

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

October 20, 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. Meshkin introduced new member Anne Brand.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, 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 Van Hoven, seconded by Simmons, to approve Sept. 15, 2021, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS -- None

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported that he has been cleaning up downed trees in several parks due to storms.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER

The commission discussed sign designs from Patty Meyer and thanked her for the work. Commissioners discussed how to keep the signs free from graffiti and damage and if there will be too much signage in the parks. Meshkin reported preliminary estimates -- each sign at \$4,000 to \$5,000 and each park would have two signs, thus \$8,000 to \$10,000 per park. The township has six parks so the total cost could be around \$50,000 to \$60,000. Shuff asked commissioners to further examine the proposal and discuss the proposal at the next meeting. Meshkin said the cost, if adopted, would go into next year's budget.

B. TRAIL MARKERS FOR HUYSER AND FARVIEW

Simmons discussed the need for more arrows to clarify trails. The commission agreed that Simmons should purchase more arrows and that the commission will reimburse her for the cost.

C. PARKS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Meshkin met with Tom Page about public relations for a possible millage. Page is in the process of planning and discovery, supplying the commission with a Parks Assessment and Discovery Stage Questions dated Oct. 20. Page's staff members will be contacting parks commission members for more information.

D. BIKE PATH UPDATE

Meshkin updated the commission on bike paths. The township is looking at extending a bike path on Blue Star Highway in 2023, working on repairs on 62nd Street north of 147th Avenue and is looking at resurfacing 147th Avenue path in the next fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. NEXT PHASE OF TOWNSHIP HALL PARK

Meshkin explained that the state might have funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act for local parks and wants the township to have plans ready if the money becomes available. Meshkin addressed a proposal from MCSA Group, Inc., of East Grand Rapids, for architectural and landscape architectural services for the completion of the Township Hall Park which could include another pickleball court, playground and exercise trail. The overall cost is \$975,000 with \$78,000 for consulting costs. Preliminary work on a site plan would cost about \$4,500. **Motion by Becker, second by Simmons, to pay up to \$5,000 to MCSA Group, Inc., for preliminary site plan work on the Township Hall Park. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS -- None

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Becker, second by Van Hoven, to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED