

# PublicInput

## REGULAR RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Throughout the preparation process for the Recreation Plan the Village Parks and Recreation Commission held regular meetings – these meetings were open to the public for comment and direct feedback.

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP

A public input session was held on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 7 to 9 pm in the Village of Beulah Hall. Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc. facilitated the input with 15 citizens (See Appendix A sign-in sheet). The meeting was advertised in the local newspaper and a direct posting at the Village Hall (See Appendix A).

A PowerPoint presentation and graphic boards were presented to the participants with a full overview of the Village's Recreational Inventory – with a focus on the owned and operated recreational facilities within the Village. The Workshop also included an overview of “Systems Approach to Planning”, definitions of recreation, reasons for pursuing a Recreation Plan for the Village and a brief overview of the six sections in the Plan as defined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Participants were also given an overview of the identified DRAFT Recreation Goals assembled by the Recreation Committee for the DRAFT PLAN. Many of these goals were identified in previous Brainstorming sessions held early in 2008 (See Appendix A).

Hands on exercises included a brief warm-up exercise that was completed by participants at the beginning of the Workshop and two more exercises that allowed attendees to work together in small groups examining and commenting on existing facilities, discussing possible improvements and then prioritizing the top three (3) project areas. Before departing attendees were asked to rate the top project areas in their respective group that were presented by each group. While the first exercise was used to construct ideas through positive interaction at a small group level, exercise two began to build consensus between all of the Workshop Participants.

The **warm-up** included questions pertaining to recreational programs offered in the Village of Beulah and asked participants if they or any family members participate in any programs or activities. The second question asked participants - if they could decide what the next #1 priority would be for improving or developing new parks in the Village, what would it be? Participants were provided with suggested answers that included: neighborhood parks, tot lots, playgrounds, non-motorized trails, indoor community center, improving existing properties and a blank space to provide any other suggested project. Unique responses were recorded and tallied as follows:

**WARM-UP EXERCISE**

1. Do you or any of your family members participate in any Community Recreational Programs, if so, which ones?

*Music in the Park - 2*  
*Art Fair - 2*  
*Volleyball - 1*  
*Biking - 7*  
*Walking - 6*  
*Swimming - 5*  
*Boating/Sailing/Kayak - 5*  
*Tennis - 2*  
*Fishing - 5*  
*Picnic Area - 3*

2. If you could decide what the next #1 priority would be for improving or developing new parks in the Village, what would it be?

*Non-motorized Trails - 9*  
*Neighborhood Parks / Tot Lots / Playgrounds - 5*  
*Improving existing property such as the River Road & Howard Road property – 13*  
*Other receiving one response: fishing dock, boardwalk, boat access, paved trail along lake, upgrade boat launch, improved waterfront were additional single responses*

**Exercise I** was conducted to gather attendee's responses for each of the **eight (8) distinct recreational facilities/spaces regarding the three (3) focus areas** including: Improvements to existing recreation facilities, new recreational facilities, and non-motorized trails, paths or walkways. These three focus areas were developed in response to the 2009 Brainstorming exercises and current recreational planning efforts in the Village. Participants then were asked to rank the three highest priority "projects" from the groups modified list for each of the eight recreation spaces, a priority tally for each space by group is provided in parenthesis. Participant responses were as follows:

**Exercise I:****1. Improvements to Existing Recreational Facilities**

Please evaluate eight (8) distinct existing facilities for amenities, quality of recreation, and overall maintenance.

Attendees were divided into 2 groups of 8. Each group worked with the facilitator to draw or make notes on the base maps and program inventory sheets placed on the walls. Priority tallies conducted at the end of the evening are provided with each facility.

