

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

April 17, 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, Tom Hoekman, Brad Laninga, Karen Simmons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Brand

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Sall – Community development director  
Bret Grams – Facilities operations (Zoom, late)  
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion by Becker, second by Hoekman, to approve the March 20, 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 Hoekman, second by Becker, to approve bills for March 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 had no report on the April board of trustees meeting. Sall noted approval of the burn ordinance.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Reported under second opportunity for citizen comments.

AJ Westendorp, Escape Ministries.

Laniga moved this item up from New Business. AJ Westendorp of Escape Ministries addressed the commission, provided a Power Point presentation on Escape Ministries. The commission discussed the services.

## VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:29 p.m.

Mary Jo Bertolino, 5362 144<sup>th</sup> Ave.: Supports Escape Ministries.

Jim Delaney, 6298 144<sup>th</sup> Ave.: (Zoom) Supports Escape Ministries being used in the township.

End: 6:31 p.m.

## VII. PARK REPORTS

- a. Farview – Hoekman  
Looks pretty good. Entry gate needs to be removed if it's not going to be used. Trail map is incorrect and needs to be fixed. Hayden said the map is correct.
- b. Huyser -- Brand  
No report.
- c. Sanctuary Woods – Becker  
Looks good.
- d. Shore Acres – Brand  
No report.
- e. Beach – Hoekman  
Investigated complaints on social media about posts in the sand but they are not on trails. People should be clear they use the park at their own risk and be careful. Sall suggested tying bright ribbon or tape to the metal posts so people can better see them.
- f. Wolters Woods – Hoekman  
Play structure needs washing. Laninga said an inspection of the playground equipment would be good. Becker said the multi-use path looks "very trashy."
- g. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga  
Looks good. Asked about schedule for ball field. Sall explained the process.
- h. Historic Town Hall – Laninga  
Property line survey completed.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Pickleball "Open Play" signage and start date.  
Laninga reported new sign is up and a paddle holder has been donated.
- b. Beach Access task force.  
Committee accepting volunteers until the end of the month.
- c. Beach Parking task force.  
Committee accepting volunteers until the end of the month.
- d. Huyser House Timeline.  
Laninga said he met with the demolition company and land conservancy, asbestos survey is complete, electric has been disconnected. Sall asked about the gate. Laninga said to keep it up and locked as the future use of the site is still being developed.

- e. Painting quote Old Township Hall.

The commission discussed the bids for painting the Historic Town Hall.

**Motion by Hoekman, second by Becker, to hire VandenBrink Painting LLC to paint the Historic Town Hall for an estimated \$5,000. Laninga called for a vote on the motion.**

**UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE.**

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. AJ Westendorp, Escape Ministries

Moved above.

- b. New Parks & Rec Commission email

Laniga announced the new park's email – parks@laketowntwp.org. He will monitor it.

Hoekman discussed the milkweed garden at Huyser Farm Park. He will look at mixing wildflower and milkweed seeds and will select deer-resistant flowers. Simmons suggested the Escape Ministries crew do the planting.

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

- Huyser House update.
- New playground equipment for Wolters Woods.
- Inspection of playground equipment and play surface at Wolters Woods.

#### X. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 7:00 p.m.

Mary Jo Bertolino, 5362 144<sup>th</sup> Ave.: Inquired if dead fish have washed up at the beach. Is running for parks commission.

Tom Drnek, 3964 65<sup>th</sup> St.: (Zoom) Supports Escape Ministries, wants them paid but not through contracted services.

Brett Grams, Facilities operations: (Zoom) Working on ball field, parking spot added to cemetery, drain functioning fine at Farview Park and will not replace the drain at this time.

Karen Simmons, parks commissioner: Thanks for handling things while away. Laninga thanked her for listening and taking notes.

End: 7:15 p.m.

#### XI. ADJOURN

**Motion by Hoekman, second by Simmons, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 4-0 VOICE VOTE**