

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

November 17, 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, Anne Brand, Tom Shuff,
Karen Simmons (on Zoom, not voting), Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township manager
Jim Hayden – Recording secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Becker, second by Van Hoven, to approve Oct. 20, 2021, minutes. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT – No report

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – No report

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS – No report

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SIGNS: WELCOMING, DOGS AND OTHER

The commission discussed sign designs from Patty Meyer. Two signs would be placed at each park – one a welcome sign, one an interpretive sign. Total cost would be about \$60,000. The money would have to be put in next fiscal year's budget. **Motion by Becker, second by Van Hoven, to instruct Patty Meyer to move ahead with the welcome and interpretive signs for all township parks and instruct Meshkin to ask the township board to put the money in the next fiscal year's budget. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0.**

B. PARKS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Meshkin reported that Tom Page and his staff are talking to parks commission members and reaching out to people and studying the parks. Page will have a presentation at January's meeting. Becker asked about the impact of American Rescue Plan Act money

on a possible millage. Meshkin noted that only some of the \$600,000 will go to parks, possibly \$100,000 to \$150,000 to pay for the new signs, pickleball courts and new equipment for park and bike path maintenance.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUMP TRACK

Meshkin explained the history of the BMX bicycle track at Shore Acres Park. The track has been mostly dormant. The Michigan Edge Mountain Biking Association wants to refurbish the area for a pump track and is seeking a grant for the work. The grant is no cost to the township and means no increase in liability for the township. The commission discussed the proposal. **Motion by Van Hoven, second by Brand, to send a letter of support to the Michigan Edge Mountain Biking Association for the project at Shore Acres Park. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0.**

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joel Wolfe, 6645 Forest Beach Drive: Deer are creating problems in the area. The association is considering a hunt in the area and wants to include hunting by crossbow at Sanctuary Woods Park as well. Shuff said the issue will be on the agenda for April or May for community discussion. Brand said she will contact a professor at Hope College who could possibly do a study on the number of deer in the area.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

Shuff adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.