

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

August 18, 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, Tom Shuff,
Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Simmons, seconded by Becker, to approve June 16, 2021, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Meshkin updated commissioners on township board actions.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported that vandalism occurred at the house at Huyser Farm. Someone threw a rock through a window. Meshkin updated the commission on the possible purchase of property adjoining Laketown Beach.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER

Meshkin reported that Patty Meyer of the Felt Estate will submit ideas for park signs at the next meeting.

B. TRAIL MARKERS FOR HUYSER AND FARVIEW

Grams showed commissioners the trail markers. The township purchased 100 markers with decals.

C. PARKS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Meshkin handed out the results of the Parks Commission surveys. Respondents ranked issues, from top: Restrooms, Walking Trails, Kids Playgrounds, Tennis/Pickleball Courts, Internet. Commissioners discussed hiring Tom Page as a consultant for a possible millage vote. Page charges \$75 per hour. **Motion by Becker, seconded by Van Hoven, to hire Tom Page as a consultant for a possible parks and recreation millage election. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

D. PICKLEBALL PROGRESS & SCHEDULING

Meshkin reported that the pickleball courts should be complete by Sept. 1. The commission instructed Meshkin to talk to the court contractor about ways to regulate use of the courts such as installing white boards or chalk boards for signups.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DAY OF CARING

The commission discussed the Greater Ottawa County United Way Day of Caring on Sept. 16. The commission instructed Meshkin to send the following projects for volunteers: Painting over graffiti at Sanctuary Woods; Shoveling beach stairs and cleaning beach lot; Adding bark to trails at Farview Park; Cleaning up Gibson Cemetery.

B. HUYSER FARM SIGN

Meshkin presented a proposed design for a sign identifying Huyser Farm. The sign is 3 feet by 8 feet, two-sided, and will cost about \$12,000. Commissioners supported the presented design. Meshkin also discussed possible use of funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and state money for parks. Ideas included repairs to multi-use paths and the construction of a new path on Blue Star Highway.

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS -- None

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.