

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
4338 BEELINE ROAD
ALLEGAN COUNTY
HOLLAND, MI 49423
TELEPHONE (616) 335.3050

May 16, 2007

REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michelle Sall called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Sall, Chuck Strabbing, Kelly DeWitt, Laura Canaan, Ray Buursma, Linda Howell, Karen Simmons

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Pat Meyer – Volunteer Coordinator
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the April 18, 2007 meeting. Following discussion, the minutes were approved as submitted.

ARTICLE III. TREASURER'S REPORT - - Chuck Strabbing

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of April, 2007. Maintenance: Virg's Refuse - \$420.00, Heavener Property Services - \$4,140.00; Contracted Services: CCC Resources – Pat Meyer - \$750.00, Gene Teusink - \$155.00, David Buursma - \$145.00, Julie Buursma - \$145.00; Salaries: Laura Canaan - \$120.00, Kelly De Witt - \$180.00, Ray Buursma - \$120.00, Chuck Strabbing - \$210.00, Michelle Sall - \$225.00, Karen Simmons - \$180.00, Linda Howell - \$180.00. Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was filed.

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reported the budget reflects payroll in January and overall the budget is in good shape.

ARTICLE IV. COMMUNICATIONS - None

ARTICLE V. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - None

ARTICLE VI. PUBLIC HEARING – 5 YEAR MASTER PLAN

Chairman Sall opened for public hearing.

Michelle Sall noted that the budget on page 7 is higher than the fiscal budget. Al Meshkin explained that the fiscal year budget is broken out differently. Al also noted that per State guidelines, there must be at least 30 days allowed for public comment on the plan.

Bob Slikkers of 6553 Creekwood Lane commented that he had anticipated more community attendance at this meeting. He asked how this plan had been communicated prior to this evening. Michelle Sall stated that a survey was done and Pat Meyer noted that the plan was out on the website. Al Meshkin noted that the public hearing had been advertised in two local newspapers. Bob asked how big of a change this is from the originally communicated plan. Kelly De Witt responded that the overview is located in the plan. Bob also asked if any of the plans are dependent on an increase in millage. Al Meshkin responded none of the plan is dependent on an increase in tax dollars.

Michelle Sall commented that the survey results showed the Huyser Farm and Laketown Beach as the most used facilities.

Michelle Sall closed the public hearing.

ARTICLE VII. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORT

A. Al Meshkin

Al noted that there was a historic dedication and conference held at the Felt Mansion on May 9th that was very successful. Al commented that future grants might be used to obtain the additional buildings on the Felt Estate for further restoration.

B. Patty Meyer

The tarp from the ice rink was removed and is in the Township Hall basement. The ODC event is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th. The Huyser Farm signs have not yet been received. Saturday, May 19th is a work day at Laketown Beach and Karen Simmons will facilitate the work. Michelle Sall asked for an update on the Pat Kammeraad memorial plaque. Al Meshkin stated that there is no update and Pat Meyer offered to follow up on this.

ARTICLE VII. ON GOING BUSINESS

A. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT – No report.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PARKS BROCHURE

David Beattie gave a review of the parks brochure mock-up. The document could be used as a tri-fold and also a poster. The uniqueness of each park will be featured. Linda Howell suggested bringing seasonal photos into the brochure. Michelle Sall asked to include information depicting which parks are barrier free. Pat Meyer asked the Commission members to provide feedback to her. Ray Buursma commented that the combination map and features were well done. Linda Howell asked if the bike paths would be included. David responded that they would be in the next revision, which will be available at the next meeting.

B. MAINTENANCE OF BLUEBERRY FIELDS

Michelle Sall asked if brush hogging should be done again. Chuck Strabbing responded that it does need to be done and he will follow up. Pat Meyer is also following up with MSU on a potential partnership with them on the blueberry farming.

C. USE OF OLD TOWNSHIP HALL

Michelle Sall asked for feedback on ideas and suggested installing restrooms. Linda Howell asked what the demand is from the Township for community use. Al Meshkin responded he receives less than six requests per year. Ray Buursma asked if there is room on the property for an ice rink. Kelly De Witt responded that there is room but the Township Hall is a more attractive location. Michelle suggested bringing the building to the current Township Hall property. Pat Meyer suggested moving it to either Huyser Farm or Shore Acres Park. Ray Buursma agreed. Kelly De Witt stated that it would be beneficial at Huyser Farm for a meeting place or warm up building during in climate weather. Michelle Sall asked for the Commission consensus. Al Meshkin stated that the

move of the building could be funded by the sale of the property. Laura Canaan feels that there are too many buildings on Huyser now and she would be in favor of removing it. Karen Simmons commented on being in favor of moving it to Huyser Farm and removing the small rental house on the corner of the property. Kelly De Witt mentioned using the Huyser Farm farmhouse for educational purposes. Pat Meyer stated that the ODC representatives were excited about the option of using the house for classes. Linda Howell noted that analysis should be done as to whether the structure of the old Township Hall is such that it could be moved. Pat Meyer will follow up on the feasibility and the cost.

D. HITCHING POSTS AT FARVIEW FARM

Michelle Sall suggested installing hitching posts at Farview Farm. The Board of Public Works will allow removal of power poles for a minimal cost. Karen Simmons will follow up and advise at the next meeting.

E. TRAIL MARKERS

Michelle Sall asked for an update on installing trail markers. Kelly De Witt suggested making it part of the workday duties at each park.

ARTICLE IX. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bob Slikkers asked if the survey results are in the 5-year plan brochure. Michelle Sall responded that it is available at the Township Hall Office. He also pointed out an error on the bike path mapping in the Appendix. He commented that a feasible use must be determined before spending funds to move the old Township Hall.

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

ARTICLE XI. ASSIGNMENTS

Pat - Next draft of the parks brochure
Check the feasibility of moving the old Township Hall
Pursue MSU involvement in the Huyser Farm blueberry crop
Follow up on the memorial plaque for Pat Kammeraad

Karen - Follow up with HBPW on the power poles to be used for hitching posts

Chuck - Follow up on brush hogging the blueberries at Huyser Farm