

WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING  
September 17, 2024  
7:00 PM, Whitewater Township Hall  
5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690  
Phone 231-267-5141/Fax 231-267-9020

Topic: Parks and Rec Advisory Committee Meeting

Time: September 17, 2024, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

1. Roll Call of Committee Members
2. Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. **Public Comment:** Any person shall be permitted to address a meeting of the committee. Public comments shall be carried out in accordance with the following rules and procedures:
  - a. Comments shall be directed to the Committee, with questions directed to the Chair.
  - b. Any person wishing to address the Committee shall speak from the lectern and state his/her name and address.
  - c. Persons may address the commission on matters that are relevant to township Parks and recreation issues.
  - d. No person shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same matter, excluding the time needed to answer Committee members' questions.
  - e. Public comment shall be limited to 3 minutes.
5. Approval of August 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes
6. Correspondence: LRNT EMAIL STRINGS FROM POPP TO GT COUNTY, MY RESPONSE.
7. Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments:  
[PRAC PROJECT LIST / GRANTS GOOGLE SHEET](#)  
[PRAC PROJECT GOALS TIMELINES GOOGLE SHEET](#)  
[LRNT PROJECT TRACKING](#)
8. Unfinished Business:
  - 1) WW Park Playground; Toddler Play equipment addition; REQUESTED TO BE ON BOARD PACKET FOR SEPTEMBER, WILL REQUEST AGAIN FOR OCTOBER BOARD MEETING.
  - 2) Lossie Road Nature Trail wetland/bridge improvements: REQUESTED TO BE ON BOARD PACKET FOR SEPTEMBER, WAS COMPLETELY DISREGARDED BY SUPERVISOR.
9. New Business:
  - 1) Project Goals / Timelines; discussions from our special meeting of sept 16th
  - 2) Cosgrove suggestion to move to alternate PRAC member
10. Next Meeting October 15, 2024
11. Public Comment
12. Adjournment

Whitewater Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities who are planning to attend. Contact the township clerk at 231-267-5141 or the TDD at 800-649-3777.

**DRAFT**  
**Whitewater Township**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes for Regular Meeting**  
**August 20, 2024**

**Call to order 7:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Melton, Butler, Voice, Buczkowski, Hubbell

Absent: Cosgrove

Also present: Recording Secretary MacLean

**Set / Approve Agenda: Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of minutes:**

**MOTION** by Butler, second by Melton to approve July 16, 2024, meeting minutes.

On voice vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:** PRAC Project list / grants google sheet, PRAC project goals timeline google sheet, LRNT project tracking

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Bylaw revisions on hold pending liaison request. Hold off until December or January.
2. Whitewater Township Park (WTP) toddler equipment. Discussion of the PRAC recommendation of the playground equipment. Burke ST 3431 does have an ADA transfer included. The Tribe gave the township a \$14,532.91 grant to be used toward the purchase of the equipment. Request the township portion of \$9,766.09.
3. Lossie Road, LRNT project. Discussion ensued regarding information provided to the supervisor for the August meeting agenda. It was not put on the agenda.

**New Business:**

1. Project Goals / Timelines will continue to update.
2. Joint meeting potential with the township board regarding LRNT. Special joint meeting with the board or present at the September board meeting. Consensus to have one person present at the board meeting in September. Gary is willing to present as he walked the property with the Gosling Czubak representative.
3. Consensus for a special meeting for members to walk Hi Pray, the campground and Petobego if time allows.

**Committee Comment and Discussion:** Discussion of Hi Pray bleacher project status, timeline and bid proposal.

**Next regular meeting:** September 17, 2024

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment at 9:08 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois MacLean  
Recording Secretary



Mel Melton <mammelton@gmail.com>

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## September Business - Grand Traverse County July 2024 ARPA Report

3 messages

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**Ron Popp** <supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 26, 2024 at 12:56 PM

To: Nate Alger <nalger@gtcountymi.gov>, Jenny Mckeller <jmckellar@gtcountymi.gov>, Melissa Melton <mammelton@gmail.com>

All - I have not been able to establish a special meeting quorum with the Park & Recreation Advisory Committee and the Whitewater Township Board due to the lack of response from both bodies. Therefore, in order to discuss a board approved grant report to Grand Traverse County for a portion of their ARPA please review the two attached documents. One item is from the May 2024 TB Meeting and the second is the PRAC July 2024 Meeting packet detailing the reduction of the Lossie Road Nature Trail Project along with the minutes of that meeting which appear to be still marked draft on the township website and in file name after the 8.20.2024 PRAC meeting.


