

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

July 19, 2023
Regular meeting
6:00 p.m.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Van Hoven called the regular Laketown Township Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, Brad Laninga (Zoom, non-voting),
Karen Simmons, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Sall – Community development director
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Simmons, second by Becker, to approve the amended June 21, 2023, minutes, moving Simmons' comments from Article IX Citizens Comments to Article VIII New Business. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Simmons to record the meeting and put it on the Laketown Township website. No second.

The commission discussed recording meetings for posting online. Becker asked Van Hoven to talk to Township Manager Al Meshkin about recording and posting the meetings.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The commission discussed the bills. **Motion by Becker, second by Simmons, to approve bills for June pending more information on the Koops Well Drilling Inc. for \$450. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Skipped until later in the meeting, Sall out of room.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Brett Grams, facilities operations, was not present.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Comments started at 6:09 p.m.

No comments.

Comments ended at 6:09 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. PARK REPORTS

A. Farview – Simmons (see Huyser)

B. Huyser -- Simmons

Simmons said both parks are overgrown and need attention, paths are narrow, have branches in the trails; bridge in Huyser needs to be replaced, it's tilting and has rotten boards; brush needs to be removed. Driveway OK. Simmons spoke with Outdoor Discovery Center about invasives at Farview. Trails there are overgrown and equestrian bridges need help.

C. Sanctuary Woods – Becker

Need to do something with overgrowth along the road because people can't see the park from the road and are avoiding walking through park on trail out of fear of people in parked cars, should hire someone to clean the brush and trees from the road to the creek; portable bathroom should be replaced with a pit toilet; need signage on road telling people where the park driveway is.

D. Shore Acres – Brand

No graffiti; invasive species present but not as bad as other parks; holes in parking lot; bad erosion due to water runoff on trail.

E. Beach – Van Hoven

Bathroom was hit and miss and should be larger; trash cans filled; sand covering stairs; need fencing to block people from climbing in areas where dune grass has been planted; improved ingress and egress to beach needed.

F. Wolters Woods – Van Hoven

Low-hanging branches; some bridge boards need attention; some trees down; gazebo roof needs cleaning; picnic tables need to be refinished; want improved restrooms.

Simmons said a homeless person is living in the park. Is this being addressed?

G. Township Hall Rec Complex -- TBD

Brand reported invasives being treated; trash OK; ballpark cleaned up; divots in paint in pickleball courts need to be maintained.

Simmons said the ball field is looking shabby.

H. Historic Town Hall – TBD

Brand reported the roof should be repaired.

Sall gave the Township Board Report.

Becker said the commission should look into getting community groups to adopt a park to work on parks consistently.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. New signs for Parks

Van Hoven discussed the signs designed by Patty Meyer, will invite Meyer to the August meeting to explain signs.

B. 5-Year Master Plan Process Steps

The commission discussed changes needs in the master plan from 2018. Brand reported 75 surveys have been submitted so far and the surveys will direct the commission's action plan.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Meet and Greet recap from July 13 & July 15

Brand had two people attend. They wanted no more money spent on parks, help for Grams, sweeping of bike path, Farview underused and needs to be promoted, enforce parking at beach, add security, problems at night, have paid parking passes, put up a gate.

Laniga (via Zoom) had four people attend. Discussed Farview, Sanctuary Woods and Beach. He will submit notes to Van Hoven and Sall.

B. Beach signage

Van Hoven said beach grass being disturbed, need signs telling people to stay off grass; signs needed to tell people not to use fireworks at beach.

C. Letter of support to MDNR/Saugatuck State Park for purchase of HBPW land

Sall said Van Hoven needs to send a letter.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Comments started at 7 p.m.

No comments.

Comments ended at 7 p.m.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Becker, second by Brand, to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.