

HOMER TOWNSHIP
Parks and Recreation Public Hearing

March 17, 2020

6:30 pm

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Reviewed site plan and objectives for park plan.

Lacrosse teams that require minimum 6 fields that could be soccer fields in the other season

Proposed pavilion would include storage and restrooms

New playground equipment

Fenced retention pond

Reconfigure of softball fields

Hard surfaced walking path in the future

Retention pond could be built in phases.

Provided explanation of costs.

If DNR doesn't approve the grant, the township does not need to move forward with plans. The board does need to approve the funding in order to apply to the DNR. If the DNR approves the grant, there will need to be an additional approval from the board.

We are expected to complete what is put in the site plan. The grant applications explain exactly what we plan to do at the parks.

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Vicky Winchester-

Prefer park amenities to be used by Homer Township residents.

Residents not interested in watching lacrosse.

People won't feel comfortable when the park is too busy during lacrosse games.

Want walking trail, extra pavilions, and play structures used by Homer residents. That's where money should be going to.

There's no investment from the lacrosse teams and they could decide to leave, and we would be stuck with the fields.

How do we justify doing lacrosse when it was not expressed by survey?

Where are bleachers? Where would chairs be positioned around the lacrosse fields?

Full price of parking lot is not included in the first phase. Would consume a large amount of money in future phases.

Brian Horton- if we have less than 6 fields, would lacrosse team not be interested? They have not said that directly.

Pam Allen- difference in pavement depth? Why was it changed from 4 to 3 inches?

Nick Lorenzo- what other funds does the township need to commit to in order to get what the township wants? disappointed that first phase doesn't include walking trails.

Board Comments:

Could we get rid of retention pond? Spicer spoke with drain commissioner and pond is required.

Too much of a sports complex. Would want to have it more of a park.

We're not doing the residents justice by only focusing on lacrosse

We're things included in the initial phase that was in the survey?

How much contingency was factored in estimate? 10%

Are we committed to what's in the plan?

We wanted to apply to the biggest grant in the first phase and complete options like lacrosse fields so that it would be less expensive to the residents.

Comments from Zoom chat:

From Brionna Varner to Everyone: 06:45 PM

I feel that the lacross fields are not benefiting the Homer Township residents as a whole. A walking path and updated playground would be used a lot more I believe.

*A hard surfaced walking path that can be plowed and used year round.

From Brionna Varner to Everyone: 07:05 PM

What will happen to the fields in the future if Midland Lacross decides they want to move fields elsewhere (in town, another township etc). The township would be paying a lot of money for something that is really for only two groups of people (lacross and soccer). What happens if you are not awarded the grant funds?

From Tammie Swinson to Everyone: 07:06 PM

Is the proposal for sidewalks around the parking lot and fields OR an actual walking trail? Walking trails are typically wider than sidewalks.

From Brionna Varner to Everyone: 07:12 PM

Thank you.

From Tammie Swinson to Everyone: 07:14 PM

Everyone I talked to wants a walking trail. I'd like to see that in the first proposal.

From Brionna Varner to Everyone: 07:15 PM

I agree with Tammie, along with a playground that children with disabilities can enjoy too.

From Brionna Varner to Everyone: 07:21 PM

Wasn't a walking trailing one of the number one requests? Very disappointing that one wasn't priced out.

From Brionna Varner to Everyone: 07:31 PM

Disappointing that you say just because a group is giving us money that is why you are going that route. That is not for the township and the residents.

Adjourn: 7:38pm