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TO: Hamburg Township Board of Trustees

FROM: Deby Henneman, Township Coordinator

DATE: May 16, 2024

AGENDA ITEM TOPIC: Story Walks on The Mike Levine Lakelands Trail & in Manly Bennett Park
Locations Proposed: Village Trailhead & included as a feature in
Manly Bennett Park West Improvements Project #TF22-0107
Number of Supporting Documents: **Proposal and Presentation Slides**

Requested Action

Motion to direct Township Coordinator to work with the Great Start Livingston, Women United (Livingston County United Way), and Building & Grounds staff to coordinate and install Two (2) permanent Story Walk systems at locations to be finalized administratively, but which are currently proposed for the Village Trailhead (2024) in Hamburg and in Manly Bennett Park – West (2025). A budget at a cost not to exceed \$20,000 is requested in order to install ADA compliant pathways in both the Village Trailhead and West Park based on conceptual plans provided.

The story boards are a donation; however, some staffing costs and a small amount of materials should be anticipated for the story boards, as well as funding for auxiliary pathways leading from/to other paved surfaces such as the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail or the paved paths in Manly Bennett West. The proposed pathways are not currently covered under the grant funding provided under the Trust Fund grant.

Background

In early 2023, when preparing for the Spark Grant application for the trailhead restroom project, we were approached by Livingston County United Way to gauge interest in a story walk in our park system. A conceptual drawing (attached) was created for the Village Trailhead which included the proposed story walk, and since we have been approached by Great Start Livingston with a proposed 2nd story walk. The second location in Manly Bennett Park was suggested to be included in the “Park within a Park” concept being worked on for the MDNR Grant, which is due to be complete by summer 2025. A draft concept of the plan has been included in the packet.

The story walk panels will be permanently installed with the help of our staff, and maintained by the donor groups. The Park and Recreation Committee is in full support of this project, as is the Hamburg Community Library.

A sample Memorandum of Understanding has been attached for reference.

Motion by Parks & Recreation made at their 4/30/24 Meeting:

Motion by Muck, supported by Auxier, to support the concept/vision of a Story Walk at the Village Trailhead, and to request that the Park Coordinator speak to the donor to gauge the feasibility of installing the 2nd reading trail in Manly Bennett Park – West, to be incorporated in the “Park within a Park” project and to confirm the Memorandum of Understanding language prior to presenting final proposal to the board.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes: 5

MOTION CARRIED