

# BBAC Meeting Minutes – 6/16/16

## MINUTES

of the

### BROWN BRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### ANNUAL POTLUCK

THURSDAY, June 16, 2016

Brown Bridge Quiet Area – Bucks Landing

3405 Brown Bridge Road

Traverse City, MI 49696

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**Present:** Deni Scudato, Chair; Nelson Asper, Vice Chair; Marge Forgione; Jamie Kidwell-Brix; Kathleen Kasdorf; Dave Downer; Ed Flees; Paul Maxbauer; and Marty Colburn, City Manager.

**Absent:** Amy Shamroe; City Commissioner; Judy Nemitz; Michael Kreft.

**Others Present:** GTCD Staff - Steve Largent, and Reb Ratliff; Frank Dituri, GT Band & IT Chair; Cindy Porter (Nelson's Wife).

- I Call to Order:** After a wonderful potluck enjoyed by all, Chair Scudato called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.
- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Scudato stated that Action Items 5-1 and 5-2 from the May Special Meeting were missing from the Agenda. Motion by Asper; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flees to approve the Agenda as amended. Approved unanimously.
  - 2. Approval of 03/17/16 Regular Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Flees; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maxbauer to approve the minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.
  - 3. Approval of 5/25/16 Special Meeting Minutes:** Downer pointed out the minutes need to reflect discussion regarding the large wood project RFP to “ask respondents to describe what method(s) they will implement to limit environmental damage”. Motion by Kasdorf, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flees to approve the Special Meeting Minutes as amended. Approved unanimously

**II Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves to Nelson's wife Cindy

**III Public Comment:** Downer passed around copies of a complaint letter that he had prepared and submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality regarding streambank erosion at the Brown Bridge Quiet Area. Discussion ensued.

#### **IV Review of Open Action Items:**

**Action Item 5-1:** District staff to contact City Manager regarding the City's liability potential.

**Background:** The proposed placement of large habitat wood structures into the river has some potential liability concerns when it comes to paddlers. The BBAC wants to make sure the City's potential long-term liability risk receives due consideration.

**Status:** City Manager will review the proposed project with the City Attorney and City Clerk.

**Action Item 5-2:** District staff will follow-up with Shook to obtain a copy of habitat toe-wood design documents in the original plans and examples of similar projects to give the BBAC a better idea of what the structures will look like.

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**Background:** Regarding the proposed large habitat wood project the BBAC asked for examples of similar projects and if there were any such projects close-by that they might be able to visit.

**Status:** Pictures of similar projects were sent to the BBAC by the DJ Shook, GT Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Nate Winkler from CRA installed a similar project on the Manistee and when contacted by GTCD staff offered to take interested BBAC members on a field trip.

**Action Item 12-3:** GTCD staff to look at oil & gas leases and when they expire.

**Background:** This is a follow-up to Action Item 6-4-15 where at the direction of the BBAC Chairman, GTCD staff contacted the MDEQ's Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals to determine what, if any, wells at Brown Bridge had been "fracked". The result of that inquiry can be found in the 12/10/15 BBAC Meeting Minutes. **Status:** Open - No Action

**Action Item 12-4:** GTCD Staff to meet with the appropriate City staff to create a section on the City's website dedicated to Brown Bridge.

**Background:** City Manager Marty Colburn suggested that most City residents have heard of Brown Bridge but don't know anything about it or have never visited the property. The was in response to a City resident who suggested selling Brown Bridge to fund other City projects now that the dam is gone. By establishing a place on the City's website dedicated to Brown Bridge those that can't necessarily make it out to the property can keep up with what's happening and view the restoration and beauty of the area from home. **Status:** Colburn stated that he contacted the City's Clerk's office and there is a place on the City's website for Brown Bridge.

**Action Item 3-1:** GTCD staff to make a request to the City Commission through the City Manager to release funding dedicated for the East End footbridge.

**Background:** In September of last year the City Commission pledged up to \$300,000 from the new Brown Bridge Trust Parks Improvement Fund for improvements at the Brown Bridge Quiet Area. Construction/placement of a recreational trail connector footbridge over the river near Grasshopper Creek was part of that request. The estimated total cost of the project was \$80,000. It appears that the total cost will come in well under that estimate due to several donations including the footbridge and placement of that footbridge by National Guard Schnook helicopter. A request for approximately \$20,000 will be made to the City Commission at their July 5<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting. Staging of the bridge by the National Guard is scheduled for mid-August. **Status:** This request will be on the City Commission's July 5<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Agenda.

**Action Item 3-2:** GTCD Staff to obtain and distribute a copy of the City's donor recognition policy and anything that Hickory Hills may have already prepared regarding donor recognition.

**Background:** See below.

**Action Item 3-3:** GTCD Staff to come back with a donor recognition proposal for the BBAC to consider at the June meeting.

**Background:** Several requests have been made to recognize donors of goods, services, and cash to help implement the work plan at Brown Bridge including a request by the donor of the donated east end footbridge. The District will investigate potential policies, including the City's own recognition policy and report back to the BBAC at the July meeting.

**Status:** On Agenda – See Below for Status.

## V GTCD Update

**East End Footbridge:** Largent reported that he, the City Manager and Gabe Schneider of Northern Strategies 360, a governmental relation firm that is assisting with the

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arrangements with the National Guard, participated in a recent conference call with the National Guard. It appears that the Guard is willing to move the bridge at no cost to the City. Largent stated that it's been decided to "stage" the bridge onsite rather than attempt to place the bridge on the abutments. This would have required that several large white pine trees be cut down. Staging the bridge will require some clearing but not the large riverside white pine. The National Guard is projecting to be available near the end of August. GTCD staff will attend the July 5<sup>th</sup> Regular City Commission meeting to make a request for matching Brown Bridge Trust Park Improvement Fund match dollars.

**West End Footbridge:** Largent reported that the MDEQ permit is ready to be submitted and that Rotary's Friends of the Boardman Committee is planning another Gourmet Dinner Fundraiser for this project on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Country Club.

**Streambank Restoration:** Largent stated that the permit for this project has been submitted and is currently under consideration by the MDEQ.

**Shallow Wetland Project:** The same excavation company, Molon, who is doing the streambank restoration work upstream will construct the shallow wetland while on-site.

**Bottomlands Restoration:** Ratliff reported that nearly 20,000 trees have been planted in the bottomlands in the last couple years including several hundred cedars planted by the Grand Traverse Band. Cedars are a culturally important tree to the Native Americans.

**Additional Large Habitat Wood Project:** Dituri explained that the MDEQ has requested a hydraulic analysis be done. This may delay the project.

**VI Donor Recognition:** Largent passed around copies of the City's Naming Policy for Parks and other City Owned and Operated Facilities.

**Action Item:** GTCD staff to place this item on the September Agenda.

**VII Public Comment** – Largent reminded the group that they will be seeing signs regarding the upcoming election and his run for GT County Drain Commissioner. Discussion followed.

**VIII Adjourn:** 7:10 pm

### Next Meeting:

**Thursday, September 15, 2016 5:15 PM – Brown Bridge Pole Barn**

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by S. Largent.