

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

March 20, 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 Feb. 21, 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.

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

IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Patrick Dietrich reported on the March board of trustees meeting.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported he is preparing for the warmer weather and work in the parks.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:04 p.m.

Sall reported correspondence from Steve Ringelberg about the Huyser House and a letter about open play at the pickleball courts.

No comments.

End: 6:05 p.m.

VII. PARK REPORTS

- a. Farview – Hoekman
Tree removed from bathroom approach. Asked if gate will be made operational (Grams said probably not) and if the drainpipe at big pond has been addressed (Grams said no).
- b. Huyser -- Brand
Looks fine.
- c. Sanctuary Woods – Becker
Looks good.
- d. Shore Acres – Brand
Busy.
- e. Beach – Hoekman
Sand needs to be cleaned off parking lot.
- f. Wolters Woods – Hoekman
Bathrooms clean, trails clear.
- g. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga
Everything OK.
- h. Historic Town Hall – Laninga
Asked about property survey. Grams said in process.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 5-Year Master Plan Rough Draft review
Sall reported on edits. Explained process of adoption – Public hearing, recommendation to township board, township board approval. Public hearing will be May 15.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pickleball “open play” proposal
The commission discussed the request for open play time slots at the pickleball courts. Laninga said no township supervision is needed for this. This method of use can be reevaluated in the future.

Motion by Brand, second by Hoekman, to allow open play on the Laketown Township pickleball court on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.

- b. Beach Access task force
The commission discussed setting up two committees to handle beach issues.
Parking Committee: Will look at parking. This group will include neighbors from Vandermeulen Road and Halcyon Hills, an Allegan County Sheriff’s Department deputy, community members, and a parks commissioner.

Dunes Committee: Will look at ecology, stairs, and access. This group will include Hope College experts, a representative from the stair company, the Outdoor Discovery Center, community members, and a parks representative.

Hoekman asked about dune grass planting. Laninga said the planting will be moved to the top of dune.

Brand will lead Dunes Committee. Hoekman will lead Parking Committee.

Hoekman said only Laketown Township residents will be allowed to participate.

Becker asked the Parking Committee to look at future restroom placement.

Brand said there is no timeline, but committees should start in the next few months.

c. Outdoor Discovery Center programs in parks

The commission discussed Outdoor Discovery Center programs.

Hoekman said the parks commission should have a say in what the programs are and where they take place. He said the programs need to be approved earlier so they can be covered in the budget.

Laniga will invite an ODC representative to come to a meeting to discuss more about the programs.

d. Huyser House timeline

Laniga said the asbestos survey has been initiated and could take a couple of weeks. The demolition company will apply for the demolition permit. Well will be capped and septic pumped. All material should be removed from the site, nothing buried. Grams will check on utility shutoffs. Laniga has talked to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

Becker said a picnic area or gazebo should be placed at the site.

The board discussed the updated proposal from resident Steve Ringelberg. The board agreed it is too late and the house will be demolished.

Hoekman discussed removal of the invasive autumn olive at Farview Park. Alpha Nurseries might not be able to do more removal this season so he spoke with the Outdoor Discovery Center, which said it would take three days of work to tackle the invasive. Price estimate

will come later. Hoekman suggested getting volunteers, including Escape Ministries, to remove the invasive.

Laniga discussed what should be on the April agenda, including:

- A staff member from Escape Ministries will address the commission.
- Huyser House updates.
- Beach access and stabilization updates.
- Pickleball. The township will not provide an open play sign – that will be the private group’s responsibility.

X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:49 p.m.

Steve Ringelberg, 6721 Vandermeulen Road: Volunteered to serve on the Dunes and Parking Committees; Look at last master plan and note what it accomplished; Look at an “adopt-a-park” program for volunteers and corporate sponsors.

Mary Jo Bertolino, 6362 144th Ave. (Zoom): Look for grants to fight invasives.

Jody Lamar, 4600 Arlene Lane (Zoom): Using an app for pickleball open play signup and private group will make sign. Laniga said the parks commission will revisit the open play system in the winter.

Patrick Dietrich, 6521 140th Ave.: Asked for an explanation of pickleball open play. Laniga explained.

End: 6:56 p.m.

XI. ADJOURN

Motion by Becker, second by Hoekman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Laniga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE