

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

November 16, 2022
Regular meeting
6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tom Shuff called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager
Michelle Sall – Community development director
Jim Hayden – Public information officer

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Van Hoven, second by Becker, to approve Oct. 19, 2022, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT – The commission discussed the bills.

Motion by Becker, second by Van Hoven, to approve bills for October. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

Meshkin reported that the township board approved the purchase of the Wolters property and the closing was Monday. Meshkin is talking with the Outdoor Discovery Center about using the home and area as a preschool.

ARTICLE V. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER – No report

B. PARKS PUBLIC RELATIONS

The commission reviewed the restroom millage vote.

Meshkin reported that the township remains working with Tom Page on the new website and promotion of parks.

Shuff thanked fellow commissioners and those who worked on the restroom campaign.

C. HUYSER FARM HOUSE COMMITTEE

Committee Chairperson Van Hoven said eight people have expressed interest in serving on the committee. A meeting is planned for either 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8 or Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the township hall, 4338 Beeline Road, to do brainstorming.

Van Hoven noted he is talking with a nursery owner about milkweed planting at Huyser Farm Park.

ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. SPARK GRANT RESOLUTION

The commission discussed a resolution supporting the township's application for a SPARK grant through the state. The amount of the request is \$900,000 for a pickleball court, universal access tot lot and other items at Township Hall Park. That amount could change, Meshkin said. The township board has already approved a resolution of support. **Motion by Van Hoven, second by Becker, to support the SPARK grant proposal. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

B. WOLTERS PROPERTY PURCHASE

Meshkin reviewed the purchase of the Wolters property. No action needed at this point.

C. STATE PARK RESOLUTION

Meshkin explained that the Holland Board of Public Works is selling 23 acres of land with 300 feet of Lake Michigan frontage in the township. The BPW purchased the land for a possible water intake but that did not happen. The proposed resolution is to encourage the state to purchase the land to add to the Saugatuck Dunes State Park.

Chris Clark of Saugatuck Township addressed the commission and said the state park's master plan supports acquisition of that property.

Motion by Becker, second by Simmons, to encourage the State of Michigan to purchase the 23 acres of property owned by the Holland Board of Public Works to add to the Saugatuck Dunes State Park. Shuff called for a vote on the motion.

UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

D. DUNE GRASS PLANTING

Meshkin discussed dune grass planted on Oct. 28 at Laketown Beach. 65,000 sprigs were planted. More planting is planned for next year.

E. CELL TOWER AT SANCTUARY WOODS

Meshkin has been working with a representative from a company for several months regarding a proposal to put an AT&T cell tower at Sanctuary Woods Park. Meshkin asked the commission if he should continue the process. The tower company would pay the township \$1,100 to \$1,250 per month rent. The commission discussed the topic, noting better cell coverage is needed in that area and the use would bring in needed cash. The commission came to a consensus to instruct Meshkin to continue investigation into possibly having a cell tower in Sanctuary Woods Park.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Karen Simmons: Noted she has received three surveys back from participants in the Huyser Farm Archery Deer Hunt. The comments were positive. She thanked Brett Grams for removing fallen trees at Huyser Farm Park. She said she would investigate if a private hunting blind has been placed on township property at Farview Park.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.