

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

February 19, 2020
Regular Meeting
6:00 P.M. at Township Hall

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Tom Shuff called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Simmons, Tom Shuff, Kathleen Dearborn,
Ellen Fitch
MEMBERS ABSENT: Dick Becker
STAFF PRESENT: Brett Grams – Parks Maintenance
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Fitch seconded by Simmons to approve the January 15, 2020 minutes as written. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills to be paid as of January 2020 were reviewed. Maintenance: Jon’s To Go - \$369.25; Contracted Services: John Kunkel - \$155.00; Electricity: Consumers Energy - \$175.25; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$180.00; Payroll: \$650.00; Taxes: \$63.50.

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

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – SALL

Michelle Sall reported salary resolutions and rental ordinances were discussed at the Township Board meeting. The Township Master Plan Draft has been put on the township website.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS – GRAMS

Grams stated that the LETA sign has been covered at Farview Park. The parking lot will be graded in the spring. Grams asked for clarification on the bridge being driven over at Huyser Farm. Grams has noticed quad tracks but has not seen automobile tracks on or near the bridge. Circo said during in-season there are cars that go back there. Grams has repaired the broken boards where feasible and also suggested putting a fence post and gate to block off access. Simmons commented that people were ice fishing at Farview Park last week.

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT - CIRCO

Circo had nothing to report. Shuff commented that a neighbor brought a citation to him for his dog not being leashed at Sanctuary Woods. It was issued by Allegan County Animal Control.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. WELCOMING SIGNS

Dearborn reported that she and Karen have done research and propose including the history of each park on the signs. Fitch said there is history in the Parks Commission Plan. Shuff cautioned that the signs maintain the welcoming aspect of the sign and not a list of rules. Simmons noted that brevity is preferred but also uniformity in the information provided. Simmons said she and Dearborn will continue to work on a sample for presentation at the next meeting. Fitch stated that LETA used to be responsible for trail clearing and Simmons said they also maintained the trail clearance among other things. Dearborn feels the trail should be better cleaned and marked. Fitch said there would have to be quite an effort to upgrade the trails at Farview Park. Shuff would like to see the deadwood trimmed back. Dearborn said if the right side of the trail remains an equestrian trail, it must be noted that riders ride at their own risk. Concern was expressed that the current trails are a liability. Dearborn suggested having trail signs and a map for each park including notes about natural habitat spaces. Dearborn will email Meshkin about park maps.

B. PARKS MILLAGE DISCUSSION

Shuff noted five items he feels could be addressed with a Parks Millage: beautification of parks; control of invasive species; addition of new facilities, water, electrical, restrooms; consideration for a dog park and kids' facilities in some parks. Dearborn said she would like money to hire another parks maintenance person. Shuff said it will be a massive PR effort. Fitch said we need to start out with a millage that will support mostly maintenance

and not capital improvements. Commissioners discussed self-contained biodegradable toilets for the parks. Fitch said the problem is that restrooms are very expensive. Simmons said that lack of year-around sun may be a problem for solar technology supported restrooms. Dearborn said she understands that solar energy harms birds. Shuff suggests discussing a timeline with Meshkin. He also suggested using an outside firm to support the effort of marketing the initiative. Shuff will discuss with Meshkin the option of hiring consultant. Dearborn suggested a workgroup outside of the regular Parks Commission meeting. Sall stated that if there is a quorum for the meeting, it must be noticed to the public. Grams noted that Meshkin will not be available for the next parks meeting until April 15. Fitch said she has been referencing the parks plan for the future parks projects.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Shuff and seconded by Fitch to adjourn the meeting at 6:37p.m. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED