**Marathon Township Community**

**Parks and Recreation Board**

**MINUTES**

**9/15/2021**

1. Chairman Dennis Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The location of the meeting was at the park site. Thank you to Dennis for the great pizza and drinks!
2. **Roll Call of Attendance**: Dennis Hogan, Dawn Johnson, Betty Moorhouse and Michelle Coultas Absent: Ron Klocek and Cassie Mieslik

Guests: Tony and Debbie Newton, Fred Moorhouse, and Amanda Renius

1. **Approval of Agenda**: Verbal agenda: Guest Speakers Tony+Debbie Newton
2. **Approval of Minutes**: Last meeting was a walk through the park by the board members and guest(s). Pictures were taken but not minutes.
3. **Bottle Drive**: The Marathon Township Park Committee raised $104.40 from cashing in beer/pop bottles. This was the first of our future fundraisers.
4. **Newton Timing & Racing Services**: Dawn invited Tony and Debbie Newton to the meeting to discuss how we can create a fundraiser for walkers and bicyclists on the park’s property. The Newton’s operate Newton Timing & Racing Services. The company provides timing services for running, cycling, and multi sports events in Michigan, Washington, and Oregon. The Newton’s shared ideas that would best suit Marathon township. Their estimated cost to the township would be $750.00 with an extra $250.00 for incidental supplies. According to the Newton’s all participants will be required to register online, pay an entry fee and sign a waiver against liability. The Newton’s stated May and September are the busiest times of the year and to work around those months. Much discussion was held, and it was decided that Dawn would contact the Newton’s after we get Township Board approval and a proposal is ready. Very exciting meeting. The Newton’s contact info is (810) 869-3255 and [debbie@newtontiming.com](mailto:debbie@newtontiming.com) for Debbie. Tony’s is (810) 869-1284 and tony@newtontiming.com.
5. **Solar Bathroom Change to Plans**: We were very disappointed that the bids received for the bathroom we had chosen came in $30,000.00 more than expected. Dennis looked into getting a vault style restroom without running water and would be FDA and ADA accessible and approved. Fred will take this back to the Marathon Township Board to seek their approval on the request once it is received.
6. **Pea Rock**: Pea rock is needed to help with drainage in the park. Fred will get with the Board and let Dennis know their response.
7. **Park Board Membership**: We welcomed Amanda Renius (pronounced runyas) to the park meeting. She is very interested in joining the park committee and bicycles the Rails to Trails frequently. Fred will check to see what action needs to be taken to increase members of this advisory board and get back with Dennis/Amanda.
8. **Other Fundraising Ideas**: Below are just a sample of the many fundraising ideas out there. I went for the ones that look fairly easy
9. **Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m**. Betty Moorhouse, Secretary

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUNDRAISERS**

**Bottle and Can** **Drive** was our first attempt at fundraising and $104.45 was raised!

**Silent Auction**: We could put out a notice that we are going to have a silent auction at the township office and ask for donations for the sale. Each item has a sheet of paper they write their name on and the amount they are willing to pay. There will be an ending time and all sheets will be collected with the highest bidder paying us for the item and taking their prize home.

**Online Auction**: Launch an online auction in minutes! Take bids and donations on our custom site. We could put out fliers again asking for donations to auction off. There is no Platform fee for nonprofits and no markup on payment processing. (Not sure what the regular price would be or if there even is one)

**Bake Sale**: We ask each Park member, their friends and families, anyone you know to bake something for our sale. All proceeds will go to the park fund.

**50/50 Raffle**: This is listed as one of the easiest fundraisers there is. We will need to find out if we must be licensed or any other requirements to do this. All proceeds would be split 50% to the winner and 50% to the park fund.

**Casino Bus Trip**: We had tried this for a Sunday in February 2018 but could not get enough people to fill a bus. We were going to go to Greektown Casino in Detroit. Dawn prepared a colorful flier that listed all the below. The cost was going to be $45 per person which included transportation, $15 in slot play and $5 dining dollars. A Manifest would be required from each passenger (this sheet wants to know your Full Name, Date of Birth, and Address and must be given to the Motorcoach company 4-5 days before our trip).LakeVille Schools was going to allow us to meet the bus there and leave our cars. Departing at 9:30 am and returning home @ approximately 5:30 pm. Facebook was not as popular as it is now. I feel if we distribute fliers, put it on the township’s website and on Facebook we may have better luck if we try again.

**NEXT MEETING DATE WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AT MARATHON TOWNSHIP HALL**