

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

June 18, 2008

Held at Shore Acres Park

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Linda Howell called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Sall, Linda Howell, Karen Simmons, Chuck Strabbing, Ray Buursma

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Canaan, Kelly De Witt

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the May 21, 2008 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 May 2008. Maintenance: Heavener Property Services - \$298.00, Advantage Building Maintenance - \$110.00, Onder Construction Inc. - \$730.00 Veldhof Septic Service - \$70.00; Contracted Services: Gene Teusink - \$150.00; Electricity: Consumers Energy - \$8.00. Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was filed.

Chuck reported that we are within budget at this time.

ARTICLE IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. BLACK RIVER SCHOOL ART PROJECT

One resident called to express concern over the placement of the artwork at Sanctuary Woods stating that it might not be appropriate for the park and may be invasive to the wildlife. Linda Howell responded to the resident explaining that it would be a one day event and might provide more exposure for the park. The resident appreciated the information and was comfortable with the explanation.

B. PRESS ARTICLES

Linda Howell shared the news articles that have been printed in the Holland Sentinel, The Observer and the Township Newsletter. Linda recognized Michelle Sall for her contributions to the articles. Al Meshkin noted that the Sentinel now does a weekly page on Saugatuck activities.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORT

- a. Al Meshkin introduced Nick Otting as a Township employee who has been doing maintenance work at the Felt Mansion and other Township parks. Nick is interested in exploring the potential opportunity of living in the small Huyser Farm house in exchange for labor in the Township parks. He and Al have further investigated the condition of the house after the last parks meeting at that location and it has been determined that a licensed builder should inspect the building and provide a recommendation with a proposed budget for necessary repair work. The first step would be to get Consumers Energy in to check out the electrical and then all other primary functions such as the water and septic system, furnace and roof should be inspected. In a preliminary review of the property, Nick felt that the house is borderline salvageable and it will depend on the results of the builder to determine if the project is feasible. Nick shared his feelings and commitment for living in the Township and looking after the parks. Ray Buursma asked if a legal agreement would be generated to protect both Nick Otting and the Township. Al Meshkin responded that the Township Attorney would provide that if we move forward with the proposal.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ray Buursma and seconded by Karen Simmons to authorize up to \$1,000 to be used to evaluate the functional systems of the small house on the Huyser Farm to determine**

its feasibility for habitat with a full report by a licensed builder including a proposed budget for repair expense. This report will be due at the next Parks meeting on July 16, 2008. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED

Al Meshkin also reported that no further information is available on the request for a cell tower placement.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISC GOLF

Ben Barton provided a tour of all 18 holes of the proposed disc golf course on the Shore Acres Park property. He demonstrated how the game is played, what the hole baskets look like and a proposed grating of the path for the fairway. The Commission walked the course which provided a full understanding of the proposed course and necessary equipment.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Ray Buursma and seconded by Michelle Sall to approve an 18-hole disc golf course at Shore Acres Park designed and coordinated by Ben Barton and crew under the supervision of Al Meshkin with ground alteration accomplished by mowing only and no excavation. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Ben Barton will also provide an article for the Township Newsletter, Observer and the Holland Sentinel to be forwarded to Linda Howell and Michelle Sall no later than July 1, 2008.

B. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Chuck Strabbing reported that an announcement was made at the Township Board meeting notifying residents that the MAC TV would no longer be covering the Township Board and Planning Commission meetings. The Township Board is seeking alternate options for local broadcasting.

C. HUNTING REGULATIONS – No update.

D. PARK WORK DAYS/VOLUNTEER DAYS

The next work day is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 6:30-8:30 PM at Laketown Beach.

E. PARK COMISSION ELECTIONS

Linda Howell reported that Bill Snyder will file as an independent and Claudia Scharlow is also considering running for the seat.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. REHAB OF SMALL HUYSER HOUSE

See above discussion in the Township Staff report by Al Meshkin.

B. PARK MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE

See above discussion in the Township Staff report by Al Meshkin.

C. HOLLAND ZEELAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT
REQUEST – DUE OCTOBER 2008

Linda Howell reported that she and Michelle Sall are working on the grant request and welcomes any other Commissioner participation. At this point the focus is on the infrastructure, the Master Plan behind the Township Hall, Huyser Farm Master Plan and restrooms for various parks.

ARTICLE VIII. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS - None

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on July 16, 2008 at Sanctuary Woods with Wolters Woods as a backup location in case of rain. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

ARTICLE X. ASSIGNMENTS

Al - Work with Nick Otting to provide a full evaluation report of the small house on Huyser Farm.