

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

July 17, 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.

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 Becker seconded by Dearborn to approve the May 15, 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 June 2019 were reviewed. Maintenance: Jon’s to Go \$443.10, Republic Services - \$1,732.34, Capital One Commercial - \$53.02, CDR Equipment Rentals - \$70.00, Accent Sign & Graphic - \$22.00, Michelle Sall - \$64.98; Supplies: Robert Jerow - \$10.00; Contracted Services: John Kunkel - \$155.00; Capital Outlay: Consumers Energy - \$6,553.20; Land Acquisition: Macatawa Bank - \$20,645.08 Electricity - \$50.80; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$180.00; Taxes: \$13.77.

Becker asked for details on the Menards and hardware bill and Meshkin explained that it is for Parks and the Fire Department, which he assigns to the proper account accordingly. Becker asked for more detail on the Menards invoices in the future. Meshkin will do so in the future.

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

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

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – Meshkin

- a. Meshkin reported there was nothing related to parks.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS – Meshkin

- a. Meshkin reported that backyard at the Township Hall and the bike paths are both paid off. Becker suggested this information be put in the newsletter. A crew from the City of Holland was out for one day working in the parks. Brett is busy in the parks and Jason is keeping the beach clean. Someone is dumping trash at Sanctuary Woods. Simmons asked if there is any major work being done by Brett. Meshkin said a lot of downed trees; repair the washout on a bike path; Wolters Woods near the shuffleboard concrete slab cut out for fiber optic. The green house at Huyser farm has been demolished. Dearborn said she was at Laketown Beach and could not find the bike rack due to it being buried in the sand.

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT – No report.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. GRANT UPDATE

Meshkin reported that he continues to work on it but it is a slow process.

B. BLUE STAR NON-MOTORIZED UPDATE

Meshkin said there is no update on this. Shuff asked for clarification on the trail. Meshkin said the Blue Star starts on 64<sup>th</sup> Street and the Laketown portion will start at 60<sup>th</sup> Street. The path on Beeline is considered part of the Blue Star path. The Laketown and Blue Star initiatives will be completed by approximately 2023 with the exception of the bridge which is the responsibility of the state.

### C. MEAT & GREET

Becker suggested combining it with a board meeting and charging for the meal with proceeds going toward a Parks initiative. Shuff said there was low attendance at the last two events. Dearborn suggested doing it at the Felt before the concerts and Meshkin said we already have food vendors committed. Shuff suggested better marketing and Becker proposed waiting a year. Meshkin suggested combining it with the Fire Department's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pancake Breakfast event. Dearborn suggested the Allegan County Fair. Shuff suggested having nametags for all commissioners. Meshkin confirmed with Chief Den Bleyker about the Parks Commission joining their event.

## ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. DAY OF CARING

Meshkin said the date is Thursday, September 19 and Michelle Sall offered to organize the event. She asked that the Commission provide projects for the event. Fitch asked for history on what has been done in the past. Sall explained there are typically 100+ volunteers that do a variety of tasks in many of the parks, i.e., painting, trail clearing, landscaping, etc. Sall would like to know what parks and what time to have the volunteers identifying projects no later than August 5 for submittal to Greater Ottawa County United Way by the 9<sup>th</sup>. Shuff said he would do an audit of the parks and forward his notes to Meshkin.

Sall reported that she put the trash receptacles in each of the parks and noted they were heavily used.

Dearborn said she noticed a lot of signs of religious connotation on the trail at Laketown Beach. Meshkin will have Brett check and he will also follow up with the nearby property owner.

## ARTICLE IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bill and Linda Casanova of 6750 Halcyon Drive President of the Halcyon Association said he would like to start by explaining his background; a colleague of his wife was a CEO of a corporation and of a railroad, very simple he in his arena wanted to make sure the rails and employees would be on top of their game. He constantly, once a quarter would go to his territory and employees on the trains to ensure safety and quality. This was his practice of what he did. This equates here, how many times have you been each park throughout the year? Casanova feels it is important for the commissioners to know what is happening in the parks and what the residents need. Casanovas met with Meshkin on July 16 and provided a document of notes of their concerns. Linda said in the spirit of being a neighbor of the Laketown Beach, Halcyon has been concerned about the erosion of the dune; we as a community have started to invest in restoring the park. Linda reviewed the document

(distributed to the commissioners) demonstrating pictures of the investments that have been made including signs denoting dune preservation. She encouraged the commissioners to continue efforts to preserve the dune. Bill referred to the metal fencing that Halcyon installed and he believes the population respects the fence and the sign. If we have this type of fence with these signs at the base of the parking lot going north to south with the wire fence it would create the notion that the dune is being preserved which would drive an element of respect. If we engage in this opportunity together it could be a direction that we could go towards as other things done in the past have not been successful. It could deter the mischief that goes on in the park.

Linda said we are willing to volunteer to help but believe a millage to get a deputy on the staff would be appropriate. Becker noted that people come up over the hill at Sanctuary Woods into the home areas as well.

#### ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

**Shuff adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.**