

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
4338 BEELINE ROAD
HOLLAND, MI 49423

May 17, 2023
Regular meeting
6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Sall – Community development director
Brett Grams – Facilities operations
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion by Simmons, second by Becker, to appoint Jeremy Van Hoven chairperson of the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission effective immediately. Simmons called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Brand, second by Becker, to appoint Karen Simmons vice chairperson of the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission effective immediately. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Simmons, second by Brand, to appoint Dick Becker treasurer of the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission effective immediately. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Simmons, second by Brand, to approve March 15, 2023, minutes. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT – The commission discussed the bills. **Motion by Simmons, second by Brand, to approve bills for March and April as presented. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Sall reported the township set up a three-member committee to help choose a new parks commissioner. The committee needs one member from the parks commission. Simmons volunteered to serve on the committee.

ARTICLE VI. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported that he is replacing 80 boards in the boardwalk structures along the multi-use paths.

Simmons said she wanted another spot on the agenda for citizen comments. **Motion by Simmons, second by Brand, to add Citizen Comments before Old Business and keep Citizen Comments after New Business with all comments limited to 3 minutes. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Comments started at 6:12 p.m.

Karen Massengill, no address given: Asked why parks commission is receiving updates from other boards (Van Hoven responded that board updates tell the parks commission what's going on).

Tom Hoekman, 4174 62nd St.: Asked how to contact parks commissioners if they have no township emails; How are minutes handled; Is bike path under parks (Simmons answered); Is cemetery under parks (Sall answered).

Sall and Grams told the commission about work at the cemetery.

Jim Johnson, no address given: Came to see the parks commission.

Comments ended at 6:23 p.m.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER – Van Hoven explained the signs.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN PROCESS STEPS

Sall explained the updating of the master plan for parks and recreation. She handed out a timeline, proposed post card to highlight public events, assessment survey and parks evaluation.

Commissioners discussed the process and items handed out. Commissioners asked audience members for input.

The commission decided to have meet-and-greets on the following dates:

- Thursday, June 8, at 6 p.m. at the township hall. Simmons will attend.
- Saturday, June 10, at 9 a.m. at the township hall. Van Hoven will attend.
- Thursday, July 13, at 6 p.m. at the township hall. Becker will attend.
- Saturday, July 15, at 10 a.m. at the township hall. Brand will attend.

Sall asked the commission to review text updates for June meeting.

Simmons said to do a web survey. Brand will compile results, said to post survey in June.

Board members will visit specific parks:

- Becker: Sanctuary Woods
- Brand: Shore Acres, Township Hall
- Simmons: Huyser, Farview
- Van Hoven: Beach, Wolters

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Comments started at 7:23 p.m.

Simmons asked how agendas are compiled. Sall responded chair does them.

Simmons said she wants meetings recorded.

Tom Hoekman, 4174 62nd St.: Would like historical items of parks displayed; Have meetings recorded and posted (Sall responded with concerns and that the parks commission should bring this up with the township manager; Van Hoven said he is not opposed to recording meetings).

Jim Johnson, no address given: Said people on Zoom can record meeting; Asked about condition of ball field (Grams updated the status); Asked about blueberry fields at Huyser Farm (Grams said a resident is trimming bushes); Asked about monarch butterfly area; Asked about Day of Caring and asked if those volunteers could clean up around Huyser.

Karen Massengill, no address given: Said township hall has milkweed; Said a Laketown gardeners group would help.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Simmons, second by Becker, to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.