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HESS-HATHAWAY PARK COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 10, 2020, 6:00p.m.
MEETING NOTES

Meeting Location: Hess-Hathaway Park

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 6:05 pm, John Himmelspach
- II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**
Members present: J. Himmelspach, A. Frasca, L. Hardacre, J. Beseau, S. McCready, K. Callahan, N. Ristich, M. Carlock, J. Barker
Others present: T. Heglin, A. Swanson
Members excused: J.P. Torres
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion passed.
- IV. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO MINUTES:** None
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes from July 9, 2020.
Motion passed.
- VI. FINANCIAL/DIRECTOR REPORT:** Budget 2021 is being reviewed. There will be reductions in revenue projections due to the impacts of COVID-19. State revenue sharing is in question for 2021. Thanks to staff for all of their hard work this year.

There have been incidents at the park where staff have been threatened and police have been called. It was emphasized that staff should always call the police at 911 for emergencies or the Police Dispatch Desk for guidance or additional support.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Caretaker Report:** Position not filled yet. Caretaker house projects need to be completed before position is filled.
 - b. Animal Report:** USDA routine inspection on September 3: "No non-compliant items identified this inspection. Inspection and exit interview conducted with farm personnel" (Tori Heglin). Dr. Hammel, USDA VMO did indicate that a project should be undertaken to secure the roadside fencing by the pond and historic barn not only for the sake of the animals but also to reduce the risk of car crashes should an animal create a hazard on the road.

With us there are no boundaries

- c. **Hay Fields and Equipment Update:** 625 hay bales have been added to our storage. We have 75 straw bales. New hay cutter is in barn. We have custom-sized bales. Usually bales are 4' long; ours are smaller at 3" long. This is easier for staff to handle. Alison is going to check into if we could possibly take a donation per bale of hay.
- d. **Community and Court Garden:** Kelie feels that there is room for three new rows at the community garden. There is a new roof on the garden shed. Waterlines have been buried to lessen risk of damage during mowing or weed whipping. (the previous two projects were accomplished solely by Waterford Citizen Community garden members.) The District Court Garden has one of the best gardens so far. The weather has been wonderful and it is flourishing. Fresh produce has been donated to Oakland Hope. Community Service has been trimming trees around the peripheral of the garden and entrance to the park.
- e. **Program Updates:** On August 25, we had an *Oaks and the Road* (supported by the Oakland County RAPP grant) and *Hot Dogs at Hess* program that was well received. We have a "Fall at the Farm" preschool program starting up on September 22 directed by Mary Boynton and Monica Hungerford (two Waterford District preschool teachers). Pony Picture or Donkey Digitals will be offered on Saturday, October 10.
- f. **Park Rentals:** We have more cross-country rentals due to limited teams being allowed at meets. People are also switching their indoor rentals to outdoor spaces due to restrictions placed on number of individuals allowed at gatherings by the State of Michigan.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **50+ Fitness in the Park:** Fitness at the pavilion has moved from Hess to Drayton Plains Nature Center.
- b. **Drive-in Movies at Hess-Hathaway Park:** Drive-in movies at Hess will finish up on September 18 with "The Greatest Showman".
- c. **Cross Country meets:** All the work that Ryan Robinson put in on the second 5K course will now be used as opposed to doubling back on course due to COVID-19 cross-country restrictions. Toby Fraifogl, Mott High School coach and Ray Collins, Kettering assistant coach have taken over for Ryan Robinson in regards to the attention given the course by Waterford school district. Only dual meets for 2020, tri-meets or large invitational meets are not allowed. Last year, we had three different school districts or parishes participate. This year, we are up to six including: Waterford, Walled Lake Northern, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, West Bloomfield, Marian and St. Patrick's Parish.
- d. **Funtober and other possible events:** Some modifications to the Funtober event are being discussed.
- e. **Bee and Butterfly habitats:** Kelie would like to turn area into pollinator habitat. At least three acres is recommended. Field adjacent to community garden or in that area was suggested. Kelie will follow-up with more information before course of action is determined.

VIII. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Kelie Callahan: Flower garden by historic barn has received more plantings and care. Kelie works to include many historically accurate species and plants that attract pollinators. Beautiful work has been done on the planters in front of the Community Building. She would like to plant in beds in the playground and around gazebo.

Linda Hardacre: Any cabbage pulled from the court garden has been given to the goats.

Alison Swanson: Sight board for playground purchased and will be installed in the play lot.

Merrie Carlock: Suggested some great posts on ongoing events and gardens, etc.

Linda Hardacre: On September 12 and 19 Waterford seniors will have an opportunity to pick a bag from the court garden.

III. MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion to adjourn 7:09pm. Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting will be on Thursday, October 8, 6:00pm,
at Hess-Hathaway Park, Hilltop Pavilion 1 or Community Building.**