

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
AT
TOWNSHIP HALL

June 17, 2015

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, Jan Lozon
MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Johnson, Bill Snyder
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Michelle Sall noted the Holland Sentinel article on the drum circle at Shore Acres Park.

ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Karen Simmons and seconded by Janice Lozon to approve the May 20, 2015 minutes as written. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

Michelle Sall reviewed the bills to be paid as of May 2015. Maintenance: Veldhoff Septic - \$480.00; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$150.00; Supplies: Robert Jerow - \$8.00.

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

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT – Al Meshkin

Al Meshkin reported that Keith Becksvort expressed concern over the idea to restore the Huyser Farm and made suggestions for other opportunities such as the beach stairs, blueberry farm, etc. Al suggested proposing a millage on an upcoming ballot to fund park improvements and Keith said he would consider such an investment. One mil would equate to approximately \$100 annually per property owner. Al also noted that there have been more requests for park reservations. The commissioners further discussed the potential future phases to the Township Hall Recreation Park, such as the addition of a tot lot, tennis court, walking trail and restrooms.

ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS – AL MESHKIN

Al Meshkin reported that Dan Williams is working on the stairs and trails at Sanctuary Woods and also general clean-up in other parks. The memorial benches have not been put in place pending installation of the concrete pads. The site for the bench at Sanctuary Woods will be placed near the southern entrance. Two memorial benches will be placed at the Felt Mansion.

The ball diamond at the Township Hall Recreation Park is getting good use and the parking will be expanded later this summer. The sprinkler system will also be expanded near the ball fields.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARK SURVEY

Michelle provided a draft of the survey questions for distribution later this year to aid in the updating of the 5-Year Plan. The proposed survey is less prescriptive and more open-ended. The deadline to print for the next newsletter is October 1. Residents would be asked to return the surveys no later than mid-January, 2016. Resident input is critical to support grant applications. Michelle asked for feedback from the commissioners.

B. BLUEBERRY FIELD AT HUYSER FARM

Michelle Sall asked if the fields will be brush hogged. Al Meshkin responded that Heavener will be out as soon as he has staff available.

C. SHORE ACRES PARKING

Al Meshkin reported that the bollards are in place and the white fencing will be installed as soon as it is received. The parking lot is almost always at capacity and there is a need for additional space. Al suggested adding a second parking lot in the future toward the disc golf course on the northwest side. Michelle Sall asked if that idea is better than expanding

the current parking lot. Al also noted an option to move the pole barn that is currently on that site to the Saugatuck State Park if the DNR is willing to take it. It could mean the option to move the shelter off the open field and closer to the proposed parking near the course.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. FELT MANSION CARRIAGE HOUSE

Al Meshkin reported that a tent has been installed on the stage at the Felt Mansion which will add an additional rental option. The tent also offers cover when weather concerns affect the outdoor concerts and other events

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.