

Community Workshop Minutes

FOREST HOME TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION COMMUNITY WORKSHOP – FACILITATOR BRAD GERLACH

Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 5:30 PM – 6:45 PM

WORKSHOP BEGAN AT 5:30 PM

Sign In Sheet – 7 attending workshop

Presenters: Brad Gerlach – Facilitator
Carrie Hebden – FHT Parks & Recreation Chairperson

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Carrie Hebden

Introductions were made of all attending and a brief statement of interest in workshop.

REVIEW OF 2005 FHT PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN – BEVERLY ISENBARGER

FHT Parks and Recreation Plan was last updated in 2005 which included all Townships Parks, access sites and road endings. Plan includes Townships' Demographic information, physical characteristics and Population figures taken from the 2000 Census Report for our Township. The Plan sets forth the goals of Forest Home Township for the next five (5) year period.

“OUTSIDE – IN” REGIONAL RECREATION PLANNING ISSUES
THE GRAND VISION

2008 FHT Survey Results – Top concerns of returned surveys:

SCENIC BEAUTY AND ACCESS TO NATURE
TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

ANTRIM COUNTY – PRIORTIES
2005 – PLAN

GRASS RIVER CENTER
BIKE TRAILS
HIRING PARKS DIRECTOR
BOAT LAUNCH – LAKE MICHIGAN
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS
BARNES PARK – IMPROVEMENTS
DEVELOP – GLACIAL HILLS NATURAL AREA

2009 – GOALS – VISION SESSION RESULTS
HIGHEST PRIORTIES

PUBLIC ACCESS SITES
DAY PARKS
NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS
MORE CAMPING FACILITIES
BOAT LAUNCH – LAKE MICHIGAN

“INSIDE – OUT” LOCAL PLANNING

2016

LOCAL PRIORITIES – COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

1. ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC BEACH AND LAND FOR FAMILY RECREATION
2. CONTINUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF GLACIAL HILLS NATURAL AREA MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS ACCESS AND WORK WITH THE VILLAGE OF BELLAIRE, COUNTY OF ANTRIM.
3. PRESERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL AREAS, SCENIC VIEWS AND PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER
4. WORK TOWARDS DEVELOPING MAPPING AND SIGNAGE FOR THE WATER TRAIL “PADDLE ANTRIM”
5. CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ALL PARKS AND ROAD ENDINGS

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

QUESTIONS:

What are the expectations for future growth and population of Forest Home Township?

Where are we regarding economics when trying to maintain Forest Home Township operations with respect to cost of acquisitions?

Discussion followed.

Coordination needed between the Villages, Townships and County.

At this time the Township is able to meet all issues of maintenance of Township properties while focusing on preserving and protecting natural areas. While providing access to Forest Home Townships Parks, Access Sites and Road Endings to the public.

The future growth of our Township is unknown, but the Township will continue to work within the financial ability of the Township.

RATING LOCAL – PRIORITIES

PRIORITIZATION OF GOALS:

The goals and direction the Township should pursue over the next five (5) years for the planning of the next FHT Parks and Recreation Plan.

Results:

1. Acquisition and develop Public Beaches and Land for Family Recreation.
2. Continue the development of Glacial Hills Natural Area Mountain Bike Trails, access and work with the Village of Bellaire, County of Antrim.
3. Preserve and Protect Natural Areas, Scenic Views and Preserve Rural Character and Resources. Preserve Character
4. Work towards developing Mapping and Signage for the Water Trails “Paddle Antrim”
5. Continue to maintain and improve all Parks and Road Ending in Township.

Community Workshop closed at 6:45 PM.

Chairperson, Carrie Hebden

Secretary, Sheryl Guy



Antrim County, Michigan

2016 - 2020

Parks and Recreation Plan