Ron Popp  
Whitewater Township Supervisor  
231.267.5141 Ext. 23  
[supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com](mailto:supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com)

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### 3 attachments

 **NB 19 a Memo Lossie Road Nature Trail 4-1-2024.pdf**  
109K

 **prac\_agendapacket\_071624.pdf**  
6721K

 **prac\_minutes\_071624\_draft.pdf**  
534K

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**Mel Melton** <mammelton@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 27, 2024 at 7:53 AM

To: Ron Popp <supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com>

Cc: Nate Alger <nalger@gtcountymi.gov>, Jenny Mckeller <jmckellar@gtcountymi.gov>

Bcc: "TWP Ardella M. Benak" <treasurer@whitwatertownship.org>, Cheryl Goss <clerk@whitwatertownship.org>, Heidi Vollmuth <Heidivyourtrustee@gmail.com>, Don Glenn <dglenn6542@yahoo.com>, Tom Cosgrove <tac9414447@gmail.com>, Brandon Hubbell <brandon@gtfruit.com>, ambercvoice@gmail.com, Fran Butler <frannib4491@gmail.com>, Gary buczkowski <gbuczkowski.1226@gmail.com>

All - Please also see the Gosling Czubek report including preliminary engineering construction drawing and cost estimate that PRAC sent to the board on Aug 7th, but didn't make the board's agenda for the August meeting. As you can see the project is at the next stage to prepare a formal full engineering RFP to move this forward. The PRAC would gladly summarize a further report to the GT County, just let us know if we can assist.

Ron - The PRAC doesn't feel a special meeting would be as productive as having one person represent the PRAC at your next regular board meeting to respond to any questions the board may have. Can this be added to the board September meeting agenda to allow for discussion/ ?&A for this topic?

Thank you,  
Melissa Melton  
PRAC Chair  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**2 attachments**

 **LRNT Project tracking - Google Sheets.pdf**  
54K

 **WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP PARKS Memo to Board on LRNT Prelim Engineering drawings approval to proceed packet print.pdf**  
6544K

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**Ron Popp** <supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com>  
To: Mel Melton <mammelon@gmail.com>  
Cc: Nate Alger <nalger@gtcountymi.gov>, Jenny Mckeller <jmckellar@gtcountymi.gov>

Tue, Aug 27, 2024 at 9:49 AM

To be clear Melissa, the information was requested July 19 so a competent business could be developed for the board meeting August 13. You supplied the information August 7, one day before the business packet was released to the public.

Ron Popp  
Whitewater Township Supervisor  
231.267.5141 Ext. 23  
[supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com](mailto:supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com)

bcc: Township Board.

[Quoted text hidden]



Mel Melton <mammelton@gmail.com>

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## Whitewater Township Park Toddler Playground Equipment recommendation

5 messages

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**Mel Melton** <mammelton@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:00 PM

To: Ron Popp <supervisor@whitewatertownship.org>

Ron - I messed up and thought I sent this to you last week on 9/1, but just realized and found it in my draft emails today. If there is any way we can still add this to the board meeting agenda for this month, I would greatly appreciate it. If not, can we add this to next month's?

Thank you,  
Melissa

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 **WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP PARKS Memo to Board on TODDLER play equipment purchase recommendation packet.pdf**  
4822K

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**Ron Popp** <supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:08 PM

To: Mel Melton <mammelton@gmail.com>

If I recall minutes this was on your July agenda and should have been in front of the board in August.

Correct?

