m@gmail.com>, Rex Greenslade <greensladerex@gmail.com>, "C. T. Martin" <ctmagnetics@aol.com>, Kristin Baranski <clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov>, "hayestownshippc@gmail.com" <hayestownshippc@gmail.com>
Cc: "hayestownshippr@gmail.com" <hayestownshippr@gmail.com>

Dear Planning Commission members,

This email is in addition to my earlier January 11, 2024, email regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Please consider both emails.

The Parks and Recreation public hearing must be opened up to audience participation and discussion of issues regarding the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The single 3-minute public comment period is hardly enough time for public comment, open discussion, and audience participation. Below are just a few points for discussion. I'm sure there are many more topics for consideration, if property owners are given reasonable notification and opportunity.

1. The survey is a key element in getting property owners input and feedback. However, there was no broad communication of the survey with all property owners. It appears that **the only communication was a mention of the survey in a township newsletter for online participation only.** The newsletter is now thought by many residents as a political, self-serving, mailer and it is viewed that way.

This newsletter only reaches occupied homes (addresses) in Hayes Township. My understanding is that this USPS delivery does not reach all township property owners.

There was no "official" hardcopy mailing of the survey to all township property owners.

2. The survey was not professionally designed and independently conducted. There is bias shown in some survey questions. There were significant park topics that were not put into questions.

3. What was question # 2? It is not shown in the master plan document.

4. What method was used to validate each survey responder? There appears to be no survey response security. Was there an opportunity for duplicate responses?

5. Why were there no mentions of the beach area and the swimming area in question # 3? However, many of the respondent replies talked about the beach and swimming areas.

There were were no questions about the beach and swimming areas. Isn't this one of the primary uses for waterfront parks?

6. How were the replies from the respondents' and their feedback factored into the development of the master plan? Were there sufficient public meetings to discuss the survey replies? There appears to be no attempt to reply to the concerns expressed in the survey? This leaves the impression that replies and feedback had little value.

7. Specifically, how many online surveys were submitted?

These are just a few questions about the survey. Wide public, active participation in a meeting(s) specifically about the parks and recreation should have been conducted prior to finalization of the master plan. These meetings should be widely publicized and held at the Charlevoix Public Library gathering room, with Zoom participation, in good weather. Holding a meeting in the dead of winter accomplishes few transparent objectives and does not allow broad participation.

The planning commission should re-do the survey, how it is drafted and conducted, and utilize the survey's important role in the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Thank you.

Jim McMahon
phone: 231-347-9829

January 16, 2024

To: Hayes Township Planning Commission

From: Bill Henne, Former HTPC Chair

Subject: Draft Hayes Township Recreation Master Plan 2024-2025

The subject draft does not indicate who is responsible for putting the plan together. There are no credits for either text or photos. The previous plan was done by a professional planner but this one appears to be a hodge-podge of amateurs. Who wrote this Plan?

The Plan would have us believe that it was a result of the Parks and Recreation discussions and a flawed, unscientific survey. But, information on the most recent P and R meetings leads one to wonder if it could have been put together by the township treasurer/P and R Chair, who would serve the township better by resigning from the Parks and Recreation Committee and learning how to do the treasurer's job.

The scientific survey conducted for the 2019-2024 Recreation Master Plan, indicates that the majority of the respondents have prioritized swimming and a playground. The recent survey does the same. Yet, on this plan, only a tiny area near the highway is designated for a playground, and a swimming area is being eliminated.

The proposed draft for the Hayes Township Recreation Master Plan is woefully inadequate and unacceptable.

I suggest that you scrap this plan and contract with Beckett and Raeder (the township has already paid them \$10,000 to work on this plan) to do a draft of a new plan for consideration. A part of this effort must be a new, scientific survey.

Please retain the idea of a bioengineered shoreline. That is a very good idea.