

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

January 19, 2022
Regular meeting
6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Shuff called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, Tom Shuff, Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Brett Grams – Parks maintenance
Jim Hayden – Recording secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Becker, second by Van Hoven, to approve Nov. 17, 2021, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT – The commission discussed the bills for October, November and December. Commissioners had questions on bills for pizza and October electric bill.

Motion by Becker, second by Simmons, to approve bills for October, November and December but not bills for pizza and October electric bill. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – No report

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported he has cleaned an area for the new sign at Huyser Farm Park and cleared many fallen limbs and trees after recent storms.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tom Page and Abbie Hewett gave a status update on the gathering of information for a possible parks millage request. They have interviewed parks commissioners, staff and residents. Comments have included positives on customer service, variety of parks. Complaints have included lack of restrooms, signage, dirt parking lots. Suggestions

included prioritizing walkers and bicyclists, updating website making it easier to find information. Shuff requested a written copy of the comments.

B. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER

The commission discussed sign designs from Patty Meyer. The commission wants the signs to be positive. Shuff will give the following guidelines to Meyer for the signs:

- Include paths with time it takes to walk them
- Information with no clutter
- Be concise and useful, possibly have a QR code to reference website
- Keep design consistent, such as the same shape for all signs (Meyer to determine shape)

Becker suggested parks commissioners visit all parks in the spring or consider having the commission as a group meet at each park, following the rules of the Open Meetings Act.

C. SANCTUARY WOODS DISCUSSION

The commission discussed a deer hunt at Sanctuary Woods. Brand spoke with a Hope College professor and another person who runs a nature preserve in Indiana. The professor said a decrease in deer will not decrease Lyme disease chances. Brand said the professor would do a deer population study if requested.

Shuff said hunting in parks is prohibited by ordinance in township parks; Simmons said Sanctuary Woods not a good place for deer hunt; Becker does not want hunting in Sanctuary Woods because deer could be hit with an arrow then die on private property.

Motion by Becker, second by Van Hoven, to prohibit hunting in all township parks as is in the township ordinances except for the special hunt in Huyser Farm Park as already established. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS -- None

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jim Delaney, 6298 144th Ave.: Acknowledged Tom Page.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.