

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
AT
TOWNSHIP HALL

July 20, 2016

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michelle Sall called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Sall, Jan Lozon, Bill Snyder, Jim Johnson, Karen Simmons
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ryan Bosscher of 967 Laketown Drive shared that he visited Sanctuary Woods and found a nice place for an overlook deck. Lozon commented that a trail in the middle of the bowl might also be nice.

An aerial shot of the Laketown Beach demonstrating where the erosion is occurring was submitted. Lozon and Simmons said the stairs were nicely cleared off. Johnson mentioned the top platform is loose and Meshkin stated that Schrotenboer is reinforcing that area.

ARTICLE III. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Lozon and seconded by Johnson to approve the June 15, 2016 minutes as written. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Snyder reviewed the bills to be paid as of June, 2016. Maintenance: Veldhof – \$480.00, Heavener - \$390.00, Graafschap Hardware - \$31.52; Supplies: Jim Johnson - \$4.09; Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$155.00; Taxes: \$11.47; Contracted Services: Restroom Cleaning May - \$50.00, John Kunkel - \$155.00; Township Hall Park: Macatawa Bank - \$22,605.17 Electricity: Consumers Energy - \$22.59; Taxes: \$15.68. Following discussion, **a motion was made by Lozon and seconded by Johnson to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

Snyder stated the only thing out of the ordinary was the payment for the Township Hall Park and the mowing at Huyser. Meshkin stated the cleaning of the restrooms at Wolters Woods will now be done by the gate keeper due to the previous contractor terminating.

ARTICLE V. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT – HOWELL

Howell said the Board met on July 13 and there was a nice presentation from Herrick District Library regarding the August 2 millage vote. The ballot language is phrased as a new millage but in reality it is the renewal of the 1.5mils previously approved 20 years ago. It will be the first time it is done as a district but the renewal is for the same amount for 14 years. If it doesn't pass, the library may close. The Board also approved the release of a duplicate easement in Mac Hills to Allegan County Road Commission. The fiber optic project was discussed during citizen comments with 3 pro and 3 against it. Hofmeyer and Meshkin met with Charter again but no follow up on their behalf has been done. Meshkin stated that they would service it if the township built it. Howell said the elected reps in Lansing are reviewing the ruling that an S.A.D. cannot be done for fiber projects. Lastly, Chief Den Bleyker reported that the Fire Board approved a new fire truck.

Johnson asked if there is an update on the condo project. Meshkin stated the developer has been running into issues with the water table and storm sewer run-off so it is stalled at this point. It is uncertain what the schedule will be due to the temporary delays.

ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS – MESHKIN

Meshkin reported that he received a low bid from Precision Concrete of \$11,300 for concrete for the pavilion area at the Township Hall Park. Underground sprinkling (est. \$7,000) was ordered in March but the contractor has not been able to get it on the schedule yet primarily due to lack of staffing. Of the \$60,000 budgeted for capital outlay, there is approximately \$25,000 available to begin work on the Huyser Farm main house. Following much discussion, it was decided that updating electrical is a priority to better secure the house. Meshkin said there is considerable prep work to be done before scheduling an electrical contractor. He estimated the electrical upgrade cost at \$10,000. The landscaping around the entire house also needs to be cleared to improve the visibility in an effort to deter vandals. Snyder asked about the well and septic which would also

have to be updated. Lozon asked if the intent was to use the house for classrooms and Meshkin stated his thought was to potentially move Dan Williams into the house. Not all commissioners were in favor of that suggestion. Lozon suggested a group project and Sall suggested a Day of Caring opportunity with the goal to have the electrical work started in the fall.

Meshkin proposed utilizing the majority of the Capital Outlay to focus on the Huyser Farm house in this fiscal year and the restroom in next fiscal year's budget.

Johnson mentioned additional work be done on the stairs at Laketown Beach. Meshkin stated there may be an opportunity for a Coastal Zone Management Grant next year and suggested a design to build a new structure 6-8 feet above the current stairs. He estimated the cost to be \$50-\$100,000 which would be a 50/50 match for the grant. Snyder said what about land acquisition which is still at a stalemate with the current owner. Johnson commented on the number of people that ignore the signs to stay off the dunes.

Sall stated from the survey, residents ranked a dog park second highest on the list of preferences. Meshkin stated he spoke with Holland City Manager Ryan Cotton regarding a partnership on such a park and there is interest in partnering.

