

MEMORANDUM

(Keep it brief, Norris, REAL b

f!)

Eastport, January 5, 1990

Re: PARKS COMMISSION

Copies to: Bud Hassard, Jim Smith,
Fred MacLean, Bill Good, Fred Backstrom, Ivan Foerster.

The minutes of the December 12, 1989 regular meeting of the Township Board note the appointment of a Parks Commission with the job of a feasibility study on the utilization of the former Kathy's Kampground as a day park. That action represents the Township's follow-up of work done by a Task Force Committee and reported on March 14, 1989. Having been associated with that earlier work, I think it useful to offer to Commission members information in hand that will be relevant to the Commission's plan of action.

Overall time-frame

A planning chart attached to the Task Force Committee report mentioned above shows the several steps involved in the sort of job the Commission is asked to do: establishing the necessary plans, acquiring the necessary funding, etc. leading to the realization of a Township Park. There are 15 identifiable steps in the process (given on the chart by the letters A through O). The irreducible time requirement for steps E through O of the process is 15 months, as set by state and federal regulations and not subject to local control or modification; in addition, there are certain preparatory steps, (A through D) whose time requirements must be added to the 15-month standard requirement.

Thus, in the planning example attached to the March 14, '89 report, the overall time requirement was estimated as 27 months, beginning in April of year X and ending in July of year X+2.

Tightening the schedule

Can this time requirement be realistically shortened ?? Probably it can be, by compressing the time requirement for steps A through D from the original estimate of 12 months to a mere 2 months.

This speed-up seems possible because:

Step A (Commission appointment) has been done.

Step B (collection of materials, preparation of Township Recreation Plan) is partly done.

Step C (Township acceptance of Township Recreation Plan) could be accomplished at the February Board Meeting.

Step D (Township acceptance of the grant application-- for purchase of the campground) could be accomplished at the March Board Meeting.

The Township's grant applications could, therefore, be ready for submission to the funding authorities before the April 2, 1990 deadline.....

Provided that:

The Commission prepare and present an acceptable Township Recreation Plan by February 13, and also ...

Prepare and present an acceptable set of grant applications by March 13.

Details and possible plan

The work to be accomplished prior to the April 2 deadline consists of these sorts of thing:

1) Reviewing published guidelines for the development of a Recreational Plan, reviewing existing examples of such plans, and creating and writing out such a plan for Torch Lake Township-- essentially a brainstorming sort of task.

2) The clerical necessities of typing, correcting, copying, etc.

3) Filling out pre-printed forms so as to supply appropriate information to the funding authorities.

Point 2 does not represent a serious obstacle.

Point 3 is tougher, but we have the promise of professional aid from experts in the field, if we want it.

Point 1 is the toughest of the three, requiring substantial reading, thought and discussion. But it still seems possible.

There are 6 weeks available before the February 13 deadline. If Commission members are willing to put in, say, a day a week during that period, there is more than adequate working time and calendar time available.

A round of phone calls has resulted in agreement for the Parks Commission to hold its organizational meeting Tuesday morning at ten at the Township Hall, and at that time to set its tentative schedule for the next 6 weeks.

Jack Norris