



Groen Visioning Committee

Thursday, May 02, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.
Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools
10854 M-32
Johannesburg, MI 49751

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present —Lee Olsen, John Burt, Jim Hilgendorf, Don Sklarczyk, Matt Nowak, Butch Fleming, Mike Tarbutton

Others Present —Justin Burchett, Patricia Osburn

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 7, 2012 were accepted as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates/Reports

1. Nature Preserve Update

Tarbutton provided an update on the Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve.

There were approximately 750 users over the winter with approximately 70% visiting on Saturdays and Sunday. There were fewer visitors on Fridays than expected.

The comments from visitors have been very positive with the only complaints being the need to be open more hours and the lack of adequate trail directional signage.

Tarbutton plans on adding arrows to existing signage indicating the direction to particular sign numbers.

The Groen Trust Fund Board purchased a snowmobile for the Preserve to help with cross-country ski trail grooming. Tarbutton indicated that they need to groom less trails in the future, and take out some sharp turns, along with better signage.

The Memorial Day 5k/10k run has been cancelled.

The Committee discussed possible people to have bring in a wagon and horses to give tours of the property for a tour for the Commission on Aging as well as special events.

Nowak is going to drop off books on native plants for people to check out. He indicated he got them cheap and understands they can potentially disappear.

Burchett is working on 25 interpretation signs to indicate types of plants or trees. If it works well, they may add more in the future.

Sklarczyk updated the Committee on the Fourth of July race which will benefit an educational event at the property. The OWLS have also donated \$10,700 towards the event. The Eighth Grade school children from all of the area schools will be brought to the property where they will go to different stations to learn about subjects such as wild life, historic logging, forestry, water quality, and other topics. The subject matter must fit in with the school's curriculum requirements.

2. Oral History Interviews

Duczowski and Hilgendorf have done approximately six interviews and are working on setting up more. The Committee discussed potential interview candidates.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Next Meeting Date

The Committee will be meeting in two or three months' time. The meetings are going to be moved to either the main Township Hall or the Township's banquet hall to better meet the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Olsen adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.