

Cascade Township Parks Committee
February 19, 2019
Minutes

Community Development Director Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Members Present: Dawn McDonald, Alan Rowland, Sara Homeyer
Supervisor Beahan, Economic Development/DDA Director Korhorn and resident Michael Reese.

Article 1. Discussion regarding synthetic ice rink.

Director Korhorn wanted to discuss the idea of having a synthetic ice rink in the township and what if any park might be suitable for the use. Korhorn indicated that it is something that we have heard from time to time and most recently we rebuilt our basketball courts in a way that they could be flooded and used for ice skating. However, it is very labor intensive and heavily reliant on the right weather conditions. Synthetic ice might be a good option to consider as an alternative.

Korhorn started looking into other communities, specifically Cadillac and Ludington that have synthetic ice to see what experience they have had. Korhorn indicated that those communities have reported that it has been a positive experience. They are both about 30' x 50' in size and can be added on to, they are portable and can be used in any season. They do have to be assembled on a hard surface like concrete, asphalt or even plywood.

Korhorn thought that something might be able to be set up next to the library or the township property next to the Noto's parking lot. Korhorn will be presenting this idea to the DDA at the next meeting and would be purchased by the DDA.

The Committee asked how it would be maintained in the winter. The committee felt that it would be too small for organized hockey but would be good for open skating.

Korhorn indicated it would cost about \$100,000 for the concrete pad (this included about 20 parking spaces) the rink is about \$20,000.

Peterson thought we could use plywood and test the popularity of the rink. A small area for this might only cost a couple thousand dollars for the plywood surface.

The committee felt that a trail with a low-cost option might be a good way to test community feedback. Putting it near the library would be a good spot for the test. The committee also felt that it would be good to announce that it would be test to gauge community interest so everyone was aware that it might not be permanent.

Rowland stated that some people have expressed an interest in doing an event in Cascade. Korhorn indicated that they should be talking to her about any special event in the Township.

Resident Reese asked about the update of the parks plan. His company provides those services. Peterson indicated that we are not looking into updating the parks plan at this time.

Minutes recorded by –
Steve Peterson
Community Development Director