

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

June 19, 2024
Regular meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Laninga called the regular Laketown Township Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Sall – Community development director
Jim Hayden – Public information coordinator

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Simmons, second by Becker, to approve the May 15, 2024, minutes. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The commission discussed the bills.

Motion by Simmons, second by Hoekman, to approve bills for May as presented. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Patrick Dietrich recapped the June 12, 2024, board of trustees meeting.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Sall reported she is inputting the 2024 Recreation Plan into the Michigan Department of Natural Resources site.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

Start: 6:06 p.m.

Laninga read correspondence from Laura Judge.

Mary Jo Bertolino: Forming a walking group in parks. She will put up a flier. The group will meet at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays at Wolters Woods.

End: 6:10 p.m.

VII. PARK REPORTS

a. Farview – Hoekman

Portable toilet not yet installed. Laninga will reach out to Township Manager Al Meshkin on the issue. Hoekman will talk to Brett Grams, facilities operations, about installing the gate. Hoekman said the roof on the interurban building needs replacing.

b. Huyser – Brand

Brand had no report. Hoekman said the milkweed area is not ready for planting. Laninga met with a representative of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan who said he was impressed with the demolition site. Some invasives near the creek need to be removed, suggested the township talk to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Allegan or area blueberry growers about the blueberry field, and suggested volunteer groups be put together to clean up the property.

Motion by Hoekman, second by Simmons, to pay \$26,000 to Specialized Demolition for the demolition and related work at the Huyser House. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE.

Laninga noted the demolition costs came in under the budget of \$29,845.

Simmons suggested relocating the rock which contains the Huyser plaque from the entrance of the park by the gazebo, to where the house once stood.

c. Sanctuary Woods – Becker

Looks good. Noted letter from Hannah-Maria Jacques who has been approved to continue scientific sampling of plant and aquatic insect species found at the park.

d. Shore Acres – Brand

Busy.

e. Beach – Hoekman

Hoekman will talk to Grams about buying plastic caps for the metal posts in the sand, said there were illegally parked cars at the beach on Wednesday.

f. Wolters Woods – Hoekman

Laninga said more wood chips need to be added, a number of trees need trimming.

g. Township Hall Rec Complex – Laninga

All well.

h. Historic Town Hall – Laninga

Painting will be at the end of the month or early July, would like the color of the door to match the original color. Brand will investigate.

Laniga said there is a utility pole sleeve at Huyser that needs to be removed.

Simmons said a fence at Huyser needs to be reinforced.

i. Bike Paths

Hoekman said weeds are not taken care of and wants to know when the missing piece along Beeline will be fixed.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Beach Access task force.

Brand reported the group included: Steve Ringelberg, George DeWitt, Jeff Coburn, Dan Carlson and Mary Jo Bertolino and met last week. Brand hopes to have a plan within six months.

b. Beach Parking task force.

Hoekman said the group will be meeting tonight after the end of the parks meeting, includes Steve Ringelberg, Carrie O'Neal, Stacey Lefevre.

c. ODC Summer Programming update.

Laniga attended a partnership program with the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) at Wolters Woods. He shared a schedule of attendance by Parks Commissioners at future ODC events: Becker at blueberry event on July 22; Hoekman at insect event on Aug. 23; Simmons at the senses event on Sept. 10; and Brand at night hike on Oct. 4.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pavilion roof replacement – Wolters Woods

Laniga said he will arrange to get the roof inspected and trees trimmed; pavilion needs painting.

b. Wolters Woods playground equipment evaluation

Laniga said the playground needs to be better maintained, needs to be power washed. Brand said more mulch needed. Hoekman said he will talk to Sinclair Recreation and Superior Surfacing about the equipment.

XI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Start: 6:51 p.m.

Mary Jo Bertolino: Asked an audience member, Jeremy Van Hoven (on Zoom), why beach stairs proposal was turned down, Van Hoven said he didn't know.

Stacey Lefevre, 6565 Lake Effect Drive: Looking at grants and suggested recreation passport program, said beach stairs are not safe.

Patrick Dietrich, 6521 140th Ave.: Recommended copper or zinc for roofing, noted need for mulch, some pavement on Beeline bike path has buckled due to heat.

Jeremy VanHoven, 6730 Vandermeulen Road (Zoom): Thanked parks commission members, impressed with Huyser demolition work, police presence would take care of parking issues, Farview building was former Interurban station from Gibson Crossing.

End: 7 p.m.

XII. ADJOURN

Motion by Simmons, second by Hoekman, to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m. Laninga called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED 5-0 VOICE VOTE