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024, 1:01 PM Mel Melton <mammelton@gmail.com> wrote:

Ron - I messed up and thought I sent this to you last week on 9/1, but just realized and found it in my draft emails today. If there is any way we can still add this to the board meeting agenda for this month, I would greatly appreciate it. If not, can we add this to next month's?

Thank you,  
Melissa

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**Mel Melton** <mammelton@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:16 PM

To: Ron Popp <supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com>

Yes, it was in our July agenda and August because of a discrepancy and confusion on the playground equipment model, so we resolved and finalized in August meeting.

Thank you,  
Melissa

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:08 PM Ron Popp <supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com> wrote:

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**Ron Popp** <supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com>  
To: Mel Melton <mammelon@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 2:39 PM

No, I don't think so Melissa. To help remind you here is a reprint of comments for your 7.16.2024 board packet and minutes of various previous meetings. My comments appear in red.

7.16.2024 packet - Unfinished Business: 1. Bylaw revisions on hold pending liaison request. - **Why is this still an issue? Clearly, you or your group did not obtain, read or understand General Ordinance 48. This was not a suggestion!**

The following statement was provided to you as a direct result of your May 2024 minutes. "1. Bylaw revisions on hold pending liaison request. The liaison request did not make it on the Board agenda.

**My Response** The April 16, 2024 minutes indicate PRAC's consensus to send a memo to the board regarding liaison to the body. Where is it? Who was to provide that to the Board? Chair? Please provide the PRAC's request to place something on the agenda for ALL of 2024. Please obtain and review Whitewater Township General Ordinance number 48 creating PRAC. The Ordinance states, the body shall have 5 members, and up to two alternates. No liaison is called out in the instrument. Clerk Goss, without board approval created the post. Why can't the PRAC create, review, modify their own Bylaws? Please provide in writing what is the group looking for from the board? Updated 9.5.2024 Again this was not a suggestion for you to get educated on the formation of PRAC and to provide documents, it was a request.

From your July minutes : "Supervisor comments regarding prior meeting minutes. Discussion ensued. General consensus is these are meeting minutes for reference purposes. No questions had been directed to the board.

**My response dated 9.5.2024 - Why were no questions directed to the board when clearly the minutes indicate it was to happen? Minutes ARE NOT FOR REFERENCE THEY ARE TO BE AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF MEETING HAPPENINGS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS. So If I understand your statement, all of your minutes are for reference, and are NOT an accurate reflection of PRAC happenings? Does this make every meeting you held an open meeting act violation?**

**From 7.16.2024 minutes** - 2. Whitewater Township Park (WTP) toddler equipment. Which piece of equipment does the PRAC want to present to the Board for approval? Preferences: The one without the cloth canopy is preferred as it will be less maintenance at park close and park open. Will address new landing zone material in the future. Consensus to have Melton write a report to the Board to present for approval the Burke SY3431 play structure for \$24,299. The Tribe granted \$14,532.91.

**Updated 9.5.2024 - If minutes are "only for reference" as you suggest, under what authority are you providing the playground equipment recommendation?**

Ron Popp  
Whitewater Township Supervisor

231.267.5141 Ext. 23  
[supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com](mailto:supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com)

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:16 PM Mel Melton <[mammelton@gmail.com](mailto:mammelton@gmail.com)> wrote:

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Thank you,  
Melissa

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**Mel Melton** <[mammelton@gmail.com](mailto:mammelton@gmail.com)>

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 8:59 AM

To: Gary buczkowski <[gbuczkowski.1226@gmail.com](mailto:gbuczkowski.1226@gmail.com)>

cc

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mel Melton** <[mammelton@gmail.com](mailto:mammelton@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Subject: Whitewater Township Park Toddler Playground Equipment recommendation

To: Ron Popp <[supervisor@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@whitewatertownship.org)>

Ron - I messed up and thought I sent this to you last week on 9/1, but just realized and found it in my draft emails today. If there is any way we can still add this to the board meeting agenda for this month, I would greatly appreciate it. If not, can we add this to next month's?

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