



MEETING NOTES


DATE: Thursday, August 27, 2009, 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Park Township Hall

PROJECT: **HOLLAND HARBOR FISHING ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

PRESENT:	Elaine Blouw	2316 Ottawa Beach Road
	Barb Glendening	2299 Black Lake Walk
	Joyce Kortman	16935 Riley
	Jim Smith	303 Little St. Rd.
	J. P. Welch	679 Bosma Ave.
	Rich Goff	479 Timberlake East
	Joyce Smith	2291 Black Lake Walk
	Herb & Sally Pollock	2285 Ottawa Beach Rd.
	Fran & Joe Hall	2305 Black Lake Walk
	Madelyn & Joe Beel	2423 Lake Michigan
	Elaine Mudge	2246 1 st Ave.
	Skip Nagelvoort	2323 Pavilion Ave.
	Daniel Aument	2418 Terrace Ave.
	Bill Nienhuis	2549 Lakeshore
	Deborah Noe Schakel	694 Eastern Ave.
	Vicki L. Rumpsa	86 Sun Ridge Dr.
	Pat Cornelisse	Cornelisse Design Associates
	John Scholtz	Ottawa County Parks & Recreation
	Curt TerHaar	Ottawa County Parks & Recreation

1. Meeting was opened with County officials explaining the history of this particular portion of the Park 12 parkland and a discussion of the process and funding for this particular project.
2. CDA presented the site conditions of major concern, i.e. the tree cover, underground water main, fishing habitat needs, channel limits, project emphasis on universal fishing access. The site design sketch was presented and its relationship to the earlier concept plan.



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3. Members of the public were given time to peruse the drawings and video fly-thru, as well as look at data concerning location/quality of trees to be removed due to parking lot construction. The group was reconvened and asked for their concerns, as well as the positive and negative elements of the site plan as presented. The following comments were received in no order of importance:

- **Parking Lot**

1. Some members preferred NO parking lot but would like to preserve trees (see attached information from Joyce Smith). Others didn't feel these trees warranted special consideration.
2. Suggestions to limit parking to 10 spaces not 12 shown and to pull lot back slightly in order to tuck it out of view from the opposite shoreline as well as rotate slightly.
3. Concern that parking may be monopolized by beach goers.
4. Concern about illegal parking along Ottawa Beach Road...will that be limited.
5. Concern about 'hours' that parking lot will be open.
6. Concerned about safety of driveway location (approved by OCRC), as well as current speeds along Ottawa Beach Road.
7. Concern that if parking too hidden, it will become a 'party spot'.

- **Piers and Boardwalk**

1. Liked the location of boardwalk along ex. channel walls as well as dock on peninsula. Cautioned that several times barges have slipped into area of peninsula shoreline near proposed easterly dock pier.
2. Suggested keeping bikes off boardwalk by placing bike racks on either end of boardwalk and signing.
3. Concern about ice push/action in the Cove on the boardwalk structure.

- **Miscellaneous**

1. Some wondered about a fishing station to control the amount of fishing 'garbage' left by public. At a minimum, trash receptacles will be important.
2. Should Cove be non-motorized boating?
3. Would not like to see motorized boats using boardwalk to disembark/embark passengers
4. Felt kayak and canoe access was a good thing.
5. Cautioned that we may find old hotel footings on the east shoreline that may impede off-shore work.
6. Liked having fishing area bumpouts at least 8' for fisherpersons that need room behind them to cast safely without hooking passing strollers.
7. Save as much of natural tree cover on peninsula as we can. Stress the natural, passive, relaxing character of the area.
8. No particular concern about shade/interpretive structure as shown, although one on the peninsula in the future developments will be welcome.



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4. Wrap-up included the suggestion that the County website would have the sketch site plan for further comments.
5. The next meeting with a preliminary final site plan will be in 4-6 weeks with construction probably starting in Spring 2010. Attendees will be notified if they left their contact info.
6. Impression: Overall the sketch site plan was well-received and all comments were generally positive. Good input from attendees.

ISSUED BY: Patricia S. Cornelisse, ASLA
Cornelisse Design Associates, Inc.



The Site of the Ottawa Beach Hotel in Park 12 at Historic Ottawa Beach

Submitted by Joyce Smith on August 26, 2009

With regard to the existing Master Plan for development of the point which the Ottawa Beach Hotel occupied and the adjacent bodies of water, I offer the following observations for discussion with the objective of modifying the existing plan to maximize the natural features, by eliminating the parking as planned, and by doing so, increase the experience of the park user.

This site is prime real estate.

This is the first view that mariner's entering the Holland harbor have. Holland Harbor, Lake Macatawa (Black Lake) is and has been for decades a prime recreational boaters' destination. Years ago there existed a comic strip in the Chicago Tribune that regularly featured this beautiful feature as a part of the Lake Mac environment.

The Ottawa Indians recognized the value of this land for a summer camp...location, location, location

The fathers of industry in western Michigan during the 1880's certainly recognized the value of this real estate and built a hotel complex, with rail and steamship connections that led to the area being nicknamed the "Atlantic City of the Midwest".

Blue heron, red fox, white-tailed deer, coyote, bald eagle, migratory birds, by the hundreds, all leave their prints in the thickets or on the shore of this point of land as they use this protected connector to access the shores of Lake Mac.

Through the four seasons the shore grasses, the dense brush, the tall trees provide a continuity with the adjacent 12 Parks and a splendid display of changing nature; true food for the soul.

Human history and natural history currently share this location.

Footpaths would increase the value of this land. They would protect the natural features. They would allow the transient park visitors, as well as Ottawa County residents, the opportunity to rest awhile, to traverse safely, to absorb the surroundings, to imagine the history, to share this special place in a restorative and fulfilling way.

Asphalt, concrete, paving, vehicles, these are not calming elements. These things do not restore the soul. They are intrusive. They deconstruct. They do not fire the imagination. They do not inspire a hunger for learning. It is in the beauty of nature and lessons of history that we become more.

Eight parking spots on this point of land represent abuse not use of this special place. Eight parking spots cannot begin to solve the parking issues in this area, but they can go a long way to diminishing the beauty of this land and the quality of the park visitor experience.