

PROPOSED MINUTES  
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
HELD AT HUYSER FARM  
4158 64<sup>TH</sup> STREET

May 17, 2017

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, Jim Johnson, Ryan Bosscher,  
Janice Lozon, Karen Simmons  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Noah Sall – Deputy Assessor/Deputy Zoning Administrator  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bosscher and seconded by Simmons to approve the April 15, 2017 minutes as written. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills to be paid as of April 2017 were reviewed. Maintenance: City of Holland Youth Connection - \$5,500.00, Veldhof – \$435.00, John Kunkel - \$155.00, Heavener - \$7,008.50, Chef Container - \$137.83, Jason Schrottenboer - \$6,500.00; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$180.00, Michelle Sall - \$225.00, Karen Simmons - \$120.00, Jim Johnson - \$210.00, Jan Lozon - \$120.00, Ryan Bosscher - \$210.00; Contracted Services: Outdoor Discovery Center - \$1,100.00; Electricity: Consumers Energy - \$46.57; Taxes: \$81.48.

Bosscher stated there were two larger invoices for the beach sand removal and Heavener maintenance work. Sall added there was also an extra charge to upright the turned over portable restroom at the beach.

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

#### ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – SALL

- a. Sall reported that there was nothing discussed at the Township Board meeting that related to the parks.

#### ARTICLE VI. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Noah Sall provided a drawing and estimated cost details (est. \$700-\$725) for the floating dock at Farview Park. It will be two 6' x 12' pressure treated platforms connected and suspended by seven barrels along with two 12' steel poles and chain to anchor. The Youth Connection students will assist with carrying the materials to the pond and installation. Bosscher asked if the docks will go in near the bench that is currently not functional. Sall responded yes and the bench would be relocated. Bosscher asked if Consumers' Power would permit access on their drive to more easily get the supplies to the pond area and Meshkin said he would check with their office. Meshkin added that there may be private property owners besides Consumers. Simmons commented that she likes the design of the dock. Sall added that the dock would not have to be removed in the winter.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Bosscher and seconded by Johnson to approve the expenditure of \$700 to \$725 for the dock at Farview Farm. Sall called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

- b. Meshkin reported that the Holland Youth Connection students are scheduled to begin working on July 10 for 5 weeks at 12 hours per week per student and will work on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Sall asked if the project list was beneficial and Meshkin responded that the projects had not been finalized but the list is helpful. Meshkin stated that he has contacted ODC in regards to available funds to address the invasive species but has not received a response yet. Lozon stated that she was not able to locate the woolly adeloid species that had been reported in Sanctuary Woods. Johnson agreed that he had also looked and did not find it. Lozon said it is better to inspect the trees in the winter either before or after snowfall. Lozon will follow up on the reported infestation. Lozon added that she and her husband removed 46 bags of garlic mustard from

Sanctuary Woods. Meshkin mentioned the email from Adam Kunkel regarding more signage at Sanctuary Woods to enforce the 10:00pm park closure. Kunkel reported having issues getting park visitors to leave the park and has had to call Allegan County Sheriff to get people to leave so he can lock the gate. Meshkin will get more signage installed.

## ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

### A. BEACH

Sall reported that Holland Christian High School has a senior service day on Friday and will be at the beach to clear the sand off the steps. Schrotenboer emailed an update on the sand removal. Johnson reported that Plaggemars will provide a quote for rebuilding the stairs but added a decision on next steps should be made soon. Meshkin said the winter, months of December/January is the best time to rebuild the stairs because the ground is frozen. He added that the grant application is under review.

### B. ADAPTIVE REUSE OF OLD TOWNSHIP HALL

Sall tabled this item.

### C. INVASIVE SPECIES

Lozon reported finding Japanese Knotweed throughout the township. Sall gave a long shout out to Lozon for driving thru the entire township to identify and document where invasive species is found. Griggs asked if anything will be done about it as he had tried to remove it in various locations in Fennville and found it nearly impossible to do so. Tom Hoekman asked if it is the same as Michigan Bamboo. Johnson asked if there is an update on the Oak Wilt. Sall stated the trees cannot be pruned until after July 15 or it will put the trees at risk.

### D. DOG PARK

Sall tabled this item.

### E. PICKLE BALL UPDATE

Meshkin reported an estimate of \$3500 was given for two soil borings. Johnson said there are different types of borings, either manual or rig drilling. Meshkin said at this point, the goal is to know how deep the silt is in the proposed area for the courts. Noah Sall volunteered to contact Aquinas College to see if there are interns that might consider this for a project. Meshkin confirmed the courts would not be in the 2017-18 budget year.

### F. FIVE YEAR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Sall showed a draft of the cover and advised that she has draft copies of the entire plan for commissioners' review and feedback. She would like to add Bosscher's Parks and Pathways maps; highlighted areas require feedback; Adopt-a-Park and the park reservation program will be included. Sall asked Meshkin to provide information on how former grant monies were applied as that must be included in the plan to qualify for future grants. Other guidance for grant opportunities is to include a recent survey and/or to host a luncheon or open house to create awareness of the parks. Mitra Delaney asked if a copy of the report is available. Sall explained that this is a draft only and the final report will be available on the website after a public hearing to approve it is held and it is submitted to the state. The current plan is on the website for public review.

#### ARTICLE VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Hoekman asked if the Lakeview School playground is part of Laketown Township and if so, could those tennis courts be used for the pickle ball courts. Bosscher advised the playground is owned by the City of Holland. Hoekman also asked about charging to use the parks, particularly the beach if more property is purchased there. Meshkin explained that due to the state grant money, the township cannot charge to use the parks nor does he feel that we should. Besides that, the cost to employ someone to monitor the parks for fees is not justifiable. Mitra Delaney asked if there is millage for the parks and Meshkin responded no, only for the bike paths.

#### ARTICLE IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. HUYSER FARM TOUR

Sherri Sirko asked if the farmhouse had been assessed for value. Johnson said nothing formal has been done. Simmons said we are not proposing to sell it and Meshkin responded that it cannot be sold. Sall explained that tonight's tour is to educate the commissioners and interested residents on the property. The Parks Commission has been discussing how best to move forward with the property as it must be secured and assured that it does not pose a danger to anyone visiting the park. Meshkin stated that a migrant housing had been removed but the main farmhouse has significant historical value to the township. The family donated 102 acres to the township and the least we can do is to take care of the house. The commissioners and residents toured the house. Sall thanked residents for coming to the meeting and advised further discussion would occur at future meetings.

#### ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Lozon to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M. Sall called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED.**