

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

September 20, 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, 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 Becker, second by Laninga, to approve the Aug. 16, 2023, minutes. Van Hoven 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 Laninga, second by Brand, to approve bills for August as presented. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.**

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Sall gave an overview of the Sept. 13 township board meeting.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Sall read a list of work actions from Grams.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:04 p.m.

None

End: 6:04 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. PARK REPORTS

- A. Farview – Simmons
No report.
- B. Huyser -- Simmons
No report.
- C. Sanctuary Woods – Becker
Looks great, inviting thanks to cleanup.
- D. Shore Acres – Brand
Busy over weekend.
- E. Beach – Van Hoven
Sand covering stairs.
- F. Wolters Woods – Van Hoven
Looking good.
- G. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga
No report
- H. Historic Town Hall – Laninga
Garbage needs to be picked up, limbs need to be taken down.
Regarding Wolters: Have brush by road removed; lighting needs to be added for security.
Becker said overgrowth around Huyser House needs to be removed.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. United Way Day of Caring
Sall updated the commission on plans for Sept. 28: Perrigo has two teams, 13 volunteers for Farview 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.; Seven volunteers for Old Township Hall 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- B. Huyser Hunt Drawing Recap
Simmons reported on bow season deer hunt. There were 27 applicants, highest number she remembers. Fifteen chosen. Hunt starts Oct. 1.
- C. Huyser House Report
Sall handed out “The Huyser House: Restoration Plan for Adaptive Use” plan from the Building Authority and said the Land Conservancy of West Michigan has approved of the proposed use.

Simmons wanted to know who’s paying for any renovations; any renovations are a waste of time and energy.

Becker said the house could be donated to Habitat for Humanity and that nine of 10 people don’t want the house saved.

Laniga asked how the house and maintenance would be paid for and that Historic Town Hall is a better place for what is proposed for the Huyser House.

Becker said the parks commission needs to tell the township board its feelings.

Motion by Simmons, second by Becker, to send a message to the Laketown Township Board that we are not in favor of continuing with this project.

The commission discussed the motion.

Van Hoven said any money spent on the house is not going to benefit the township.

Laniga said there is interest from people in buying the house.

Motion by Simmons, second by Becker, for amended motion to send a letter to the Laketown Township Board that we are not in favor of continuing with this project. Van Hoven called for a vote on the amended motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – ROLL CALL VOTE. YES: BECKER, BRAND, LANINGA, SIMMONS, VAN HOVEN. NO: NONE. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

D. 5-Year Master Plan Process Steps Survey Results

The commission discussed the parks and recreation commission survey. Brand handed out a synopsis of survey results and meet and greet summer series recap. She said there were 205 surveys returned.

Sall asked where Facebook comments came from, Brand said they were provided by Simmons. Simmons stated they were from a private Facebook group. Sall said the Facebook comments need to be removed because they were not part of the survey. Van Hoven said to omit those.

Laniga said a billboard on northbound I-196 advertises Sanctuary Woods and asked why that is. Sall will investigate.

Sall handed out documents on long-term goals, action programs and capital improvements and asked commissioners to consider these for the next meeting.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Easy Beach Stairs

Van Hoven discussed EZ Beach Steps for the beach as a replacement for current steps and paths. He had three estimates ranging from about \$125,800 to about \$37,200. He asked the commission to think about using these.

Laniga said he will investigate getting a dune expert to discuss the impact of stairs on the dunes.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 7:07 p.m.

Tom Hoekman, no address given: Consider a roll-out mat for the beach; invasives a constant battle; who should he talk to about the Wolters House (Van Hoven said it's under Building Authority); Huyser committee first supported the house then changed their minds; Old Township Hall could be moved to Huyser Farm.

Jeff VerHorst, 6265 138th Ave.: Asked what happened to the old information sign at Farview Park? (Van Hoven said it was removed for incoming sign); Said new sign will be gone in 6 months because of snow damage or it will be hit by garbage truck (Simmons said sign should be adjusted; Van Hoven said sign should go on other side of driveway). Nancy VerHorst said she would volunteer to open and close gate at park if the gate is fixed because there has been issues in the park.

End: 7:14 p.m.

Simmons said October will be her last meeting, has no intention of submitting it in writing. Sall asked for a written resignation so timeline for replacement could start. Simmons said she will have something in writing.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Laniga, second by Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.