

PROPOSED MINUTES  
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
AT  
TOWNSHIP HALL

February 17, 2016

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, Karen Simmons, Bill Snyder, Jim Johnson,  
Jan Lozon  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
STAFF PRESENT: Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Sall reported that an email was received from Ben Barton regarding a charity event planned for February 20 at the disc golf course. The name of the event is the Ice Bowl and all proceeds will be donated to the Christian Neighbors in Douglas. Barton asked if there is a charity that Laketown donates to and if so, the golfers would consider it for a future event.

ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Karen Simmons and seconded by Bill Snyder to approve the January 20, 2016 minutes as written. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

Michelle Sall reviewed the bills to be paid as of January, 2016. Maintenance: Veldhoff Septic - \$400.00, Heavener - \$125.00; Salaries: Michelle Sall - \$75.00, Karen Simmons - \$60.00, Jan Lozon - \$60.00; Contracted Services: John Kunkel - \$155.00 Outdoor Discovery Center - \$1,100.00.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Simmons and seconded by Johnson to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Treasurer Bill Snyder reported that the ODC expenditure was the only one out of the ordinary otherwise all were reoccurring expenses.

Sall noted that in previous years we had suspended the parks gatekeeper during the winter months which we did not do this year. It is \$5.00 per day per park so we may want to reconsider doing that next year.

#### ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT – LINDA HOWELL

Linda Howell reported that the Township Board voted to put a new bond issue on the May ballot specifically to bring fiber optic to every property owner for high speed broad band access. Two proposals were presented, a 15 and 20-year. The 15-year proposal was approved to save over \$1million in interest costs. If voters approve the bond, the project could potentially be completed by this time next year. The township would own the infrastructure and contract with an ISP (Internet Service Provider) and necessary equipment would be housed in the township office. Simmons asked if it is a bond, Howell responded yes; the whole project is \$8.5 million for 15 years and the cost for an average home will be a little over \$100 per year. Many residents were at the board meeting and were thrilled that the township is proposing this. Simmons asked how word of this is getting out to residents. Howell stated that she will put this on the township Facebook page and it will also be in the newsletter. Snyder asked if this is the Internet and Howell responded yes and an ISP could also offer cable options. Snyder asked if the bond will be a millage and Howell responded that yes, it would be. Johnson asked if the City of Holland is doing this, too. Howell said City of Holland has limited optic fiber for city and ISD use only but not allowed for anyone else. There could be an option to connect to these points which will be taken into consideration. The City of Holland is trying to roll out a pilot program but it is only open to businesses and not private property owners. Johnson asked what the monthly rate is estimated to be? Howell said it is estimated to be less than \$50 per month for basic Internet access. It would also enhance cell phone coverage. Snyder said they will want to pick up as many customers as they can so they will be competitive. Johnson asked if it would be underground. Howell said yes, with a redundant conduit next to it. Private neighborhoods/associations would have to sign off on easements.

Johnson asked if there was an update on the 147<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Streets development. Howell reported that it was approved at 26 unites with a significant contract which included owner occupancy only and a lot of other very specific criteria. Snyder asked if renderings were available and Howell said yes at the township office. Lozon asked if there was discussion about putting a light at that corner. Howell said there is a website you can look at to check the safety and in the last 6-7 years only less than 10 accidents. Snyder asked if there is an entrance on both 147<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> and Howell said 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue only. Johnson commented

about two bright flashing traffic signal lights on 138<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Streets. Howell said yes, because many driving east on 138<sup>th</sup> Avenue miss the stop sign when crossing 64<sup>th</sup> Street.

ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS – No report.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SURVEY

Sall thanked commissioners for reviewing the survey. The link to access the on-line option must be added. The survey can be used as an insert with the next township newsletter. Howell asked to add the question, “Are you a township resident?” to the survey monkey. Lozon asked if we should add a stamp and Simmons said we discussed that and it was determined to be cost prohibitive.

B. ADOPT-A-PARK

Sall expressed appreciation to Jan Lozon for the photos and suggested putting photo credits in the document. She asked commissioners to review the text that is on the document and submit any changes. She would like to include the parks wish list in this document, too. Johnson asked about the comment regarding the construction of restroom facilities for Wolters Woods, is it more of an upgrade because there are already restrooms there? Simmons responded, yes, it would be to make improvements to the existing. Johnson asked if this program would be similar to what MDOT does for the highways, wherein an organization takes it on for a period of time and a sign is put in place to recognize the caretaker. Sall said schools have been calling to ask for community service volunteer projects so this could be used for that reason, too. Johnson said what comes to his mind is a group is adopting one of the parks for a year. Lozon agreed that the title, “Adopt-a-Park” reminds her of the MDOT program as well but hadn’t given thought to an alternate name for the program. Snyder likes the “Adopt-a-Park” title but agrees that some sort of recognition would be nice. Lozon added that you can become more familiar with a park if you work in it on a regular basis. Simmons will research pricing on plaques or a type of signage that could be updated. Johnson commented that it could be two levels of volunteers, one where a group spends a day in the park or where one or several volunteers spend a period of time. In that case, what amount of time would warrant recognition? Lozon suggested having some means of communication in the park providing contact information to learn more about the program.

Snyder mentioned the Huyser Farm house and the potential for a local high school industrial arts class working on the renovation as a project. Johnson asked if there is a building construction class at the local tech center. Snyder said if the \$60,000 gets approved for the Parks budget, it would be for infrastructure this year but next year if we have the same amount we could finish the house out. Lozon said it would be a shame if it deteriorated. Snyder said it is worth saving and Johnson said it might be a conversation

for when Meshkin is present. Simmons asked if we are going to put a Laketown employee in the middle of the park. Lozon asked if it would be more of a learning center. Simmons said that is what we talked about previously. Lozon said there are a lot of eco systems on that property. Johnson said he thought the concern was the security, if you fix it up and then how would you prevent it from vandalism. Lozon said the state police ride down that road all the time and Snyder suggested adding a security system. Snyder said unlike the beach, cameras would work there. Simmons said originally we discussed it being a learning center and ODC had expressed interest in using it. Howell said that was before they built their new place. Howell said she last heard from Meshkin that potentially Dan Williams would move into the house, surround it with a fence, remove the small house and move the old township hall there and sell off that one parcel where the township hall is today. Lozon asked if there were any restrictions when the property was donated. Howell said there could only be one single family dwelling on the property so only one house occupied. Johnson asked if the house that Williams lives in now that part of the family property. Howell said yes, and there was a smaller bunk house by the red barn that was removed due to it falling down.

## ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. PORTABLE RESTROOMS

Johnson mentioned the invoices for portable restrooms, asked if there is a history with the current provider, Veldhof and if we would consider someone else if they had a better service and pricing. Snyder said he doesn't know if it had been put out for bid. Johnson researched others and Plummers, a larger firm, quoted a rate around \$80 per month with potentially nicer units. Sall said historically, the units have been shot with a shotgun, pulled away, turned over and other types of vandalism causing the township to replace them, particularly at the beach. Johnson said he explained much of that and Plummers said if we go with them they will put a nicer unit in and if something happens we would not be charged for the first replacement. Plummers had a number of ideas to secure it at little cost. There was also discussion as to whether or not the units should be serviced on a weekly basis during winter months and it was determined to be necessary.

## ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.