

Grand Rapids Township to consider proposed settlement over disputed Bonnell Park access

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GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP — The Township Board is scheduled to look at a possible solution to a dispute over access to Bonnell Park.

The Woodcliff Park Association has used Bonnell Park, 3591 Reeds Lake Blvd. SE, as a neighborhood park for years. But last summer, a group called Friends of Reeds Lake filed suit against the association, maintaining that the land is public and that people are being run off it by neighborhood residents.

The association uses a parking lot, marina, kayak stations, a fire pit,

picnic tables and a swing set in the park. An entryway is locked and gated, and a “no trespassing” sign is posted in the park, part of 20 acres donated in 1911.

Under an agreement proposed by the association and the board, paid membership would be open to 25 nonresidents of the neighborhood. The agreement would also formalize the association’s use of the land, making it responsible for maintenance and liability.

The association would pay \$4,000 for each year through 2015 and \$1,100 annually after that, according to the proposal. The agreement would have to be renewed after five years.

The association’s lawyer, William Bowie, did not return calls for comment.

The board is scheduled to consider the agreement at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Township Hall, 1836 East Beltline Ave. SE.

