

Tuesday, September 16,

19

The Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees met in special session at the Bainbridge Town Hall on September 16, 2019. Those present were Trustees Mrs. Kristina O'Brien, Mr. Jeffrey Markley, and Mrs. Lorrie Benza and Fiscal Officer Janice Sugarman. Mrs. Benza presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Also in attendance were Service Director Jim Stanek and Maintenance Supervisor Tab Gordon. The Parks Committee was represented by Ms. Becky Obradovic, Ms. Tobe Schulman, and Mr. Marty Sfiligoj.

The complete list of attendees at this meeting is attached to and becomes a permanent part of these minutes. The trustees noted that this was the second of two special meetings designated to discuss parks/playground issues. They intended to discuss essentially the same material as they did at the September 7th special meeting. The board held two meetings on this issue so as to allow as many interested residents as possible to attend.

#### 1) Summary of River Road Park's playground issues:

- In May 2019, our parks department determined some playground equipment was failing/deteriorating
- The failing playground equipment was roped off in May 2019
- Various inspections were conducted from June 2019 through August 2019 to determine if the equipment could be repaired
- The last equipment inspection on 8/29/19 confirmed the failing equipment could not be repaired or salvaged
- In the last week, the township removed the failing equipment from River Road Park's playground
- At this time, the few remaining playground items have been deemed safe

#### 2) Why did the equipment fail?

- Was the deterioration due to equipment failure or due to issues at the playground site (the land) itself?
- There is no definitive answer, but there's speculation that drainage problems may have contributed to or caused the equipment deterioration. The township noted that at the time the park was developed and the playground built, many of the phases of the Canyon Lakes development were not built out. Additional phases of development may have contributed to changes in drainage at the park, but they cannot say for sure.
- River Road Park's parking lot recently underwent repairs to resolve drainage issues that negatively impacted the parking lot
  - Pooling of water at and around the playground has occurred often over the years
  - The drainage issues impacting the parking lot may also have impacted the playground
    - As evidence: two separate pieces of failed wooden equipment (equipment pieces from two different manufacturers), both cracked at their bases, which may indicate drainage issues contributed to/caused the equipment failures

#### 3) The Playground Site:

- Before new equipment can be installed, what must happen at the site?
  - Remove existing ground material, install new drainage (same as the updated drainage replaced in the River Road parking lot), and prep site for new equipment to be installed
    - Who will complete this work?
  - Bainbridge Service Department already has the equipment and the personnel
    - Timeline for completion is prior to winter 2019

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## 4) How would a new playground be paid for?

- Real estate taxes are the source of money for Bainbridge Township. A portion of real estate taxes goes to the General Fund.
  - 2020 budget has been approved by the Geauga County Budget Commission. However, if available, funds could be reallocated to go towards the River Road Playground
    - Township personnel have re-prioritized some projects, and potentially identified up to \$100,000.00 to allocate to the playground issue.
      - The township believes that up to \$20,000.00 will be required for the completion of drainage work and site prep for new equipment in the future.
      - This leaves potentially \$80,000.00 for the playground at this time
- Where would the additional funds come from to replace the playground equipment?
  - Meeting attendees seem opposed to a tax levy
  - Instead, meeting attendees were more in favor of making donations and a fundraiser

## 5) Next Steps for Residents?

- Mrs. Andrea Ayyappan volunteered to start a Resident's Committee
  - The committee will work with the Parks Committee, township trustees, Bainbridge Service Department, and any residents interested in joining the working committee
  - Purpose of the committee:
    - Hold committee meeting to agree upon goals, discuss our approach, and set a planned timeline (target end Sept/first week of Oct)
    - Identify committee members who will focus on specific activities and action items (we will divide and conquer to accomplish our goals)
    - Review playground equipment options and pricing quotes (as gathered from trustee, Kristina O'Brien)
    - Submit equipment recommendation to the township for approval
    - Begin planning for a playground fundraiser this winter (identify event committee, event location, event date, event marketing plan, etc.)
  - If able to accomplish all of the above in the coming months, the goal would be to have new playground equipment in Spring 2020
  - Efforts may also lay the ground work to support improvement of other area playgrounds or parks in need of playgrounds, but the current focus is on River Road.

## 6) Donations

- NOTE: Any donations to the township would individually need approved by the court of common pleas.
- Mr. JP Ayyappan is looking into whether or not it will be possible to setup a nonprofit 501(c) organization to accept donations.

Drainage Issue

The trustees reported that Mr. Stanek and Mr. Gordon have assessed the drainage situation and know what the township needs to do to move forward. When the equipment is ready for installation, they will make the drainage fix at that time.

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Since there was no further business to come before this special meeting of the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice S. Sugarman,  
Fiscal Officer, Bainbridge Township

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Date

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Date

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Date

Minutes Read: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Special Meetings re: Park & Recreation Funding  
Saturday September 7, 2019 9:00 a.m.  
Monday, September 16, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Purpose of the Work Session / Goals and Objectives
- II. We Live in a Township (explanation)
  - A. Elected Officials Role
  - B. Department ID, esp. Service
- III. Where Your Taxes Go (explanation)
  - A. Funding Sources
  - B. Budgeting / 5-Year Plans
- IV. Parks and Properties – Detail
  - A. Identify Township Properties and Buildings
  - B. Introduce Jim Stank and Tab Gordon
  - C. Summarize Short-term and Long-term Needs
- V. Playgrounds and Other Park Amenities
  - A. Condition, Maintenance, and Repair
  - B. Replacement / Enhancement
- VI. How Can You Help? Discussion

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# PLEASE SIGN IN:

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1. Emily Rolt
2. Becky Obradovic
3. Digne Ryder - Maple Leaf
4. Roger Weiss 7732 Country Ln
5. M H Perry
6. Joan Demryia
7. Tobe Schulman
8. **Stewart Hastings**
9. Alexis Lyter
10. Demetrius Lyter
11. JP AYYAPPAN
12. Vince Opaskay
13. LeeAnn Clemens
14. Marty Stifligos
15. Hillary Henry
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.