

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

April 21, 2021
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, Tom Shuff, Karen Simmons,
Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathleen Dearborn

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – township manager
Brett Grams – parks maintenance
Jim Hayden – recording secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Van Hoven seconded by Becker to approve Feb. 17, 2021, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Simmons seconded by Van Hoven to approve the Treasurer's Report. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Grams reported he has been replacing benches, acquired paint to cover graffiti, power-washed the fence at Huyser Farm, keeping parks clean. Has used the new leaf blower and has been shoveling sand off stairs.

Shuff has been contacted by Park Church looking to adopt a park. Meshkin asked the church to appoint a supervisor for people doing work. Shuff will pursue.

Meshkin said he had a pre-construction meeting with the pickleball court contractor. Work should begin at the end of June and finish at end of August. He is also investigating restrooms at all parks.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS -- None

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT

Grams reminded the board that Day of Caring participants from Macatawa Bank asked to come back in the spring to help shovel sand off stairs. Becker will check to see if they are still interested.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER. -- None

B. MEMORIAL BENCH.

Shuff said the township has received about \$700 in contributions in memory of former Commissioner Ellen Fitch. The commission discussed where to locate a bench – possibly Huyser Farm, pickleball courts, at park trails -- and the plaque. Meshkin said he will draft wording for a plaque and pass it to commissioners. **Motion by Becker seconded by Van Hoven to have Meshkin order the bench. Shuff called for a vote on the motion.**

UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. NATIONAL TRAILS DAY PROCLAMATION – Chris Clark.

Chris Clark presented plans for National Trails Day on June 5 and discussed buying trail markers for Huyser Farm. The commission will have someone staff Farview Nature Park to cover four of the six hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to stamp Trails Day documents. Clark will get more information about trail markers for the commission. **Motion by Simmons seconded by Becker to have parks commission chairman and township board supervisor sign the National Trails Day Proclamation as presented. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED.**

B. PARKS PUBLIC RELATIONS – Tom Page.

Tom Page addressed the board about possible strategies for promoting Laketown Township parks and a possible parks and recreation millage.

ARTICLE IX. CITIZENS COMMENTS -- None

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.