

MINUTES  
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
AT  
TOWNSHIP HALL

March 16, 2011

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Howell, Michelle Sall, Bill Snyder, Karen Simmons, Chuck Strabbing

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Al Meshkin reported receiving a verbal complaint from a resident in regards to the threatening signs put up at Laketown Beach by neighboring property owners.

ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion the minutes were approved as submitted.

- b. Township Board Report – Linda Howell

Linda Howell reported that she attended the annual meeting. She gave a brief overview of the Commission's activities and there were several comments and a few questions asked by residents albeit all in a very positive tone. The Park's budget was approved as submitted as was the rest of the township budget.

#### ARTICLE IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Strabbing reviewed the bills to be paid as of February 2011. Maintenance: Advantage Building Maintenance - \$70.00, Action Heating & Cooling - \$272.74, Veldhof Septic - \$375.00, Heavener Property Services - \$130.00, Koops Well Drilling Inc. - \$275.00; Contracted Services: Outdoor Discovery Center - \$1,125.00, Robert Jerow - \$155.00; Supplies: Menards Holland - \$48.35, All Signs - \$56.85; Salaries: Nick Otting - \$640.00.

Chuck reported that he has adjusted the budget slightly but things are looking good. As was stated above, the proposed budget was approved by the Board.

#### ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

##### a. Township Manager – Al Meshkin

- i. The Board approved the grant resolutions.
- ii. The dog waste signs have been delivered and Nick will install them.
- iii. Al met with Nick and explained the work order process which will be put into place immediately.
- iv. Linda Howell reported that Home Depot has grating available at 70% off which could be used on the restroom skylights at Wolters Woods. Chuck Strabbing stated that he would still like to see plexi-glass with the grating.

##### b. Township Maintenance – Nick Otting

- i. Nick reported that since the last meeting he has been walking the parks. Michigan State has found a spotted winged insect at Huyser Farm. It is the first sighting of this species in Allegan/Ottawa County. They have offered to spray an organic liquid that would control the insects if the township would provide the sprayer equipment. It would have to be applied at the beginning and end of the season. Michigan State wants to increase its involvement of studying the farm. Linda Howell asked Nick to provide specifics of the sprayer cost at the next meeting. Al asked Nick to get pricing on several different sprayers. Praxis is not an option for this year. Linda commented on the portion of the farm that is too wet to pull a trailer/tractor through so that should be kept in mind. There is a drain cleaning crew that is part of the debts crew. Al suggested paying a professional to trench the ditch properly to alleviate the water issues. Nick noted that there is a creek that runs near the area. Linda commented on having resources for a beekeeper to come to the farm. Linda reported that she had received a question about the path markers at Huyser Farm. Nick stated that there are some posted. Chuck Strabbing advised that the signs are in the tool trailer. Path markers should be installed at all parks.

##### ii. Wolters Woods, Sanctuary Woods and Shore Acres Park

Chuck Strabbing reported seeing large loose logs across the trail at Sanctuary Woods. There is also a post busted off at Wolters Woods that needs removing. Al commented

that the posts at Wolters Woods are somewhat decorative. Karen Simmons will follow up on getting the posts routed. Chuck reported that he cleaned the trash at the disc golf course and noted that many players are already out on the course.

#### ARTICLE VI. NEW BUSINESS

##### I. a. Public Hearing for Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application

Linda Howell opened for public hearing. No comments.

A motion was made by Bill Snyder and seconded by Chuck Strabbing to close the public hearing.

Following discussion, **Linda Howell called for a vote for approval of the Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application.**

**UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

##### b. Public Hearing for Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund Grant Application

Linda Howell opened for public hearing. No comments.

A motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Bill Snyder to close the hearing.

Following discussion, **Linda Howell called for a vote for approval of the Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund Grant.**

**UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

##### c. 5-Year Plan

Michelle Sall commented that the 5-Year Parks Plan has an expiration of 2012. Linda Howell asked Commissioners review for discussion at the next meeting. Al Meshkin reported that the census report will be out next week so that information should be taken into consideration for the new revised plan.

#### ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

##### a. Huyser Farm

Chuck Strabbing reported that the bench still needs to be bolted down.

b. Blueberry Jam

Linda Howell asked if the Commissioners want to do another Blueberry Jam Festival at Huyser Farm. Karen Simmons asked what the issues were from last year. Linda stated that there was a question as to whether the number of wrist bands that were handed out matched the dollars collected. The Friends of the Felt may not want to support the festival again this year. There may be another non-profit willing to back the beer tent. Linda asked Nick to provide an outline at the next meeting. She would like the planning to be done sooner in the season if it is going to be done.

c. Wolters Woods

Chuck Strabbing asked if there will be new wood chips put down at Wolters Woods for the playground area as is done every year. Linda Howell commented that Home Depot had rubber chips on sale and that might be a better idea for the children's area. Bill Snyder commented that it would not deteriorate but it may take more rubber chips than wood. Linda also suggested rubber mats as an option. Linda asked that Nick get pricing on replacement materials for the playground equipment area.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Assignments:

Karen –

1. Find source to route replacements for the decorative posts at Wolters Woods

Nick –

1. Get quotes on sprayers to be used by MSU at Huyser Farm
2. Install path markers at all parks before season starts
3. Install dog waste signs at parks
4. Remove large logs across path at Sanctuary Woods
5. Purchase and install grating and plexi-glass at Wolters Woods restrooms
6. Get quotes on ground covering materials for playground equipment at Wolters Woods
7. Bolt benches down at Huyser Farm
8. Provide proposal for Blueberry Jam Festival