*\*(Important Note: A vote represented below does not necessarily validate any or all of the suggested improvements or comments provided by the group, but rather the overall improvements to the facility based on a program to be determined).*

**Group A:****Beulah Beach Waterfront Park****(Priority 1 votes = 6; Priority 2 votes = 1; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Private use of public space*
- *Boardwalk – entire beach length with connections*
- *Unify the area for lifts and docks, several locations (no sprawl of this use)*
- *Add a “Shoppers dock” - transient boater use*
- *Renovate bathhouse and public restrooms*
- *Eliminate village launch in favor of future state facility (or renovate)*
- *Or renovate village launch*
- *Remove/reduce storm water discharge along beach and creek*
- *Enhance Cold Creek outlet*
- *Provide BF access to beach/lake from road (future boardwalk)level*

**Beulah Village Park****(Priority 1 votes = 1; Priority 2 votes = 7; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Pave the trail portion along the park (as far as possible)*
- *Method to segregate park from RVs*
- *Tennis programs needed*
- *Irrigation / landscaping*
- *Walkways – beach, pavilion (covered pavilion needs updating)*
- *Relocate restrooms from beach closer to trail and away from pavilion*
- *Remove parking – merge park with beach*
- *Define connections with trail, tie in with boardwalk*
- *Lighting*

**Beulah Beach Trailer Park****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Phase-in larger RV spaces (fewer spaces)*
- *Extended season*
- *Private use of public space is objectionable*
- *Revenue source for Village*
- *Trail connections*
- *Swimming & boat mooring*

**Betsie Valley Trailhead****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Landscaping to screen trail (south side)*
- *Needs tables/chairs to increase utilization*
- *Pave the trail & light within village*

**Fair Park****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *“Natural screening for portable toilets*
- *More benches*
- *Lighting*
- *Stairs for beach access*
- *Larger beach*
- *Border (landscaping) to trail*
- *Facility for children*

### **Library Park**

**(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 7 )**

- *Ramp (access) to creek*
- *Stream bank & bed improvements*
- *Landscape structures & lighting*
- *Connections – beach to Trapp*
- *Monitoring of creek*

### **Trapp Park**

**(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Need borders/definition*
- *Boat trailer parking needed*
- *Durable skate boarding equipment needed*
- *Boardwalk connections*
- *Dock/fishing platform*

### **Northway Park**

**(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Landscaping (lighting) needs character (maybe whimsy!)*
- *Upgrade playground equipment*
- *Needs to be more public looking*
- *Add signage*
- *Way finding signs – get kids into it*

### **Group B:**

#### **Beulah Beach Waterfront Park**

**(Priority 1 votes = 7; Priority 2 votes = 1; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Lighting along walkway*
- *Look at Lake Street – for possible one-way (To Pleasant Street)*
- *Transient boat dock (near Cold Creek mouth)*
- *Upgrade or expand public restrooms*
- *Portable toilets (seasonal) – not appealing, but needed (4 minimum)*
- *Swim/diving platform (used in decades past successfully)*
- *Amend beach sand (Village have a groomer and does groom beach)*

**Beulah Village Park****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 6; Priority 3 votes = 1 )**

- Park turf upgrade (rolling/top dress over seed)
- Professional design plan for park (same for all parks)
- Site lighting
- Covered pavilion – user friendly access, expanded, for performance/wind screens
- New barbeque grills
- Major art fair (need more electrical capacity)
- Drinking fountain
- Flower garden questionable? Remove? (was a fountain)
- Bocce ball courts
- Irrigation
- Tree evaluation for old ones, thin out dead and dying, underplant
- Tennis courts, fair – look at wall & beach front access

**Beulah Beach Trailer Park****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- Restroom only for campers
- Expand/rebuild public restroom with showers (used by public and campers)
- Upgrade - Fish cleaning station – is it open to public, seasonal only? (May to Labor Day)
- Utility upgrades pending (Electrical pedestals)
- Dock for campers (that have boats)
- Need to hire a camp host

**Betsie Valley Trailhead****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- Walkway between parking – building (side slope of walk not BF)
- 15 car-only parking – gravel (Would like to pave)
- MDNR owns property / Village maintains with use agreement
- May look for more parking (additional land acquisition suggested on map)

**Fair Park****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- Add two more picnic tables
- Barbeque grill – add one
- Screen shelter
- Add drinking fountain
- Kayak/canoe launch
- Separate or re-arrange signage (park sign and regulatory signs)
- Notes: Parking is along road not the best  
Many users come from trailer park

