

'Private' Reeds Lake park opened up to limited new members

BY JIAN HOLST
janh@advancegr.com

With a board vote to accept the Woodcliff Park Association's submitted rules, Grand Rapids Township has officially opened the way for non-association members to access the private park, which is located inside John Bonnell Parkland.

The under-an-acre parcel, which offers Reeds Lake access, boat slips, picnic areas, and playground, has been maintained by the association for decades. Although it is on township land, many people, including township officials, assumed the neighborhood group had exclusive rights to use the parcel, until last

summer when a group, known as Friends of Reeds Lake filed suit to open the gated and locked park to the public.

Although not named in the lawsuit, the township checked into the issue, and found no agreement between the WPA and Bonnell, who donated the land in 1911. The board then struck a deal with the WPA, allowing them to maintain the property for five years as long as they opened membership to 25 additional members of the public. The agreement also gave the township the right to approve the the association's rules.

The board struck a provision in the proposed rules that prohibited street parking, saying neither they nor

the association have jurisdiction over parking and extended the application deadline, which was set for March 15, by 45 days for the first year to give prospective members time to apply.

Fees for neighborhood residents are \$150 per year, \$300 per year for a group of close neighbors not already inside the association boundaries, \$750 per year for other Grand Rapids Township residents and \$1,500 per year for residents not living in Grand Rapids Township. There are additional fees for boat slips and other amenities. The park will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily and members are limited to six guests per visit.

Customer Value Coupons