

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
AT
TOWNSHIP HALL

August 20, 2014

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Michelle Sall called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Strabbing, Michelle Sall, Bill Snyder,
Karen Simmons
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Dan Williams – Township Maintenance
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Karen Simmons and seconded by Chuck Strabbing to nominate Michelle Sall as Chairperson. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE III. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Michelle Sall stated that she received a letter from a resident requesting picnic tables and a drinking fountain at Shore Acres Park. Karen Simmons asked where she requested they be put. Dan Williams stated that there are two picnic tables near the back of the parking lot near the chapel. Many of the disc golfers use the tables and he requested they be placed to the west side of the parking lot away from the Chapel. Karen asked what the cost of picnic tables might be. Dan stated that there is one broken but it could be repaired during the off season. Bill Snyder stated that part of the issue would be funding for the new picnic tables. Bill also noted that there had been previous discussion about improvements to the parking lot. Dan stated that he had submitted a proposal for parking light LED lights.

Bill Snyder stated he has been asked about grading and leveling of the ball field at the new recreation park. This will be mentioned to Al Meshkin and be put on next month's agenda to address before it gets seeded. Linda Howell stated that the grading has not

been finished yet and more will be done next week. Bill stated that part of it could also be the drainage. Chuck Strabbing stated that he heard the same comments from others.

Michelle Sall welcomed the guests to the meeting.

ARTICLE IV. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Chuck Strabbing and seconded by Karen Simmons to approve the June 18, 2014 minutes as written. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

b. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Bill Snyder reviewed the bills to be paid as of June and July 2014. Maintenance: Veldhof Septic - \$480.00 (June), \$480.00 (July), Advantage Building - \$110.00 (June), \$220.00 (July), Heavener - \$157.50 (June) \$770.00 (July), Menards of Holland - \$390.65 (June), Graafschap Hardware - \$228.02 (June); Salaries: Robert Jerow - \$155.00 (May), \$150.00 (June), Chuck Strabbing - \$120.00, Michelle Sall - \$120.00, Karen Simmons - \$60.00, William Snyder - \$140.00, Linda Howell -\$150.00; Township Hall Park: MC Smith Associates - \$273.92 (June), \$1,047.70 (July), Dan Hoe Excavating - \$8,187.06 (June), \$67,680.90 (July); Supplies: Robert Jerow - \$8.00 (June), \$8.00 (July), MySecuritySign.com - \$155.55 (July); Electricity: \$23.52 (July).

Following discussion, the Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted. Bill Snyder stated the majority of the expenses this past month had been for Dan Hoe Excavating.

ARTICLE V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY MSU REGARDING HUYSER FARM

Steven Van Timmeren from Michigan State provided a handout on the Huyser Park Research Update. The Berry Crops Entomology Lab has been studying the spotted wing drosophila fly. He explained this species has been causing major economic damage worldwide. The pest originates from Asia. Huyser Farm provides a great beta sight to study this creature that saws into the berry to lay eggs. Trap bait comparisons have been studied for most effective organic substance to attract the fly. The fly appears to be in Michigan in August as soon as ripe berries show up in the field the flies are in the fruit. Bill Snyder asked if there are any pathogens being introduced when the fruit is infected. Steven stated that there is no health hazard if ingested. The scientists are trying to establish the best trap and bait to obtain samplings for study. The study will continue over the next 2-5 years to determine if there is resistance present to the insecticides. A student also did a bumblebee study to determine if the pest management affected colonies. The outcome was that the insecticides did not affect the colonies.

Karen Simmons stated it sounds like Huyser has been an interesting place for study. Steven stated that it has been a great site. They were monitoring the east side and they have now moved to the west side. Steve stated there is also blueberry maggot in the fruit. Karen asked if there is a natural predator for theat. Steven said there is but you would have to bring in a large quantity. Dan Williams said he did treat the bushes many years ago with the nematodes.

Steven confirmed that is no health hazard if consumed. He added that the fly's preferred host is raspberries or strawberries. Steven recommended pruning the bushes each year and removing the old canes coming out of the bush to increase production. Karen asked if the ultimate goal is to find a pesticide or a new bush variety. Chuck Strabbing stated that he has a list with the placement of the varieties on the farm.

Michelle Sall thanked Steven Van Timmeren for his presentation and all the good work he and his staff are doing at the Huyser Farm.

