

LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD AT TOWNSHIP HALL

September 16, 2020
Regular meeting
6 p.m. at Township Hall with Zoom option

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Shuff called the regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Dearborn, Dick Becker,
Karen Simmons, Ellen Fitch, Tom Shuff

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Brett Grams – Parks Maintenance
Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Jim Hayden – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fitch seconded by Decker to approve Aug. 19, 2020, minutes with notation that Simmons could not be at Gibson Cemetery in the afternoon for United Way Day of Caring but was to be there in the morning. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL

ARTICLE III. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Fitch seconded by Simmons to approve the Treasurer's Report. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL

ARTICLE IV. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORTS – NONE

ARTICLE V. STAFF REPORTS

Grams reported that the field for milkweed has been prepped at Huyser Farm. He will add wildflowers to the field.

Motion by Becker seconded by Dearborn to reimburse Fitch up to \$100 to purchase a variety of milkweed seed for Huyser Farm. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL

ARTICLE VI. HUYSER CARETAKER REPORT

Grams plans to power wash the vinyl fence.

ARTICLE VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARKS WELCOMING SIGNS.

Commissioners reviewed signs at parks, noting issues regarding dogs. Grams was instructed to removed “no dogs allowed” signs and references. Fitch corrected grammar on Sanctuary Woods sign. Dearborn will redesign the sign, removing the Allegan County logo, and present new design at the next meeting.

Meshkin will contact Patty Meyer at Felt Mansion to pursue “funny” signs to remind people not to litter on the disc golf course.

B. PARKS MILLAGE DISCUSSION.

Commissioners discussed a possible parks millage in 2022. Commissioners will reach out to residents who are interested in the parks to form a steering committee.

C. DAY OF CARING

Commissioners finalized plans for the Thursday, Sept. 17, United Way Day of Caring.

ARTICLE VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. PICKLEBALL. Commissioners discussed adding pickleball courts to the township hall property.

Motion by Simmons seconded by Dearborn to authorize township Manager Meshkin to spend \$8,500 to pay for MCSA Group Inc of East Grand Rapids for pickleball court engineering, construction/bid documents and construction administration as presented in MCSA letter dated Sept. 2, 2020. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL.

- B. HUYSER BLUEBERRIES. Commissioners discussed ways to trim blueberry bushes at Huyser Farm and the possibility of trimming two rows as an experiment on impact on the bushes. Fitch will contact Michigan State University about mowing down bushes to encourage future growth and the impact of painting stumps of non-blueberry bushes to stop non-blueberry growth in the rows. Grams will get information and costs of using a brush hog to trim the bushes. Fitch and Grams will report back at the next meeting.

ARTICLE IX. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Fitch requested that using goats to remove invasive species at parks be on the October agenda. Commissioners agreed to discuss the topic in October.

ARTICLE X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Simmons and seconded by Becker to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Shuff called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL