

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

JANUARY 17, 2024
Regular meeting

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Laninga called the regular Laketown Township Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Laninga welcomed new member Tom Hoekman.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Manager (via Zoom)
Michelle Sall – Community development director
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

ARTILCE II. Election of Officers

Motion by Becker, second by Brand, to name Karen Simmons as vice chairperson. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Becker, second by Hoekman, to name Anne Brand as treasurer. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Brand, second by Becker, to name Brad Laninga as chairperson. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Brand, second by Becker, to approve the Dec. 20, 2023, minutes. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

The commission discussed the bills.

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

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Township Board Trustee Patrick Dietrich did not have a report. Sall gave an overview.

ARTICLE VI. STAFF REPORTS

Brett Grams/Maintenance & Facilities was not present and had spoken to Laninga, who reported two upcoming projects: Tree removal at cemetery, bridge repair on shared-use path along 62nd Street between 144th and 145th avenues.

ARTICLE VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: Not available

No name. Parks commissioners should get pay increase; Asked if cemetery under parks.

Steve Ringelberg, 6721 VanderMeulen Road. Looking for a third party to tally results for a survey he would like to distribute, would be comfortable with a parks commission member doing it; Parks commissioners should get pay raise; Huyser Farm Park property has had a residential rental before.

No name. Asked if Ringelberg's survey has been sent out yet. It has not.

Tom Drnek, 3964 65th St. Why another Huyser survey; The parks commission knows what people want.

Tim Wood, 932 Village Court. Asked who drafted and reviewed Ringelberg's survey; Laninga said the survey was created by Ringelberg and the parks commission had nothing to do with it.

End: 6:22 p.m.

ARTICLE VII. PARK REPORTS

- A. Farview – Simmons
No update.
- B. Huyser -- Simmons
No update.
- C. Sanctuary Woods – Becker
People using it.
- D. Shore Acres – Brand
Same as last month
- E. Beach –
No update.
- F. Wolters Woods –
No update
- G. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga
No report.
- H. Historic Town Hall – Laninga
No report.

Sall said there is property damage to the lawn at the Historic Town Hall caused by vehicular traffic crossing the west property line. Grams will put boulders along the property line to stop trespassing before a fence gets put up.

Laniga assigned the responsibility of "Parks Report" of the Beach and Wolters Woods to Hoekman. While Simmons is away Brand will handle Huyser, and Hoekman will handle Farview.

ARTICLE IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ringelberg Proposal

Laniga reported that he spoke with Chris Long, at the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, who had reservations about rental of the Huyser House and removal of landscaping.

Hoekman hasn't seen the proposal, thinks 99-year lease too long.

Becker thanked Ringelberg for the proposal but said the parks commission can't accept it without bidding it out.

Brand said the Land Conservancy of West Michigan is the governing body of the house and the parks commission should respect that.

Simmons said all avenues have been exhausted and demolition is the best option.

Becker said to move action on the Ringelberg Proposal to the next agenda item.

B. Huyser Farm Homestead Demolition estimates

Commissioners reviewed the three bids – Specialized Demolition for \$29,845; Pitsch Companies for \$22,800 and Busscher's Septic Tank & Excavating Service for \$14,900.

Motion by Becker, second by Brand, to recommend to the Township Board of Trustees to accept the bid from Specialized Demolition for \$29,845, as it was the most complete bid; and send all three proposals to the township board for information. Laniga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Hoekman, second by Brand, to disapprove Steve Ringelberg's proposal for the Huyser House. Laniga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

C. Painting Estimate Old Township Hall

Commissioners reviewed the three bids – Vork Brothers Painting LLC for \$7,900; VandenBrink Painting LLC for \$5,000 or \$3,500; VanDerKolk Painting for \$7,416 or \$8,640.

Motion by Hoekman, second by Brand, to accept the bid from Vork Brothers Painting LLC for \$7,900 which includes caulking vertical side boards, trim, fascia, and soffit.

Laniga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

D. 5-Year Master Plan Rough Draft Review

The commission reviewed the draft master plan, giving suggestions to Sall for inclusion in the plan.

ARTICLE X. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY24/25 proposed Parks budget.

The parks commission discussed the proposed budget as submitted, including funding of Winterfest, gate opening and closing, partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center, professional engineering firms or consultants for the development of capital projects. Meshkin noted alterations for the proposed budget.

Motion by Becker, second by Hoekman, to include a cost-of-living increase for the parks commission members. Laniga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

Motion by Brand, second by Becker, to approve the budget with alterations discussed. Laniga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE XI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 7:40 p.m.

No name. Funding for invasives should be in the budget; could a community garden go where Huyser House is now; larger portable restroom for the beach.

Patrick Dietrich, 6521 140th Ave. Farview repairs should be done professionally; Shore Acres parking lot should be regraded with gravel added; Restroom at parks supported if completed one or two at a time; Do research on beach stairs; Has Steve Ringelberg's newspaper.

No name. Supports salary increase; Questioned Winterfest, should have donation box; Felt should contribute to Shore Acres parking lot; Could bike path millage be used to fix bridges at Farview; Already have money for Huyser House demolition.

Steve Ringelberg, 6721 VanderMeulen Road. Thanked commissioners for serving; Disappointed in Huyser House decision; Has treated trees at Township Beach Park for invasives; Pursue smaller projects with smaller millages; More tickets needs for parking violations at beach.

End: 7:55 p.m.

Hoekman said using crushed asphalt for driveway; will look into estimate for Shore Acres lot.

Simmons thanks the commissioners for filling in for her.

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Becker, second by Hoekman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE