

**GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD,  
PLANNING COMMISSION, AND PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017**

**SPECIAL MEETING – HOFMA VISION – 7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special joint meeting of the Grand Haven Charter Township Board, Planning Commission, and Parks & Recreation Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Without objection, Trustee Redick was appointed as President Pro Tem.

II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

III. ROLL CALL

**Board members present:** Meeusen, Kieft, Gignac, Redick, and Larsen.

**Board members absent:** Reenders, Behm.

Commission members present: Chalifoux, Taylor

Commission members absent: Cousins, Lamourie, D. Reenders, Wagenmaker, Wilson

Committee members present: Belter, Hesselsweet, Thoroughman

Committee members absent: Fritz, Moelter-Gray

Also present was Superintendent Cargo, Community Development Director Fedewa and Public Services Director VerBerkmoes.

IV. HOFMA VISION PRESENTATION

Nederveld senior consultant, Jamie Walter, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding recommendations for the continued development of Hofma Park and Preserve, particularly the so-called Witteveen farm property and the Wolf property.

Development costs for the Witteveen farm property – as presented – are estimated at about \$1 million. Development costs for the Wolf property – as presented – are estimated at about \$5 million.

V. DISCUSSION

Comments included the following:

1. Concern with including a proposed mountain bike trail on the Witteveen farm property due to the location being in an environmentally sensitive area;
2. Concern with the cost of the proposed improvements and a desire to phase any development (*i.e., trying to do too much*);
3. Concern with the using of a lighted trail on the Witteveen farm property since it could become an attractive nuisance;
4. Concern with the amount of trails developed on the Wolf property because – as

- presented – certain trails seem duplicative;
5. Concern with the parking design on the Wolf property because it may force people to cross the roadway and impact pedestrian safety;
  6. Request that trails and/or playground areas be named after the original owner of the Wolf property;
  7. Support for the proposed sports fields because of a need for additional facilities;
  8. Concern with current trail maintenance/construction in Hofma Preserve, to which VerBerkmoes responded;
  9. Support for developing trails for mountain bikes, especially for the youth;
  10. Read a portion of the Witteveen Trust that described the intended development of the land and supported keeping the Witteveen farm property in a more natural state;
  11. Concern that the two-way design of the entry into the Wolf property/Hofma Park would not function well; and,
  12. Recommended that the “pickleball courts” be separated “generationally” from the other facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**Without objection**, the work session adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Larsen  
Grand Haven Charter Township Clerk

Ron Redick  
Grand Haven Charter Township President Pro Tem