**Library Park****(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 3 )**

- Add irrigation – lawn areas

- *Regrade and roll lawn areas*
- *Boardwalk with deck*
- *WIFI available*

**Trapp Park**

**(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 1; Priority 3 votes = 4 )**

- *Add dog run/park*

**Northway Park**

**(Priority 1 votes = 0; Priority 2 votes = 0; Priority 3 votes = 0 )**

- *Lawn improvements like other parks (irrigation)*
- *Add a new grill*
- *Add new safety surfacing*
- *Replace aging play ground equipment*
- *Consider parking along road*
- *Add drinking fountain*
- *Improve park mima signage and placement*
- *Portable toilet (probably not)*

**2. New Recreational Facilities**

Please provide ideas for potential new recreation facilities.

Draw or make notes on the base map provided best possible locations for new facilities.

**Group A:**

***Library Park***

**Group B:**

***Library Park***

Note: The warm-up exercises provided 13 responses that suggested possible improvements to the

**3. Non-Motorized Trails / Paths / Walkways**

Trails can be linear, loop or provide connections between recreational facilities. Evaluate existing trails and look to create a holistic system.

**Group A:**

***Library Park***

***Beulah Trailer Park***

**Group B:**

***Library Park***

***Beulah Trailer Park***

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP SYNOPSIS**

Attendance at the Public Workshop held on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was good, attendees worked cooperatively to and provided a diverse cross-section that included various professional backgrounds, and residents who have held public positions including Parks & Recreation commission, Village Council members, local business owners, retirees and long-term and shorter term residents of Beulah. The input gathered helped to validate the Public Brainstorming and Master Planning efforts conducted by the Village and Beulah Boosters in 2008 and 2009

During the January 11<sup>th</sup> public input, the youth of Beulah were only represented anecdotally by attendees in terms of improvement suggestions that targeted the younger generations. These included upgrades to play structures, bicycle racks and non-motorized connections along with a series of multigenerational improvement suggestions for the waterfront areas. However, it is highly recommended that more engagement of children and youth in the Village be conducted when specific project plans are developed and recommended as the Village moves forward. Much discussion was provided with respect to barrier-free access and improved universal access solutions for all the parks and the waterfront.

Overall, workshop participants voiced strong opinion for improvements to existing facilities including Beulah Park, Beulah Waterfront Beach Park, and Library Park. Land acquisition was specifically identified for creation of a walkway linkage through Library Park to Lake Street. New non-motorized trail connections to existing trails were specifically identified in several locations at the Trailer Park and Library Park (From the Beach to Trapp Park).

Priority vote tally summarized for each group at the workshop:

Priority	Facility	(Group)	
		A	B
1)	Waterfront Beach Park	6	7
2)	Beulah Village Park	7	6
3)	Library Park	7	3
3)	Trapp Park	0	4



Tables A & B - Public Input Process with Gosling Czubak facilitators - Landscape Architect Klaus Heinert, RLA. and Civil Engineer - Tim Roache, P.E.

## PARKS AND RECREATION MEETINGS

Formal meetings were held with the Parks and Recreation Commission in January, February and March to review and ultimately approve the draft plan sections. These meetings were open to the public during the formal 30-day public comment and before adoption of the plan by the Village Council (see Appendix B).

## ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDER INPUT

On, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 members of the Village Parks and Recreation Commission met with the *Disability Network of Northern Michigan's* - Site Assessment Team to consider aspects of the recreation plan and specifically review proposals for improvements to the Beulah Waterfront on Lake Street. The team reviewed and provided feedback for the MDNR's access to recreation initiative pursuant to future grants the Village would like to pursue.

The Village has also actively sought input and feedback from non-governmental and governmental organizations on the plan and development grant application proposal. These groups included the Benzie Rotary, Beulah Boosters, Grand Traverse Sports Fishing Association, Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, and many others.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

Two public hearings were advertised and held after the draft plan was available to the public. One was held on March 4, 2010 by the Village Council to review the draft material and a second on March 18<sup>th</sup> to formalize a resolution for adoption of the Recreation Plan. The public hearing was advertised in a local newspaper more than seven days prior to meeting (see Appendix B). The Recreation Plan then was unanimously adopted by the Village Council on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010.