

PROPOSED MINUTES  
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
AT  
TOWNSHIP HALL

June 18, 2014

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, Chuck Strabbing, Michelle Sall, Bill Snyder  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Simmons  
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager  
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

Angelina Bauer of 137 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street asked for clarification of the boundaries in Shore Acres Park in relationship to the Chapel. She asked if this area is off limits to the public, specifically inquiring about a situation she encountered when she was there with a running club. Al Meshkin noted that there was an issue with a running group wherein the members were stretching on the stairs and sidewalk while the Felt Mansion Event Coordinator was attempting to show a prospective client the property. The group refused to move and it has been reported that similar behavior has occurred when the mowing service has been on the property preventing the grounds from being groomed. Ms. Bauer stated that she is seen as a supervisor of the running group and felt that they were not obstructing the path, however she engaged in discussion with the Event Coordinator. Her intent this evening is to clarify the boundaries to avoid issues from occurring in the future.

Following much discussion, it was determined that the current picnic table or a new table will be placed on the west end of the parking lot for such use in the future. Linda Howell explained that there are a number of groups that use the park for various reasons, two of which have invested time and energy (disc golf course and mountain bike trail) for specific uses. Ongoing mutual respect has afforded these groups and others use of the park without conflict and she sees no reason the same cannot be done with the running group. Chuck Strabbing noted that over the years he has seen this running group in the park and has never witnessed an issue with the behavior or misuse of the area. He added that his interaction with Ms. Bauer has been positive.

Michelle Sall stated she spoke with a resident in Sanctuary Woods who inquired about the possibility of a dog park in the area. There was concern expressed over park visitors with unleashed dogs causing potential threat to other visitors and the natural habitat. He suggested a designated dog park might be beneficial. Sanctuary Woods does allow dogs and Bill Snyder asked if the signage specifies that a leash is required. Al Meshkin will research purchasing signs for the parks to better indicate the rules regarding dogs. Linda Howell commented that there had been some mention in the press that the City of Holland was considering the former Lakeview School property to be used as a dog park. She will contact the City to follow up. Al suggested using a portion of Farview Park for a designated dog park.

### ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

#### a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Michelle Sall and seconded by Bill Snyder to approve the April 16, 2014 minutes as written. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

#### b. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Linda Howell reviewed the bills to be paid as of April and May 2014. Maintenance: Veldhof Septic - \$480.00 (May); Advantage Building - \$150.00 (May), Chef Container - \$121.66 (May), Heavener - \$4,371.00 (April), Schrottenboer, Jason – \$5,000.00 (May); Contracted Services: Outdoor Discovery Center - \$1,200.00 (April); Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$155.00 (April), \$150.00 (May), Chuck Strabbing - \$60.00 (April), Michelle Sall - \$120.00 (April), Karen Simmons - \$120.00 (April), William Snyder - \$70.00 (April), Linda Howell -\$150.00 (April); Township Hall Park: MC Smith Associates - \$665.74 (May); Electricity: \$23.52 (April), \$23.62 (May). Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

### ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT

Linda Howell reported that she will be moving to the Township Board effective this month so her seat will be open on the Parks Commission. Al Meshkin suggested that the board create a non-voting liaison position between the board and the parks. We will need a replacement for this seat and there are several individuals that have expressed interest to the Township Board by which the appointment is made. Al stated that Chuck Strabbing expressed interest in stepping down whenever a replacement can be appointed. The entire Parks Commission will be on the ballot in 2016. The seats are voted on every 4 years.

## ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Township Manager – Al Meshkin

- a. Tree at Sanctuary Woods has been removed. Dan finished the railing repair today and the quality of the work is very good.
  
- b. General Maintenance Update  
Dan has done a lot of work at Farview Park removing graffiti and general clean up. Michelle Sall stated that she had seen Dan at Sanctuary Woods and his work is excellent, he talks to the visitors and is very pleasant. She added that Wolters Woods, Sanctuary Woods and the Old Township Hall parks all look wonderful. Michelle audited several of the parks and will email the list of action items to Al. Al reported that Dan will soon be wearing a uniform so visitors will identify him as a township employee. Linda Howell asked if the window on the Huyser Farm house has been replaced and Al reported that it is a two-man job and will be done soon. Linda Howell mentioned that the Wavecrest School in Holland is closing and they are auctioning off much of the school equipment including sporting items. Chuck Strabbing asked if the blueberry fields have been mowed and tended to and Al stated that it had not yet been done.

## ARTICLE VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

- a. Den Uyl Bench

Linda Howell asked for an update on the placement of the Den Uyl memorial bench at Sanctuary Woods. Al responded that he has not received a response from the family regarding the verbiage for the bench. He will draft something for the Park Commissioners' review and upon approval place the order.

## ARTICLE VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. MLB GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW

Al Meshkin and Linda Howell are working on the grant to be submitted before the July 1 deadline.

### B. SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Linda Howell asked for suggestions for the summer newsletter. Michelle Sall suggested providing an update on the Township Hall Recreation Project. Al stated that the gazebo will be constructed in July, seeding will be done in late summer and quotes will be obtained for irrigation. He added that the Township Board is very supportive of the project.

ARTICLE VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Assignments:

Al –

1. Place a picnic table on the west end of the parking lot at Shore Acres.
2. Research park signs to address rules for allowing dogs.
3. Draft text for the Den Uyl memorial bench to be placed at Sanctuary Woods.

Linda –

1. Follow up with the City of Holland regarding the potential dog park at the former Lakeview School site.