

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

October 18, 2023
Regular meeting

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, Jeremy Van Hoven

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Simmons

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 Sept. 20, 2023, minutes. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Laninga, second by Brand, to approve bills for September as presented. Van Hoven called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Sall gave an overview of the Oct. 11 township board meeting.

Becker said the reason the parks commission sent a letter to the board about the Huyser House plan was to show the commission's feelings, not trying to control. The commission didn't want legal fighting, he said.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams noted his work on bridges and parks.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:04 p.m.

Van Hoven went over three communications received: a letter from Owen Boggiano with a request for a drinking fountain at Wolters Woods; an email from Maria Dusenbery in support for the Huyser House; and an email from Bill & Judy Dalton thanking Al Meshkin for his help in establishing a memorial bench at Sanctuary Woods.

End: 6:06 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. PARK REPORTS

- A. Farview – Simmons
Van Hoven reported for Simmons that park is a mess, trails overgrown and bridges falling apart, sign too close to the road.
- B. Huyser -- Simmons
Van Hoven reported for Simmons that park is well used, blueberry fields need work, what is happening with milkweed? Grams explained milkweed.
- C. Sanctuary Woods – Becker
Looks good.
- D. Shore Acres – Brand
Nothing new.
- E. Beach – Van Hoven
Nothing new, sand covering stairs.
- F. Wolters Woods – Van Hoven
Nothing new.
- G. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga
No report
- H. Historic Town Hall – Laninga
Day of Caring got first coat of paint, has estimate to finish painting.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 5-Year Master Plan Process Steps
Sall reviewed task of setting long-term goals, action plan, and capital improvement plan based on surveys. Commissioners discussed.
 - Farview: Boardwalk maintenance, trail maintenance, repair bridges, removal of invasive species, repair roof on Interurban station., fix bench near large pond.
 - Historical Town Hall: Paint it, renovate it for the purpose of an historical center, look at lighting and add solar or electric to property for security. Consensus was not to move it and lose historical value.
 - Huyser Park: ADA trails, orchard reconstruction, community gardens, maintain blueberries.
 - Beach: Parking improvements, bike racks, improve stairs, marked trails, better portable restroom, put “no fires” signs.

- Sanctuary Woods: Improve portable restrooms, parking expanded.
- Shore Acres: Invasive removal, bike rack, parking lot paved.
- Township Hall Rec Area: Bike rack, tot lot, ADA walking track.
- Wolters Woods: Maintenance of the playground, shuffleboard either fix or remove.

Commissioners said all parks should have signs on road telling people park entrance is ahead.

Long-term goals: Same as previous plan.

Capital improvements: Playground, stairs, repair Farview wait station.

- No. 1: Beach access
- No. 2: ADA accessibility
- No. 3 Historic Town Hall Development
- No. 4 Restoration of Farview station
- No. 5 Tot lot

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grant Application

Sall explained the grant process.

B. Old Township Hall

Laniga said he has a bid to paint and caulk the building for \$4,800. Van Hoven suggested getting more bids.

C. Resignation Karen Simmons

Van Hoven said to put issue on next agenda. The commission discussed how to handle next year's Huyser Hunt, process for replacement.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 7:06 p.m.

Tom Hoekman, no address given: Concerned commissioners don't know their own budget; asked why the township board replaces parks commissioners; Felt Estate could help pay for paving Shore Acres parking lot; block parking on both sides of 142nd Avenue by beach; have sheriff's department or volunteers issue tickets; 90 percent of time no one using pickleball courts; put a rolling mat in blueberry fields; put in new bathrooms one at a time; why need a walking path at township hall when there is a shared-use path across the street.

Karen Massengill, no address given: Show the public the master plan before it is approved; put trails on website; don't move Old Township Hall; start fundraiser for Old Township Hall; Land Conservancy of West Michigan has access to money for park improvements; everyone wants beach access; reach out to man who collected money for Huyser House.

Jeff VerHorst, 6265 138th Ave.: Turn Farview Park sign 90 degrees; ditch will be dug out in front of Farview Park; sign will "take it" if it's not moved.

End: 7:13 p.m.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brand, second by Laninga, to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.