Johnson said the rows in the blueberry field at Huyser Farm have trees growing inside of them and asked if there are monies available to hire a professional to clear the rows. Sall provided the contact information for Brad Moorer, who previously volunteered to help clear the blueberry fields and Johnson will follow up with him.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS SURVEY

Sall reported that she will have copies of the survey available to commissioners at the next meeting. There were 81 responses noting that beach access and a fenced dog park were most requested and hiking/walking are the most popular activities.

B. ADOPT-A-PARK

Sall stated it is a work in progress as she shares pictures and other points of interest. Lozon stated that she has access to many photos and Sall would like to add content to those pictures.

C. ADAPTIVE REUSE OF OLD TOWNSHIP HALL

Sall asked commissioners and Meshkin for input. Meshkin suggested it might be nice on the Township Hall park property or at Huyser Farm. Hofmeyer suggested putting it on the corner of 142nd and 64th Streets which would potentially remove the small Huyser Farm house on that corner. Moving the Hall would remove the historic value but it is not getting used at its current location. Johnson stated he looked around from the outside but difficult to see what is inside. Meshkin stated it is an old building and would like to put it to some use. He likened its potential use to the old Gibson Church. Johnson asked if there would be use for it at the Felt Mansion Estate. Meshkin stated it is possible but may not fit well with the philosophy of the mansion. It may be better used at Huyser or Township Hall Park. Meshkin suggests the commissioners give it more thought and discuss closer to budget time. It is an estimated \$15,000 to move it and \$25,000 more for restrooms. Sall stated restrooms are needed at Shore Acres near the back parking lot. Meshkin also suggested speaking to ODC to see if they would use it for classroom space. Sall said it may affect the current tenant of the small green house if it were moved to Huyser. Meshkin suggested working it into next year's budget if we do want to do something with it. Johnson asked if the moving company should look at it to determine if it is movable and Meshkin stated that it is feasible. Lozon feels it would like nice on the corner of 142nd and 64th Streets.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESTROOMS WITHOUT LIMITS

Sall opened discussion for the new type of restrooms. Meshkin stated a water source is needed for these models. With that in mind, where do we have a water source available: Sanctuary Woods, Township Hall Park, Huyser could have water available through the well for the small house. Johnson asked about Wolters Woods and Meshkin stated there is no municipal water or well present. Secondly, the waste would have to be removed unless it is a composting system. Meshkin suggested trying one to see if it is a good option. Snyder commented about the potential for vandalism. Meshkin suggested Shore Acres and water is present at that site. Sall said for year-around use, Shore Acres would get the most use suggesting it be in the back parking lot. Meshkin suggested looking at the disc golf hole lay-out and perhaps closer to the mid-course. The water line is closer at that point and would be more costly in the parking lot where the water line is not present. Meshkin stated if you are walking to the beach through Shore Acres Park, there are two trails and there is a water source closer to one of the two trails. Johnson commented on the restroom at the base of Mount Baldy which has a flush toilet but likely has a waterline. Meshkin stated there is no sewer near any of the parks. Sanctuary Woods is also a highly used park and may be a good test site. The Aspen model was most preferred and will be considered for the 2017-18 fiscal year with Sanctuary Woods for the pilot location.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

Sall reported that the newsletter went out including the Parks article and several pictures. She invited commissioners to submit ideas for future newsletter articles.

Johnson mentioned the fly issue and stench at the Wolters Woods restrooms. Meshkin will contact Veldhof to see if there is a chemical solution available to address both issues. Johnson reported that the Laketown Beach restroom has remained free of graffiti since he last painted it.

Simmons said the packets for the Huyser Farm Hunt have been delivered to Graafschap Hardware. She also asked if the trail has been looped at Huyser Farm yet and Meshkin stated that Williams has not had time to do that yet. She added that the back area is very overgrown. Sall said it would be nice to have a path cleared around the pond, too noting that one bridge near the trail is very bad.

Sall shared the Discover Nature brochure from ODC and suggested a similar communication for Laketown Parks. Resident Ryan Bosscher offered to work with Sall to draft a brochure. The last Laketown Township Parks Map was mailed to residents 7-8 years ago and could certainly use updating.

ARTICLE IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.