

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

May 19, 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, Kathleen Dearborn (6:07 p.m.),  
Tom Shuff, Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion by Becker, seconded by Simmons, to approve April 21, 2021, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Meshkin reviewed the May 12, 2021, township board meeting.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS –

Grams reported that a volunteer group from Macatawa Bank will be clearing the stairs at Laketown Beach on Tuesday, May 25. Grams has the paint to cover the graffiti at Sanctuary Woods trestle and will work on it as soon as possible.

#### ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT

The commission agreed to remove this item from the agenda and receive information about the Huyser site under "Township Reports" or where appropriate.

#### ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

##### A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER

Van Hoven said residents along the beach have had groups of people using their private decks and asked if the township could put up signs noting where public property ends. Meshkin will investigate possible border fencing and signs. Dearborn is working on welcoming signs.

##### B. MEMORIAL BENCH

Meshkin presented a proposed sketch of the plaque to be put on the bench memorializing Ellen Fitch. The commission agreed to add to the plaque that Fitch was a Laketown Township Parks Commission member. The commission discussed where to place the bench, including the new pickleball courts for visibility or at Huyser Farm by the milkweed garden. The commission will continue discussion at the next meeting,

##### C. PARKS PUBLIC RELATIONS

The commission discussed the April 21 presentation by Tom Page regarding a possible parks millage. Commissioners discussed the need to prioritize projects and consider how much a millage should be or even if a millage should be on the ballot. The idea of a bond was also discussed. Shuff instructed commissioners to come back to the June meeting with three items needed for parks and prioritize them.

#### ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. TRAIL MARKERS FOR HUYSER AND FARVIEW

The commission discussed what type of trail markers and how many to purchase. Meshkin will do more research, get some samples of designs, materials and costs.

B. SHORE ACRES MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

Mark Kappel, longtime caretaker of the mountain bike trail at Shore Acres Park, is stepping back from the project. The Michigan's Edge Mountain Biking Association would like to continue the maintenance and improve the riding experience for participants per emails from group member Kirk Walter to Meshkin. Commissioners discussed the topic and agreed they are open to looking at any proposal from MEMBA for the park.

ARTICLE IX. CITIZENS COMMENTS -- None

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 7 p.m.