ARTICLE VI. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS

Linda Howell stated an irrigation system for the Township Hall Recreation Park was discussed at the Township Board meeting. The lowest bid came in from Evergreen Sprinkling at \$6,300.00 and Al Meshkin will review funding options. The quote includes 44 sprinkler heads with all controls and necessary parts, first year winterization and warranty. The current well has been inspected and can support the additional stand alone system. The Board would like to be able to approve funding so the system could be installed before the seeding is done.

ARTICLE VII. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

Township Maintenance – Dan Williams

Dan Williams provided the following status report:

Wolters Woods – Picnic tables are being cleaned and stained; trimmed more area between the bike path and road; cleaned restrooms which need a better ventilation system.

Sanctuary Woods – Fixing the steps including the addition of two more steps by the upper bowl which will include handrails; clearing of trails and general upkeep.

Huyser Farm – One bridge has been repaired and the other will be done this fall with the help of Heavener to level the foundation.

Farview Park – More bark or pebble rock is needed for the trails to raise from the swamp; toilet seat in one restroom needs to be replaced.

Laketown Beach – Cleaned beach area, dunes and parking lot; inspected and repaired stairs and handrails for missing and loose nails.

Shore Acres Park and Felt Mansion – General upkeep and project work at the mansion.

Karen Simmons asked how the gazebo is holding up at the Huyser Farm. Dan stated that it should be power washed but there is no water out there. Michelle Sall stated there may be a well head out there and Bill Snyder suggested piping to the pond.

Dan Williams reiterated that he continues to work on the task list for all parks. Bill Snyder commented that there is a missing swing at Wolters Woods. Dan stated that the swing is broken and must be replaced.

Chuck Strabbing stated at one time there was a stack on the bathrooms at Wolters Woods and if replaced, it would help ventilate the bathrooms. Dan stated that it is on top of the roof now. Chuck also suggested having Heavener brush hog the dense area between the bike path and the road to remove the weeds and vines. Bill Snyder asked if the No Dogs signs were up at Wolters Woods stating people are still taking dogs in the park. Michelle Sall stated the reason for not having dogs in this park is due to the high number of children in the park. There is still a concern about people not abiding by the park rules.

Michelle asked if there are any big projects to be completed before hard weather. Dan said it would be the new steps at Sanctuary Woods, finish painting the picnic tables and repair the second bridge at Huyser Farm.

ARTICLE VIII. OLD BUSINESS - None

ARTICLE IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. BEGIN WORK ON OLD HUYSER HOUSE

Michelle Sall stated that there has been discussion on renovating the old Huyser farmhouse. Al Meshkin and Dan Williams have been discussing what would need to be done to bring the house up to code. Bill Snyder stated the house is a solid structure but needs work. Karen Simmons asked if there is an ultimate plan for the house. Bill stated that the issue is probably the lack of available funds to cover the renovation. Chuck Strabbing asked Linda Howell if there can only be one house rented at a time. Linda said the family truly doesn't want the property split for a subdivision and she doesn't feel they would have an issue if the renovation were to be beneficial to the township. Bill asked if we would have to get a grant or something. Dan suggested making better use of the fruit on the farm which may be able to fund some of the renovations.

B. HUYSER FARM HUNT

Chairperson Sall asked Karen Simmons to coordinate the lottery for the deer hunting again this year and she agreed.

C. DAY OF CARING

Michelle Sall stated the United Way Day of Caring is September 18 with available work times of 8:00am – 11:15am and 1:15pm – 4:45pm. She asked the commissioners for feedback on potential projects and the following was agreed upon:

Farview Park – spread bark on the trails – morning crew – Dan will supervise

Wolters Woods – clean the area between the bike path and road, general clean up – afternoon crew – Dan to supervise

Huyser Farm – clean the landscaping around the gazebo, clean trails and bushes – morning crew – Michelle will supervise – afternoon crew – Bill will supervise

Michelle will provide refreshments for all worksites.

D. DEN UYL MEMORIAL BENCH

Following discussion, it was agreed the verbiage would read:

“With sincere appreciation to Richard S. Den Uyl and the Den Uyl family for making Sanctuary Woods possible and giving to our community this place of peace and joy in nature.”

ARTICLE XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Assignments:

Karen Simmons –

1. Coordinate the annual Huyser Farm hunt lottery

Michelle Sall

1. Communicate Day of Caring project sites and work schedule
2. Provide refreshments for the Day of Caring project worksites