

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

September 18, 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: Brett Grams – Township Maintenance
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Becker seconded by Simmons to approve the August 21, 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 August 2019 were reviewed. Maintenance: Jon’s to Go \$443.10, Capital One Commercial - \$13.99, Heavener - \$221.25, Jason Schrottenboer - \$1,183.00; Supplies: Robert Jerow - \$10.00; Contracted Services: John Kunkel - \$155.00, Allegan County Sheriff - \$396.00; Electricity - \$71.13; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$180.00; Taxes: \$13.77.

Shuff noted the need to power wash the restrooms at Wolters and Grams said he needs a water and power source to do so. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Becker to approve the Treasurer’s Reports as submitted for the month of August.**

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

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – No report

- a. There was no Township Board meeting in September.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS – Grams

- a. Grams reported that the gate at Wolters Woods is not available yet. The bridges on the bike path are under repair. The Day of Caring will accomplish a lot of work in the parks.

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT - CIRCO

Circo reported the park looks normal and hopeful the blueberry fields will be cleaned up during the Day of Caring. A new bridge is necessary behind the farmhouse toward the south of the property. Circo said there is some concern about vehicles in the blueberry fields.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. DAY OF CARING – THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Michelle Sall reported the Day of Caring is tomorrow and there are crews going to Farview (Ellen) and Huyser (Michelle); Gibson Cemetery; Sanctuary Woods (Tom); Grams will deliver tools in the morning to all sites. The last crew supervisor in the afternoon must see that the tools get returned to the township and/or secured. Simmons said Randy Kiekenveldt wants to go back to pea gravel in Sanctuary Woods versus diamond dust. Grams said the diamond dust packs in like cement which is why it is used.

B. HUYSER HUNT

Simmons reported the drawing has been done and information provided to the Township – 15 spots available and 14 applicants so all received a spot.

C. SPLASH PAD

Fitch said she discovered that splash pads are very popular and good additions to large parks, particularly those for children. An intermediate size pad is approximately \$200,000 but there are huge variations in cost and design. There is no greater liability than standard

playground equipment. Recirculated treated water can be used and the level is minimal for intermittent spray which goes dormant when not in use. Funding is a collaboration between public, private and grant opportunities. MEDC provides some matching grants for such an item. Shuff suggested Wolters Woods or the Township Hall Recreation Park as options for locations of a splash pad. Shuff suggested soliciting feedback at the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast. Fitch reviewed research she found on the level of participation of residents investing in public parks. Becker said it is a short season for a splash pad. Fitch suggested a work session to determine what type of survey will be done in July and also noted a survey should be done with visitors in the parks. Shuff suggested a workshop one hour prior to a regular Parks meeting to include the public. Becker suggested a ranking of priority for what residents would like to see. The October meeting will include a 6:00pm workshop to discuss the proposed survey.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PARKS WELCOMING SIGNS

Fitch suggested park rules be included in each park sign using welcoming language to encourage patronage. The environment of the park should also be discussed in the information. Shuff commended Grams on the installation of the new sign at Wolters Woods.

B. PARKS VISITOR SURVEY

No update.

C. WORK AREAS IN PARKS WITH WIFI

Shuff said he does not know the status of WiFi in the parks nor does Grams know the schedule for installation. Simmons suggested providing a rustic table configuration of sorts and Dearborn added that charging stations be included. Shuff suggested pursuing a grant to do so. Fitch asked if this is the infrastructure program and Grams said the cable is in some of the parks but not throughout all at this time.

ARTICLE IX. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 7:27p.m.