

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

September 16, 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: None

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

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

Communication was received from Dr. Brian Bodenbender requesting permission to temporarily attach 2 or 3 survey targets to the outside of the staircase on the dune at Laketown Beach. See VIII. C.

ARTICLE III. SPECIAL BUSINESS – EAGLE SCOUTS

A. GALIB BRASCHLER

Galib Braschler of Saugatuck requested permission for an Eagle Scout project proposing to improve the public access boat launch at Goshorn Lake. He stated that an extra layer of gravel is necessary and also trimming of shrubbery and tall grasses. There is a log obstructing the boat launch that should be removed. He would like to clean up a neighboring area and perhaps include a fence.

Al Meshkin provided the name of the neighboring resident whom Galib Braschler is familiar with. Linda Howell asked if there had been any issue in the past with fencing. Al stated fencing requirements are 20 feet from the water's edge and 75% transparent material must be used. Karen Simmons stated that she had spoken to members of the Goshorn Lake Association and they are in support of the project. Chuck Strabbing asked for clarification of the next step. Galib responded that he will provide a written plan for the Commission's approval. He also mentioned that he would be doing some fundraising for the project and is requesting a portion of the funding from the Township. Al Meshkin provided a contact for the Allegan County Road Commission in regards to the additional gravel needed. It is thought that larger sized gravel is necessary due to the weak base of the area.

Michelle Sall asked in what timeframe Galib would like to do the project. He responded mid-October.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Bill Snyder to approve the proposed Eagle Scout project at Goshorn Lake coordinated by Galib Braschler. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### B. TOMMY FINN

No representation. Linda stated that Tommy could not attend tonight because of a conflict with a soccer game.

#### ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting. Following discussion **a motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Michelle Sall to approve the minutes. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### ARTICLE V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of July 2009. Maintenance: Veldhof Septic Service - \$400.00, Roger Busscher - \$400.00, Advantage Building Maintenance - \$110.00; Salaries: Nick Otting - \$545.00; Contracted Services: Joyce Teusink - \$155.00; Engineering: Prein & Newhof - \$1500.00; Supplies: Graafschap Hardware - \$34.64, Seven's Paint & Wallpaper - \$119.97, Menard's Holland - \$44.97, Overisel Lumber - \$9.90; Electricity: Consumer's Energy - \$31.92.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bill Snyder and seconded by Michelle Sall to approve the Treasurer’s Report. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Chuck Strabbing explained that the extra charge from Veldhof Septic Service was due to a port-o-potty being tipped over. Karen Simmons asked how many receptacles are placed and where. Chuck responded that there is one each at Laketown Beach, Sanctuary Woods and Huyser Farm.

## ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

### a. Staff

#### i. Al Meshkin

1. Pricing for three grills to replace one at Wolters Woods and add two to Shore Acres Park – Al provided examples and pricing. The total cost would be just under \$1,000.00 for the grills and shipping costs. It is very similar to the grill at Farview Park. Karen Simmons questioned the usage. Chuck commented that there are residents that use the grill at Wolters Woods. He would recommend having one at each park and not two as is at Wolters Woods. The support poles on the grills at Wolters Woods are in good condition. Chuck will look at them to determine if the poles can be used. Linda Howell offered a volunteer she is familiar with that might be able to repair the existing grills. Al Meshkin stated that whatever decision is made on the grills, it would not need to be done until the spring.
2. Pricing on alternate “security” cameras/surveillance signs for Laketown Beach parking area – Al provided samples of cameras for discussion. It was suggested that a security sign also be placed in the parking area. This will be done next year in the spring.
3. Ice rink options at Shore Acres Park - Al provided a proposal for \$9,000.00 to install the ice rink on top of the current basketball court. Nick Otting commented that many of the parts for the rink from the Saugatuck/Douglas Recreation are missing. Chuck Strabbing stated that he is aware that some of the parts were taken with permission from the Recreation Department. Michelle Sall asked if the court needed repaving, would it be possible with the rink curbing. Al said the slope would be minimal and there would probably not be a need to resurface the court. Al offered to pursue

