

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

FEBRUARY 21, 2024
Regular meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Anne Brand, Tom Hoekman, Brad Laninga

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Simmons

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Brand, second by Becker, to approve the Jan. 17, 2024, minutes. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The commission discussed the bills. Brand noted the Wolters House bill was incorrectly listed on the parks bills and it has been corrected.

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

IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Sall gave an overview of the township board meeting.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams is doing spring cleaning, plans to sweep multi-use paths if weather holds.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:04 p.m.

Kevin Stoike, 3734 64th St.: Thanks for handling invasives; Drain at Farview's Big Pond needs attention.

Pauline Rypma, 6352 145th Ave.: Wants to have open play at pickleball courts, asked for signage.

Steve Ringelberg, 6721 VanderMeulen Road (via Zoom): 5-year plan a great start but needs to be a parks board plan so commissioners should spend more time on it.

End: 6:12 p.m.

VII. PARK REPORTS

- a. Farview – Hoekman
Cleanup needed. Equestrian group LETA no longer active.
- b. Huyser -- Brand
Normal spring cleaning; Hoekman noted trespassers in house, told to call 911 if there are issues; Laninga hopes to have Huyser relative to the site to share memories; Grams said he finished marking trails in back loop.
- c. Sanctuary Woods – Becker
Spring cleanup underway.
- d. Shore Acres – Brand
People playing disc golf.
- e. Beach – Hoekman
Steps covered with sand; Laninga said the newly purchased area will need dune grass planted.
- f. Wolters Woods – Hoekman
In good shape; lots of dog feces, something needs to be done.
- g. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga
Looks fine.
- h. Historic Town Hall – Laninga
Looks good; Grams explained situation with neighbor putting in a driveway that had equipment driving on township land.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 5-Year Master Plan Rough Draft review
The commission discussed edits to the plan. Sall will make changes as needed. Sall will bring edited version back in March when the commission will decide date for public hearing.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Onboarding for new commissioners
Brand suggested every new parks commission member gets a copy of the master plan, three months of relevant emails from Sall, three months of minutes, three months of treasurer's reports, have explanation of Open Meetings Act, have a copy of Michigan Township Association handbook.

b. 24/25 Budget Review

Laniga will talk to township Manager Al Meshkin about dune stabilization to make sure the newly acquired beach area is properly signed and fenced.

Becker asked about the demolition of the Huyser House. Laniga explained it should be addressed at the March township board meeting.

Hoekman asked about Outdoor Discover Center invasives program. Brand said it is listed in "Contracted Services." Hoekman said treatment of autumn olive in Farview should be put in the budget if Alpha Nurseries can't finish it through volunteer work. Laniga said he will address this issue.

Hoekman asked if donations could be solicited at Outdoor Discovery Events and Winterfest.

c. Outdoor Discovery Center 2024 Proposal for Conservation Services

Hoekman discussed the invasives at the township hall.

Laniga called for items for next month's agenda:

- Open play at pickleball courts
- Set up committee to discuss beach issues
- Outdoor Discovery Center programs
- Huyser House

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:56 p.m.

Mary Jo Bertolino, 6362 144th Ave.: Need to keep handling invasives; Outdoor Discovery Center could have better rates for residents to treat invasives; dog waste bags needed.

Jeffrey Voorhorst, 6265 138th Ave.: Comments on Farview.

End: 7:01 p.m.

XI. ADJOURN

Motion by Brand, second by Hoekman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Laniga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE