

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

May 15, 2019

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 welcomed new Commissioner Retired Admiral Dick Becker.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Simmons, Tom Shuff, Kathleen Dearborn,  
Ellen Fitch, Dick Becker

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Simmons seconded by Fitch to approve the April 17, 2019 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 April 2019 were reviewed. Maintenance: Jon's to Go \$785.97, Busscher's Pumping - \$295.00, Heavener - \$6,878.50, Republic Services - \$1,732.34, Capital One Commerica - \$25.74; Contracted Services: Contracted Services - \$73.85, Outdoor Discovery Center - \$1,100.00, Jason Schrotenboer - \$2,000.00; Electricity - \$52.69; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$180.00; Payroll: \$590.00; Taxes: \$58.91.

Shuff asked for clarification on the invoices and Meshkin provided explanations.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Fitch to approve the Treasurer's Reports as submitted for the month of April.**

**Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Following discussion, a **motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Becker to appoint Fitch as Parks Commission Treasurer. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – Meshkin

- a. Meshkin reported that the Township Board met in closed session to consider a settlement for the Halcyon Hills lawsuit. A mediation process occurred and the settlement is pending the judge’s signature. It was agreed that three signs will be installed to notice private property and 185 hours of Allegan County Sheriff time be requested of the county. It was also agreed to increase the fines of the parking tickets to \$50.00.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS – Meshkin

- a. Meshkin had nothing to report.

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT – Circo

Sherrie Sirko reported it is the most beautiful time right now for the park and the farm looks great in peak season. Sirko asked who is going to demolition the house as there are strict guidelines. This will be addressed later in the agenda.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. GRANT UPDATE

Meshkin stated there is nothing new to report.

B. BLUE STAR NON-MOTORIZED UPDATE

Meshkin provided an update on the grant and preliminary engineering work this year and construction is anticipated for 2023. A 2007 and 2019 map comparison was provided for review. The previous bike path along Beeline cost \$1.6 million and grants equated to \$1.1 million with \$500,000 financed by the township. This was paid off this year. The Blue Star path would service a significant part of the township not currently served. Letters of support are needed from Fillmore Township and City of Holland. The two miles will cost an estimated \$2 million with \$500,000 secured with two grants so far and plans to apply

for an MDOT TAP grant. It is anticipated overall cost of the project to the township would be 20% or \$400,000. Continuity, connectivity of regional areas is the focus of the grant application. Becker suggested the non-motorized map be included in the Master Plan the planning commission is working on.

#### C. HUYSER GREEN HOUSE

Meshkin reported the demolition contractor will be out this week. The contractor also has asbestos certification. It will be a complete demolition of the house, foundation, septic system, etc. and will be filled for a complete clean site. The cost is estimated at \$7,000.

#### D. PICKLE BALL

Meshkin reviewed previous discussion that occurred during the planning of the Township Hall Recreation Park noting that it was cost prohibitive to install pickle ball courts. Becker said many people want them but it doesn't seem that people use them. Shuff said we have to determine if people want them and if we have the money to do it. Becker suggested a tennis court and painting one for a pickle ball court. Meshkin suggested if serious, take the time and money to contract with a design firm to create a feasible plan.

#### E. INVASIVE SPECIES

Meshkin referred to the HCHS volunteer group to remove the garlic mustard removal. Meshkin asked for a volunteer to lead the volunteer group at Sanctuary Woods and potentially Huyser Farm on Friday. Ellen Fitch volunteered as did Tom Shuff.

### ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. PARK SIGNS

Meshkin reviewed the letter from Lloyd Wolters and provided a draft of a potential uniform sample for the park signs. The estimated cost for a single face sign is \$8,000 per sign with a potential life of 25-30 years. There is potential to reduce the cost if the installation is done by the township and making the signs smaller. It would be a foam sign on cedar posts. It was agreed that Meshkin will continue to work with the vendor on design and pricing. The plan would be to do one to two signs per year and eventually do all the parks with uniform signage.

### ARTICLE IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS 3862

Michelle Sall of 61<sup>st</sup> Street asked for pictures of the Friday volunteer group for the newsletter. She is also having a small group of volunteers on Monday at the cemetery for four hours and if time allows will move to Shore Acres. Sall requested to erect trash

receptacle holders to be mounted to a 4 x 8 post for trash and animal waste in all parks that allow dogs.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Fitch and seconded by Simmons to approve the installation of the waste receptacles not to exceed \$100 in cost to be installed at each of the dog friendly parks. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

**Shuff adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm.**