

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

January 16, 2018

Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. at Township Hall

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Tom Shuff called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Shuff thanked Michelle Sall for her service and introduced new member Kathleen Dearborn as a new committee member.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Johnson, Karen Simmons, Tom Shuff, Kathleen Dearborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Simmons to nominate Tom Shuff as Chair. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Shuff and seconded by Johnson to nominate Simmons as Vice Chair. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Dearborn to nominate Johnson as Treasurer. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Meshkin stated one more board member is needed and the open seat will be noticed in the newsletter. The individual must be a township resident for a minimum 30 days and a registered voter.

ARTICLE III. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATION

Meshkin said no communications were received. Shuff said he would like to have citizen comments on the agenda one time at the end of the meeting. Johnson agreed and Simmons said she is neutral but understands some residents prefer opportunities for comment at the beginning and end of the agenda. Dearborn agrees it makes more sense for comments to be at the end of the meeting.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Shuff and seconded by Johnson to amend the agenda to provide citizen comments at the end of the agenda only. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Mitra Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue objected to the omission of citizen comments at the beginning of the agenda. Delaney also commented that she was unaware of the change in date for the November meeting. She is particularly concerned with the vote taken at the November 28 meeting to move the Old Township Hall from its current historic site to the Huyser Farm property.

Karen Massengill of 6271 143rd Avenue reiterated Delaney's comments adding that she is impressed with the communication of this board with its residents. She asked that the commission reconsider altering the agenda. Massengill is mortified that the same issues are being discussed repeatedly when residents have expressed their disapproval, particularly concerning the move of the Old Township Hall from its historical site for use as restrooms. The consideration of using the site for a cemetery is ridiculous. Massengill asked if the plan for the Huyser Farm project is in draft form or if it has moved past that point. Simmons asked for clarification and Massengill responded that previously there were two proposals on the table for use of the farm and asked if they are still pending. Simmons responded that they are not.

Delaney recommended Sherri Circo, current caretaker of the Huyser Farm, be nominated for the open seat on the Parks Commission.

Sherri Circo said she would be honored to be on the Parks Commission.

ARTICLE IV. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Simmons seconded by Johnson to approve the November 28, 2018 minutes as written. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills to be paid as of November and December 2018 were reviewed. Maintenance: Graafschap Hardware - \$11.99 (Nov), Jason Schrottenboer - \$1,690.00 (Nov), No Waste Bark and Wood - \$225.00 (Dec), Deane Wassink - \$1500.00 (Dec), Busscher's Pumping - \$880.00 (Dec) Contracted Services: John Kunkel - \$155.00 (Nov), \$150.00 (Dec), Consumers Energy - \$51.18 (Nov), \$150.00 (Dec) Electricity - \$51.18 (Nov), \$150.00 (Dec); Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$180.00 (Nov), \$180.00 (Dec); Taxes: \$13.77 (Nov), \$13.39 (Dec).

Johnson reviewed the report stating all within the norm except invoice for the dune grass invoice came later than expected.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Dearborn to approve the Treasurer's Reports as submitted for the months of November and December. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – Meshkin

- a. Meshkin reported that no action was taken related to the parks. The Township Board voted to prohibit marijuana sales in the township.

ARTICLE VII. STAFF REPORTS – Meshkin

- a. Meshkin reported the City of Holland completed and shared their master plan for the Lakeview School property for an estimated cost of \$3 million. Meshkin invited the contractor addressing the invasive species at Sanctuary Woods to attend a future meeting to discuss a plan for the upcoming season. Meshkin advised that the addition of a cemetery is a Township Board decision and not a Parks matter as is the appointment of a person to fill the open seat on the Parks Commission. Anyone interested in being considered for the seat should submit an application to the Township Supervisor or Manager. The new maintenance staff person, Brett Graham will start in February. Simmons asked if the green house at Huyser is empty and Meshkin responded that it is but there is some refuge that will be removed. Dearborn asked if the dune grass is marked so people don't walk thru it. Meshkin said we try to control it but there is snow fencing near it and signs, without 24/7 surveillance or cameras it is impossible to police.

ARTICLE VIII. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT – Circo

Sherrie Circo said the green house has been vacated but it is loaded with garbage and junk. She questioned if all of it should be burned or if there is hazardous material that should be removed first. Circo asked if it is possible to get a dumpster on the property to get rid of the junk in the sheds and around the house.

ARTICLE IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. GRANT UPDATE

Meshkin reported that we have closed on the purchase of the three smaller parcels by the beach. The property owners accepted the appraised value and they also donated 25% of the cost resulting in a total cost to the township at approximately \$5-6,000. Meshkin will continue to work with the owner of the remaining parcels.

B. BLUE STAR NON-MOTORIZED UPDATE

Meshkin reported that he had a discussion with MDOT to secure additional for the 2.2 miles of non-motorized path along Blue Star Highway spanning from 64th to 60th Street at a cost of approximately \$400,000. Johnson added that there is a lot of public support for the overall project that would eventually span from Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids intersecting through South Haven, Laketown and Holland.

C. OLD TOWNSHIP HALL UPDATE

Meshkin reiterated that the green house on the Huyser Farm is empty and what is left is junk. An asbestos inspection must be done prior to burning the structure. The goal is to have this done by the end of March. Dearborn asked if there will be a check of other chemicals before burn. Meshkin said no but an excavator will remove the foundation and level it. This is the first step toward the proposed move of the Old Township Hall to this site.

ARTICLE X. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2019-20 BUDGET

Meshkin reviewed the budget noting the maintenance cost increased due to the dune grass and beach stair maintenance/contracted services. The \$20,000 in capital outlay is an estimate to finish clearing the green house site and construction of a crawl space and the actual move of the Old Township Hall. The \$20,647 under park development is the final payment of the Township Hall Park.

Johnson asked how many more years before the Beeline bike path is paid and Meshkin said May 2019; the next big phase would be Blue Star non-motorized path; 147th Avenue bike path resurfacing and 62nd street repair work. All of the asphalt paths will need resurfacing as they are coming up on 20 years. That will be for the focus for 2020 or 2021. The seed money under engineering is for the blue Star path. Johnson asked if the wages for the maintenance staff is in this budget and Meshkin responded that it is paid out of the general fund.

Following discussion **a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Dearborn to approve the budget for recommendation to the Township Board. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE XI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Massengill of 6271 143rd Avenue asked if there will be feedback and answers provided to citizen questions during the comment section of the agenda. Simmons said she doesn't have a problem answering the questions and Shuff added that he will not entertain a debate format. Massengill asked if the Old Township Hall will still be under the Parks' jurisdiction if it is moved. Meshkin confirmed the hall will be under the Parks and the cemetery is under the Township Board's jurisdiction.

Delaney of 6298 144th Avenue reiterated that many residents do not want the Old Township Hall moved from its historic site. Delaney asked again how to maintain citizen comments at the beginning and end of the meeting agenda and Shuff said the commission took a vote and it will not revert to the old format. Delaney questioned the Parks Commission authority on the final say of the move of the hall and Meshkin advised that it is the Parks' Commission authority.

Massengill reiterated her objection to the move of the Old Township Hall and disregard for the residents' input on the project.

Michelle Sall of 3862 61st Street requested that consideration be given to an east and west route for a bike path in the township as there is very little access in those directions, particularly on 140th Avenue from Beeline to 60th Street.

Ray Jurgen of 6519 142nd Avenue asked if there would be more development of the Huyser Farm property. Johnson said it is not allowed to be developed. Jurgen proposed putting in an equestrian trail on the property.

ARTICLE XII. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.