more bids and options. Linda Howell asked if the hoop poles might need to be wrapped to avoid accidents. Nick stated that there is foam available that could be installed. Al also noted that the Fall Festival is now being planned as Winter Fest as a community day for the residents. Michelle suggested in the future moving the old town hall to the site for a warming room. Chuck suggested putting up a cement slab and moving the current pavilion structure. There are many ideas on the table for winter activities at the park. These ideas are also in conjunction with the Township's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bill Snyder asked if there is lighting out in the field area. Al responded that there currently is not but there are options for installing lighting at a minimal cost. Linda asked how the snow removal would be handled. Karen asked what other costs would be involved for the festival. Al explained that the Township Board has approved \$5,000.00 for the event and it is possible that the Rental Company might provide a discount for the tent. Al also noted that Heavener will be using a snow blower for the mansion grounds and could be used for the rink as well. Michelle asked if benches would be provided. Al said it might be straw bales for the first year. Chuck stated that a rink will be a lot of work to maintain. The question was also raised as to where the water will come from for re-flooding the rink. Chuck expressed concern over the ability to maintain the rink without additional labor support. Nick asked what the maintenance was like for the rink at the Township Hall. Al responded that the biggest problem was keeping the snow off.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Michelle Sall to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$6,000.00 to install a cement curb for the ice rink at Shore Acres Park. The electrical and water needs will be investigated later. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Chuck Strabbing asked if the Parks Commission is benefiting financially from the sand removal at the park. Al responded that the sand is being removed for use of the new bike path reducing the cost by \$20,000.00.

4. Plan for removing the dilapidated buildings at Huyser Farm -. Al reported that volunteers on the Day of Caring will work on the removal of these buildings. Nick Otting stated that he may possibly use the materials for a small garage. The Debts Crew will

finish whatever removal is not done on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Al stated that the dumpsters are in place on the property. Nick will work at removing all miscellaneous materials that can no longer be used. Al questioned the location of the metal door that was once used for the mansion. Nick will try to locate it.

5. Disc golf course – Al noted that there have been no complaints concerning the disc golf course. Chuck Strabbing commented that the course is used very frequently.

ii. Nick Otting

1. Security light and bathroom genders signs at Wolters Woods – Nick reported that he does have the light and signs and will work on getting the items installed. He did find a pole that can be used for the security light. He will need a small crew for this job and work out the logistics of installing it vertically. Nick also purchased the paint for the restroom building.
2. Work with the Debts Crew on stream behind the blueberry patch at Huyser Farm – No update.

- iii. Township Board Report - Chuck Strabbing reported that nothing was brought up in regards to the Parks Commission at the meeting.

## ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

### A. DEER HUNTING AT HUYSER FARM

Karen Simmons reported that the drawing will be held on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Graafschap Hardware Store.

### B. DAY OF CARING SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Karen Simmons, Chuck Strabbing and Nick Otting will coordinate the volunteer activities at the designated parks. Linda Howell asked that pictures be taken of the day's activities.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISC GOLF FUND RAISER

Ben Barton is proposing a tournament to be held on Saturday, October 24 at the Shore Acres disc golf course. Travis Puitter is working with Ben and there may be two sponsors one for music and one for beverages. The proceeds will be used for cement t-pads for the course. Ben hopes to see approximately 72 participants.

Karen Simmons asked if Ben had researched garbage receptacles for the park. Chuck Strabbing is proposing the purchase of steel barrels and he would be willing to frame them in and be responsible for emptying them. Ben also offered to solicit for 55 gallon drums from a local oil company. Ben suggests the placement of about 4 or 5 barrels throughout the course.

Ben is asking for approval tonight in order to begin coordinating the event.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Bill Snyder to approve the Disc Golf Course Tournament on October 24, 2009 subject to Ben Barton coordinating the details with Al Meshkin. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. TRUCK REQUEST

Al Meshkin explained that the vehicle would be used for parks maintenance work. This item will be further discussed at the October meeting.

C. HOPE COLLEGE DUNE MEASUREMENT PROJECT

Linda Howell explained Professor Bodenbender's request to screw targets into the staircase railing at Laketown Beach to continue the sand movement research project.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Michelle Sall and seconded by Chuck Stabbing to approve the request by Professor Bodenbender. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

D. PLAQUES

Karen Simmons provided information on commemorative plaques for Huyser Farm. This will be further discussed at the October meeting.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2009 at 7:00 P.M to be held at the Township Hall. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

#### ARTICLE X. ASSIGNMENTS

Al --

1. Negotiate lower price for ice rink installation at Shore Acres Park

Chuck

1. Check the grill poles at Wolters Woods for potential reuse for new grills

Nick –

1. Locate the metal door from the Felt Mansion to be used on the Huyser Farm house
2. Coordinate the logistics to install the pole for the security light at Wolters Woods