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**OLIVE SHORES COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN
OTTAWA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Public Meeting No. 2 Notes, July 22, 2009**

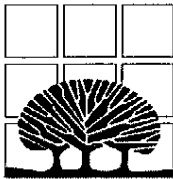
Curt TerHaar, Ottawa County Coordinator of Park Planning and Development, opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public. Curt gave an overview of the Public Meeting from June 17, 2009 and indicated to all present that copies of the meeting minutes were available.

John Scholtz, Director of Ottawa County Parks and Recreation announced that Mr. Daniel Williams, the Property Owner, directly south of the project had sent a letter regarding the Park Plan and indicated that copies were available and distributed to those that requested copies. A copy of the letter is attached following these minutes.

Jim DeWilde of M. C. Smith Associates made a presentation, reviewing the original concept plan prepared by Ottawa County and then presenting the new preliminary master plan for the project. All features of the plan were presented including the parking area trails, stairs, boardwalk, restroom building and site features.

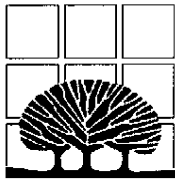
The meeting was then opened up to the public for comment and questions. The following is a summary of the discussion.

- The following question was asked: How will we be able to keep people from running up and down the dune causing erosion? The person who asking the question referred to Tunnel Park as a place where this is presently a problem. John Scholtz commented that Tunnel Park is a managed dune climb and we really don't have problems with people accessing the dune outside of our stairs and the managed climb. We also have been successful in keeping people on stairs and trails at other sites including Kirk Park and Rosy Mound. So we feel we can be successful at Olive Shores as well and don't anticipate problems with people climbing the dune where we do not want them. Other people at the meeting commented and agreed that the dune is so steep that most people will choose the stairs.
- There are concerns that since parking permitted on Olive Shores Drive, people would park along the street rather than pay an entrance fee and wondering if the pedestrian access would provide easier use of the street parking. John Scholtz comment was that he felt that the pedestrian access was important to provide good



safe access for bicyclers, as well as people walking to the park. He did not feel that the elimination of the drive would deter people parking on the street. He also indicated that the Parks Department would work with Ottawa County Road Commission to explore the possibility of no parking along the front of the site.

- The question concerning fees for pedestrian. There will be no fees charged for people entering the park on foot or by bicycle.
- There was a question concerning the size of the overlook deck at the base of the dune. Jim DeWilde indicated that the deck would be approximately 20' x 20' feet. There was a concern that this could end up becoming a "party spot".
- There were comments relative to increased boat traffic, trash on the beach and lack of restroom facilities. John Scholtz responded: How will the County address these issues? We do not have the ability to control boats except by designating a swim area and keeping boats out of the designated area. He explained that Kirk Park and Rosy Mound both have a portion of the beach designated as swim area and a larger portion left undesignated where boats can land. At other parks, like Tunnel Park and North Beach, the entire waterfront is designated as swim area, so boats are not allowed. We will need to figure out the beat approach for Olive Shores. Regarding trash, John Scholtz indicated that we will have staff cleaning up the beach on a regular basis as we do at other parks. Trash complaints are not a problem at other county park beaches.
- There was a question on Park hours. Park Staff indicated that standard hours are 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the summer and 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the winter.
- There was a question if there will be rest stops along the length of the dune stairs. Jim DeWilde indicated that there will be landings with benches at different points along on the stairs.
- There was discussion about a temporary path that the County has placed for park users until development is completed. John Scholtz indicated that no signage for the park will be visible from the road and that a temporary path would be put in only to try to control erosion and direct park users to the beach. This will be done to try to avoid wondering on to adjacent properties. John also indicated that signs are being installed that mark the borders of the property and indicated "Private Property Beyond".
- There was a question if there would be a gate for the pedestrian access. John Scholtz indicated that there would be a gate for the pedestrian access.



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- There was a comment that Consumers Energy employees create a lot of traffic on the road and that the road is in poor condition.
- There was a request for copies of the plans to be available to the public. Curt TerHaar indicated that the plan would be placed on the County's website in the near future.

Following is a list of attendee that signed the "Sign-In" Sheet at the meeting.

Barbara Osgood

Sue and Don Piers

Marti Smith

Harv DeRidder

Roberta Skach

Allen Hunting

My name is Dan Williams and I own the property just South of the proposed county park on Olive Shores drive. I have received your communications relating to the Park and they have been quite helpful and informative. I also have met with a couple representatives from the Parks Department and they were extremely helpful in explaining their vision of the Park.

These are my comments and suggestions as a reply to the suggestions of the latest meeting in June:

1. I feel that the present location of the stairs down to the beach is good. The placement makes sense from the land layout perspective and is relatively equidistant from the neighboring homes on either side of the Park.
2. I do not think a defined swimming area is necessary at this point. The theme of the Park does not warrant that and there should be relatively few people looking to bring their family up and down the dune to go swimming. The boundary would be a negative to the neighboring home's views and enjoyment of their property. If needed this issue could be revisited at a later time.
3. I agree that a 50 car parking lot seems like a lot for the Park, but I defer to the Parks Department expertise on this issue.
4. Most importantly, I am quite concerned about the likely increase in traffic on the beach from boaters on the lake. We could see a significant amount of boaters/jetskiers parking in the water and going to the beach. This represents the greatest potential negative to the neighbors and is not in keeping with the general concept of the Park. I believe that this type of traffic will also be a detriment to the enjoyment of the park's users who will be using it for the park's intended use. I offer 2 suggestions which may be of benefit:
 1. Leave the dune grass on the beach as it is. It is beautiful, is in keeping with the Park's theme and makes the beach less inviting to boaters.
 2. As I understand, there will be a charge for use of the Park. There should definitely be a charge for access to the Park from the water. This would allow the parks department to control their users from the lake side and shrink the amount of users from the lake.

Thanks for your consideration,
Dan Williams
8427 Olive Shores Drive