

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

Regular Meeting at 7:00PM

May 16, 2018

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michelle Sall called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Sall, Ryan Bosscher,
Tom Shuff, Karen Simmons
MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Johnson
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Sall received an email from Linda Howell from regarding a resident expressing concern about dirt and gravel on the bike paths and corners along 64th Street.

Bosscher received correspondence from Mitra Delaney addressing the following items: a park bench and board walk in need of repair and water between the dock and boardwalk at Farview Park; fencing bordering a private residence at Wolter's Woods; the door on the red barn at Huyser Farm is in need of repair. Meshkin noted that he spoke to the resident regarding the fence at Wolter's Woods and he will be doing the repair and submitting expenses to the township.

ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Sall seconded by Bosscher to approve the April 18, 2018 minutes with corrections as noted. Sall called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills to be paid as of April 2018 were reviewed. Maintenance: Veldhof – \$442.50, Chef Container - \$137.83, Graafschap Hardware - \$10.80, Heavener - \$7,256.00, Jason Schrotenboer - \$2,000.00; Contracted Services: Outdoor Discovery Center - \$1,000.00; Electricity - \$51.14; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$180.00, Payroll - \$875.00; Taxes: \$80.70.

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

ARTICLE V. MSU UPDATE BY STEVE VAN TIMMERMEN

Steve Van Timmermen provided a hand-out regarding the work that is being done at Huyser Farm. Van Timmermen said the Huyser Farm is a valuable place to do research due to its organic state. A study is being done on a fly that lands on fruit and traps have been put in place over the course of the season to study its habits and effect on the blueberries. The data collected is currently being analyzed and will be published soon. Husyer also has honeysuckle bushes that the flies attach to. There is a fly from Asia that is also being studied that are attacked by very tiny wasps. Also doing research on blueberry stem galls wherein a wasp attaches to the stem and destroys it. Van Timmermen stated that the MSU Extension is based in Fennville and invited those interested in learning more to stop at the office. Shuff asked if the objective is to get a blueberry that is pesticide free and healthy to eat. Van Timmermen said they are working to keep the fruit free of the larvae. Meshkin said 20-25 years ago the township released thousands of wasps to destroy the gypsy moths. Meshkin suggested MSU put up signs at Huyser to communicate the partnership and work that is being done there.

ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – Sall

- a. Sall said there was little to report other than the street light at 142nd Avenue and resignation of Bob Slikkers from the Planning Commission; a presentation by Judge Baillargeon; representatives running for office.

ARTICLE VII. STAFF REPORTS – Meshkin

- a. Meshkin reported that he and Dan Williams will look at Huyser Farm on Thursday in preparation of the volunteer work day planned for Saturday. He will also meet the senior serve students at Laketown Beach to advise the work that needs to be done. Dean Wassink, a supplier for the beach grass has offered to create a plan to manage the erosion at the beach. Williams has been working on downed trees at several parks and will work to repair the stairs at Sanctuary Woods. Williams has also be doing work at the mansion in preparation of the summer season.

ARTICLE VIII. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT

Sherri Circo reported that the gentleman taking down the barn at Huyser knocked down the door on the red barn. Circo expressed gratitude for the work Jim Johnson had done with her to tag trees and cut back brush, particularly in the front of the house. Circo asked how or where to dispose of the brush and Meshkin advised that it should be hauled into the woods. Meshkin will have Williams reattach the barn door. Circo said a major problem at Huyser and in many of the township parks is the vines attaching to the trees. She feels that if it is not addressed, it will damage many of the trees in the parks.

ARTICLE IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. LAKETOWN BEACH SIGNS

Bosscher provided the proposal from DeWitt and asked if the township will purchase the signs or if DeWitt will. Meshkin responded that he had already ordered the signs but has reservations with putting them in place until a survey is done. Meshkin referenced Michigan Supreme Court ruling on public right of access and also noted a recent Indiana Supreme Court ruling.

ARTICLE X. NEW BUSINESS

A. HOLLAND CITY PARKS PROPOSAL

Bosscher explained Lakeview School Park is in the City of Holland at 32nd Street and Lugers Road. The City has invited Laketown to collaborate to make improvements on the park. The City is requesting \$2,000 for the design work and Bosscher provided statistics on the number of residents within a quarter and half mile of the park, noting a considerable amount of residents would be served by this park.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Shuff and seconded by Simmons to approve the \$2,000 expenditure for the design work contingent on creating a memorandum of understanding with City of Holland.**

Meshkin cautioned that the intent for involvement and expectations of the partnership be defined and documented. Simmons asked if we want responsibility with this park. Shuff said we have many developments near this park and it would be nice to have some control over it; it is a win win that the City wants to work with the Township. **Sall called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. FARVIEW DOCK

Sall said the issue is the dock barrels are filling with water. Sall suggests buying two new barrels and put them under the dock. Meshkin will work with Noah Sall to coordinate the

repair. Shuff asked about the structure that is in the park. Meshkin said it is a way station, a historical building from the interurban.

C. LAKETOWN STAIRS

Bosscher asked about the leaning stairs at the beach and Meshkin said he has no update. Bosscher feels it is a safety hazard. Sall will ask Johnson to send pictures of it Meshkin for review.

D. SUMMER MEET AND GREET

Sall suggested planning a meet and greet for residents prior to a Parks meeting. The commissioners agreed and will discuss a date and location at the next meeting.

ARTICLE XI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A resident asked if there is no such thing as a private beach. Meshkin said right now, there has not been a court decision on if people can sit on the beach; the ruling only touched on walking and not sitting. Circo argued that the property owner has the right to tell the trespasser to leave and it is up to the violator to appeal in court.

ARTICLE XII. ADJOURNMENT

Sall adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.