

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

DECEMBER 20, 2023
Regular meeting

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Simmons on Zoom called the regular Laketown Township Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Simmons transferred the chair responsibilities to Becker, who accepted the responsibility.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Sall – Community development director
Brett Grams – Facilities operations
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Laninga, second by Brand, to approve the Nov. 15, 2023, minutes. Becker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The commission discussed the bills. Laninga asked about the beach survey bill, Sall responded it was needed for future development plans for accessibility.

Motion by Laninga, second by Brand, to approve bills for November as presented. Becker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Sall reviewed the township board workshop and meeting. She noted that no parks commission representative attended the Dec. 15 regular Board of Trustee meeting, and would the Commission like to send a representative to report? Simmons said there was no need to decide that now.

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported cleanup after storm, shared-use path repairs.

Sall told the commissioners that they will need to share the meeting room in February with early voting equipment.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:09 p.m.

Steve Ringelberg, 6721 VanderMeulen Road. Thanked Simmons for meeting about the Huyser House proposal; said he discovered through his Freedom of Information Act request that many people support preserving the Huyser House; supports the Building Authority proposal; realizes township residents don't want to pay for renovation of the Huyser house so he wants to use his own money to save it.

End: 6:14 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. PARK REPORTS

- A. Farview – Simmons
Can sign be moved? Grams said there are no plans for a move.
- B. Huyser -- Simmons
Deer hunt has been successful.
- C. Sanctuary Woods – Becker
Looks good.
- D. Shore Acres – Brand
Asked about status of pump track. Grams said it is being worked on by volunteers.
- E. Beach –
No update.
- F. Wolters Woods –
Laniga asked if brush could be cleared from front of house? Grams said there have been no problems with vandalism.
- G. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laniga
No report.
- H. Historic Town Hall – Laniga
No report.

Grams added that Welcome Signs have all been installed.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ringelberg Proposal
Simmons said the Land Conservancy of West Michigan will not allow the Huyser House to be rented. She said Ringelberg came late to the discussion and the decision to demolish has already been made. She said the commission should reject the proposal and move on demolition.

Brand asked if the Huyser House issue could be put on the ballot in May. Sall said the commission will need to check with the township clerk.

Ringelberg said he will do a survey of residents with parks commission input after Jan. 1. He said there were no specific questions on the Huyser House in the parks commission master plan survey earlier this year.

Becker noted the township board said no money can be spent on the house.

Brand said the Old Township Hall can be converted into a legacy center as proposed for the Huyser House by the Building Authority.

Laniga said he wants clarity from the land conservancy. Simmons said she will email all board members land conservancy information.

**Motion by Laniga, second by Brand, to table the Ringelberg Proposal until January for more information. Becker called for a vote on the motion.
UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.**

B. Parks Maintenance from Prior Monthly Reports

Simmons asked what is being done regarding:

- Parking along Windemere Way? No discussion.
- Bike racks: Grams said there is a bike rack at the township hall.
- Windscreens for pickleball courts? No discussion.
- Closing gates at Farview Park: Resident Jeff Voorhorst, 6365 138th Ave. interested. Grams said the gate will have to be reconstructed.

Becker said the parks commission will look at these issues in the spring.

C. Paint Quote for Old Township Hall

Laniga said he is waiting for more bids and should have them all by spring.

D. 5-Year Master Plan Rough Draft Review

The commission reviewed the draft master plan. Laniga said commissioners will review draft for typos and have changes ready for next meeting.

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Van Hoven Resignation

Becker noted the township board accepted the resignation.

B. Appointment of Chair

Motion by Brand, second by Becker, to appoint Brad Laninga chairperson of the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission. Becker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.

C. Huyser Farm Homestead Demolition Estimates

Laniga noted he has received two bids for demolition:

- Specialized Demolition Inc. for \$18,345
- Busscher's Septic Tank & Excavating Service for \$14,900
- He is waiting on a third bid.

Laniga noted an email from Meshkin with comments about the proposals. Laniga said he will work to get answers to those questions including preservation of the holly trees.

Sall asked Becker if he had the copy of the township board minutes that had been placed on the desk for him. Becker handed the copy to Brand who read aloud the minutes. Sall will provide Laninga a copy of the minutes each month.

Simmons said a parks commissioner should be at interviews of commissioner candidates by board of trustees in January. Laniga said he will look into having someone at the interviews.

ARTICLE X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:59 p.m.

Mary Jo Bertolino, 6362 144th Ave.: Asbestos in Huyser House; applied for the parks position.

Tom Hoekman, 4174 62nd St: Commission kicking can of Huyser house down the road, stopping progress on word of one person; supports Laninga as chair; status of Huyser house well.

Karen Simmons, no address: Well could be kept for gardens.

End: 7:03 p.m.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Laninga, second by Brand, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 3-0 VOICE VOTE.