

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

April 20, 2022  
Regular meeting  
6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Karen Simmons called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker (Zoom, non-voting), Anne Brand, Tom Shuff (late via Zoom, voting), Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager via Zoom  
Brett Grams – Parks maintenance  
Jim Hayden – Recording secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion by Van Hoven, second by Brand, to approve March 16, 2022, minutes. Simmons called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.**

**Motion by Brand, second by Van Hoven, to approve April 13, 2022, special meeting minutes. Simmons called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT – The commission discussed the bills for March.

**Motion by Van Hoven, second by Simmons, to approve bills for March. Simmons called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – No report (Shuff begins chairperson role at 6:04 p.m.)

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported the new sweeper is being used on the multi-use paths.

Meshkin discussed a proposed biodiversity study at Sanctuary Woods by Hannah-Maria Jacques, Ph.D. She is seeking permission to be in the park. No township funds involved.

**Motion by Van Hoven, second by Brand, to accept the proposal from Hannah-Maria Jacques, Ph.D., to perform a biodiversity study at Sanctuary Woods. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER

Patty Meyer, director of the Friends of the Felt Estate, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding proposed informational and welcome signs for each park. She highlighted that the signs need to be unobtrusive, have positive behavior suggestions and have consistent branding. Number of signs should be minimal.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. BOND PROPOSAL

Meshkin discussed the steps for a bond proposal for the November ballot to pay for restrooms in all the township parks.

**Motion by Simmons, second by Brand, to ask the township board to put a bond proposal on the November ballot for not to exceed \$1.5 million for not to exceed 5 years for modern restroom facilities in all township parks. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.**

B. HANDICAP PARKING & ACCESS

The commission discussed handicap parking spaces at parks and requested Grams do an inventory of handicap spots in the parks and where ones could be added.

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Karen Massengill, 6271 143<sup>rd</sup> Ave.: Letter submitted. Would like to track parks usage. Opposes additional millage.

The commission discussed the use of golf carts in parks. Shuff suggested more discussion at a later meeting about allowing motorized vehicles such as golf carts in parks. Van Hoven proposed a voucher system with Oval Beach to get Laketown residents with disabilities to the Lake Michigan shore.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Simmons, second by Van Hoven, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.**