

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

August 19, 2009

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Snyder

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Nick Otting – Park Maintenance
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

Linda Howell reported that five emails were received in regards to the water tower project at Sanctuary Woods.

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the July 15, 2009 meeting. Following discussion, the minutes were approved pending noted correction.

ARTICLE IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of July 2009. Maintenance: Heavener Property Services - \$1,586.50, Veldhof Septic Service - \$150.00, Holland

Electric Motor - \$112.76, Koops Well Drilling - \$85.00 Advantage Building Maintenance - \$110.00; Salaries: Nick Otting - \$565.00, Michelle Sall - \$180.00, Karen Simmons - \$180.00, Chuck Strabbing - \$210.00, Linda Howell - \$225.00, Bill Snyder - \$120.00; Contracted Services: Joyce Teusink - \$150.00, Outdoor Discovery Center - \$375.00, Patrick McKown/Flatire Gardens - \$648.00; Engineering: Prein & Newhof - \$368.00; Capital Outlay: Quantum Construction Company - \$7,400.00; Supplies: Joyce Teusink - \$6.56, Graafschap Hardware - \$82.82, Seven's Paint & Wallpaper - \$237.50, Menard's Holland - \$152.95; Electricity: Consumer's Energy - \$15.96.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

a. Staff

i. Al Meshkin

1. Laketown Beach –

a. Video surveillance at Beach - Al reported that any real surveillance would cost several thousand dollars and may not accomplish the task at hand. No decision to move forward has been made at this time.

b. Quote on re-stripping the parking lot at Beach - Al reported that he has been working with the Allegan County Road Commission on actually expanding the parking. The road is scheduled for resurfacing in two to three years. Michelle Sall commented that she is at the beach every Sunday and the parking continues to be an issue. Michelle stated that there are unprofessional wooden signs attempting to designate the public versus private beach area that were apparently placed on the beach by a neighboring property owner. The Commission agreed that the high water mark on the beach is considered public area. Linda suggested having survey stakes placed on the waterfront to designate the public borders. She also suggested additional signage be placed to create awareness to respect the adjoining neighboring properties.

c. Historical information on previous attempts to increase the number of parking spots at Beach - no update.

2. Huyser/Wolters Woods – Al reported no issues at Wolters Woods other than the gender designation on the restrooms. Nick Otting stated that there have not been any issues at Huyser Farm. The

security light has been purchased but has not been installed at Wolters Woods.

3. BPW/Army Corps soil delivery – Al stated that the soil delivery should occur in one to two weeks.
 4. Storm damage – Al reported the bids to repair the bike path on 147th Avenue between 61st Street and 62nd Street have been received with the lowest bid at \$4,484.00. Linda Howell asked if there is any insurance money available. Al responded that there is no insurance coverage. The work should begin within the next week. The Township will be responsible for approximately \$250,000.00 for the road repair on 147th Street. The dam repair should begin in September. The DEQ permit has not been received yet so materials have not yet been ordered. There will not be any Federal emergency funds available for the Township. The repair on 32nd Street should be done by the end of October.
 5. Bike Path construction – Al reported a pre-construction meeting was held last week and the project will begin later this month. The bids were a little over the original three year old bid but under the current pricing. The township share is at approximately \$337,000.00 to the Township. The sand from the 80-man building can be recycled for this project saving approximately \$20,000.00. There will be a lot of firewood available for residents' use at the site where property owners do not want to take it. If you are willing to take a whole tree, it could be delivered to your home. This would occur next year probably in the spring.
 6. Ice Rink – Al suggested the Commission consider having it at the Felt Mansion on the basketball court. The existing liner would have to be replaced if it is necessary for use one on the concrete. A commercial grade liner of 100' x 100' is approximately \$1200.00. Al suggested building a slight edge around the court. Karen Simmons suggested constructing a dirt berm around the perimeter. Al and Nick will research options for the rink at the mansion site. Al is also working on creating an entrance to this area. He will prepare potential expenses for the next meeting. There are sides available that could be used.
- ii. Nick Otting – Nick reported that the small Huyser Farm house has been painted. He has been taking care of the blueberries and trying to cut

out the grapevines that are choking out the berries. He has been checking all of the parks and walking them regularly. Nick suggested creating a better drain system behind the berry area on Huyser Farm and using the Debts Crew to do so.

- iii. Township Board Report - Chuck Strabbing reported that he had not been able to attend the Township Board Meeting. Al Meshkin stated that there was nothing to report in regards to the Parks.

ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. BLUEBERRY BRUSH HOG

Linda Howell stated that the work has been done and the invoice came in at \$400.00.

B. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Aaron Edgel reported that the water tower project is complete. There is one pipe and a concrete foundation that remains. Grass seed was planted and trails were repaired. It was just over 16 tons of steel using four dumpsters which was disposed at Louis Padnos Iron and Metal Company. The litter and broken glass bottles were also cleaned up. There were approximately five volunteers per day and the project took about 12 days at double shifts. Aaron asked for Linda Howell's signature to confirm completion of the project. Al Meshkin reported that there were approximately five emails of objection. Linda commented that the concrete remaining can serve as a meeting place for those who used the site as such. Linda stated that she is very impressed with the Scout organization. Aaron said there were just a few minor injuries throughout the whole project. Aaron will send invitations to the Commission for the Eagle Scout recognition ceremony. Aaron shared pictures of the project that can be used for the Township newsletter and website. Linda expressed gratitude for the work done. Ms. Edgel commented that there were four very supportive companies supporting the project which also deserve recognition. They are Louis Padnos Iron and Metal Company, Fire Tech, Fillmore Equipment and Lake Welding.

C. DEER HUNTING AT HUYSER

Karen Simmons asked if there are orange signs available to post for the hunting. Nick Otting stated that there might be some at the Township office. She asked that Nick get them posted. Graafschap Hardware is willing to do the lottery again this year. Karen will follow up with Kathy Stoike on the press release and instructions for the process. The hunt begins October 1 and the lottery will occur in September. Karen asked for feedback

on the number of hunters that should be selected. There were 15 hunters last year with 3 hunters per time. It was agreed that there will be a maximum of 15 selected for this year as well.

ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. SAUGATUCK SCOUT PROPOSAL

Al Meshkin stated that this is no longer an issue.

B. DAY OF CARING SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Karen Simmons reported that she submitted four projects for this event. Farview Park, Wolters Woods, Laketown Beach and Huyser Farm are the opportunities. Karen will work with Nick on specific projects. A suggestion was made to introduce larger fish at the Farview Park pond to eliminate the excess number of blue gill fish. This is also an issue at Huyser Farm.

C. STATUES FOR THE HUYSER MEMORIAL

Linda Howell circulated pictures of a variety of statue and bench options for the memorial. Chuck Strabbing stated that he is in favor of a bench. Linda would be concerned about damage being done to a bench. Chuck commented that the bench at the Felt Mansion was broken and thrown into the pond. Linda found a vendor in Muskegon for a concrete bench. Chuck stated that he would like a bench with a separate plaque to accompany it. Karen Simmons stated that she is not in favor of a statue but would like a plaque of some sort with the likeness of the Huyser couple. Michelle Sall prefers the bench as long as it is not too pristine. Nick Otting suggested the Commission look at the memorial for the original homestead of Ganges which can be found at 66th Street and M-89. Apparently, this memorial was created by an artist from the Chicago area.

D. WOLTERS WOODS

Chuck Strabbing stated that the mulch in the playground at Wolters Woods should be replaced and suggested doing it during the Day of Caring. Al Meshkin will have a load delivered to the park. The grill at the park should also be replaced as the current one is rusted through. Al suggested adding two at Shore Acres Park. He will get pricing for all three grills.

E. CONTROLLED BURN AT HUYSER FARM

Karen Simmons suggested doing a controlled burn at Huyser Farm for the dilapidated buildings. Nick mentioned using the Debts Crew to dismantle the shingles prior to the burn. Al suggested dismantling the buildings and disposing of the materials versus doing a burn. Nick suggested trying to save the red barn by repairing the roof. Nick and Al will work on a proposal for addressing all of the buildings on the site.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2009 at 7:00 P.M to be held at the Township Hall. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

ARTICLE IX. ASSIGNMENTS

Al --

1. Obtain pricing for three grills to replace one at Wolters Woods and add two to Shore Acres Park.
2. Research options for installing the ice rink on the basketball court at Shore Acres Park.
3. Work with Nick on options for removing the dilapidated buildings at Huyser Farm.

Linda –

1. Continue to pursue options for the Huyser Farm memorial.

Nick –

1. Install the security light at Wolters Woods.
2. Work with Al on the removal of excess buildings at Huyser Farm.
3. Work with the Debts Crew on creating a more functional stream behind the blueberry patch at Huyser Farm.

Karen –

1. Work with Nick on specific projects for the Day of Caring (September 17).