



**Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, July 25, 2016**

**Chikaming Township Park Board  
Regular Meeting**

Monday, July 25, 2016, 6:30 p.m.  
Chikaming Township Hall  
13535 Red Arrow Hwy  
Harbert, MI 49115

MINUTES	INDEX to MINUTES
<p>EnRico Heirman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: Karen Tarpley, Joseph Reed, Janet Schrader, Kathy Sellers, Shelly Taylor, and EnRico Heirman were present.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p><b>Moved by Tarpley, seconded by Sellers, to approve the agenda for the July 25th meeting.</b></p> <p align="right"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA APPROVED</b></p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding June regular meeting minutes.</p> <p>Heirman asked that on the first page, section four, "Warren Woods Park and Preserve" be amended to "Chikaming Park and Preserve."</p> <p><b>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Tarpley, to approve the minutes of the June regular meeting as amended.</b></p> <p align="right"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p><b>MINUTES APPROVED</b></p>
<p>Sellers reported that about \$1,800 was the total for monthly expenditures. She continued that \$22,837.75 had been spent thus far out of the board's budget. Sellers added that the possibility of securing funds leftover at yearend is still being explored. She expressed that she would like to know if funds can be returned from years prior to the last fiscal year.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p>
<p>Heirman reported that a Shirley Lawson contacted the board asking to have a wedding at Townline Beach on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Heirman responded that the policy continues to be that weddings are acceptable but the beach must remain open to the public and all ordinances must be followed.</p> <p>Arthur Anderson wrote to the board expressing interest in joining the board and asking for details regarding the process for being a write-in candidate on the ballot in the upcoming election. Heirman added that, due to a medical issue, he was unable to submit his materials for the upcoming election and will also be a write-in candidate.</p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>

<p>Heirman reminded the board and public that the Lakeside Association will be hosting their annual Ice Cream Social on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m.</p> <p>Heirman read a letter from several members of the public who visit Berrien Beach. The letter stated that there are currently several dangerous hanging branches along the entrance path to the beach. It also expressed that the county drain at the beach is unsafe and the water becomes stagnant and unsafe for children who play in it. The letter was signed by about 20 members of the public. Heirman stated that he will address these issues in the coming week. Schrader suggested that Fire Chief Mike Davidson review the drain issue to assess if it is a matter of public safety.</p>	
<p>Hannah Matej was present to express that she feels Berrien Beach needs several maintenance repairs. She observed that several trees need hanging, dead branches removed. Matej added that the water flowing from the drain on the beach becomes torpid and children play in it. She feels this is unsafe and would like the issue resolved.</p>	Public Comment
<p>Townline Beach - Schrader reported that improvements have been made to the entry area. Sellers reminded the board that expenses for the recent improvement need to be shared with New Buffalo township. Heirman expressed that he would like to put some rocks down in areas to clean it up a bit more and he will discuss the purchase of the materials with New Buffalo.</p> <p>McKinley Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Miller Beach Access– Tarpley reported that the new plantings at the beach access were re-mulched with a more natural looking color.</p> <p>Berrien Beach Access – Schrader stated that the lock has been cut on the Berrien Beach gate and the pin that holds the gate has been stolen. She asked that Supervisor Wayne Warner and Fire Chief Davidson be made aware of this since the township took over the responsibility of overseeing the gate access.</p> <p>Pier Street Beach – Schrader reported that the bushes have been trimmed to allow for more parking.</p> <p>Cherry Beach – Schrader reported the developers for the property adjacent to Cherry Beach have missed the deadline to submit the rare and endangered species study to the DEQ which means the DEQ will have the discretion to either decide on the permit on August 15<sup>th</sup> or wait for a study to be submitted in the future. Sellers stated that a week and a half ago she put a request in for the title search on the property to get a better idea of boundary lines. She continued that she has not yet hear back.. Schrader stated that the property has been staked by Merritt Engineering. She continued that she measured the property and based on her calculations the parking lot is 90’ wide, at the bluff the property is 150’ wide and the sign states that the beach frontage should total 268’ so she is not sure if the boundaries are</p>	Beach/ Park Reports

accurate. Schrader stated that she would eventually like to have a special meeting to review the proposed development on the adjacent property and discuss boundary line disputes.

Harbert Beach – Reed reported that old fencing is still visible on either side of the beach and he is concerned it may be dangerous for children. Schrader stated that a “no dogs” sign has been reordered for the beach access. She added that it needs to be researched if fencing is even legal on the beach since her understanding is that it is not up to DEQ standards if it is beyond the high water mark.

Chikaming Park and Preserve – Heirman reported that plans are being discussed for the upcoming Chris Thompson memorial.

Harbert Road Park and Preserve – Nothing new to report.

Harbert Community Park – Heirman reported that Corey Busch is nearly finished with framing the sign and improving the existing pavilion. He will then outfit the concession stand with a metal roof. The board expressed that they are pleased with Busch’s work and remain grateful for his donation of the dog park shelter. Heirman added that he would still like to see a walkway added to the park and the possibility of this will be discussed with Landscape Architect Bob Ford. Heirman mentioned that he has replacement pieces for missing grips on the climbing wall. Sellers requested that more trees be planted to shade the playground. Heirman informed the board that the driveway at Harbert Community Park has had a major issue with pot holes and needs to be repaired as soon as possible. He continued that Benke Construction did the driveway work before. They gave a quote of \$1,920 to do the work with 60 tons of slag or \$1,120 to do the work with road gravel. Reed requested that more thought be put into the surface material used based on long term impact and future park logistics.

**Moved Tarpley, seconded by Sellers, to hire Benke to address the maintenance issues with the Harbert Community Park driveway using 60 ton road gravel at a cost not to exceed \$1,500.**

**Roll call vote as follows: Taylor – Aye, Tarpley – Aye, Schrader – Aye, Reed – Nay, Sellers – Aye, and Heirman – Aye. CARRIED**

MOTION TO REPAIR THE DRIVEWAY AT HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK

Sellers thanked Reed, Taylor, and Schrader for their efforts in successfully acquiring the Heart of Cook Grant for community ice skates.

Heirman stated that a tree will be planted in Chris Thompson’s honor at the Chikaming Township Park and Preserve. He added that signage is being made for the tree location.

**Moved by Schrader, seconded by Sellers, that an amount not to exceed \$1,000 be budgeted to cover the July 30<sup>th</sup> memorial event for**

Old Business

**MOTION TO ALLOT BUDGET FOR MEMORIAL EVENT**

<p><b>Chris Thompson.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	
<p>Heirman reported that due to the road closure in August the Taste of Chikaming will be canceled. However, the fire department will unveil their new fire truck and host a pig roast on August 6<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The possibility of attending an upcoming September 8<sup>th</sup> workshop will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Heirman read a letter from Sarah Doty into the record. The letter stressed the importance of the Park Board representing public opinion about the development as the body overseeing the adjacent property. Heirman stated that he feels it is important that the board not take on an adversary type role when addressing the proposed development. He continued that it is vital to be a good neighbor while representing the best interest of the public. Schrader suggested that the possibility of the property owner selling be explored as it was previously discussed by the township several years ago.</p> <p><b>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Tarpley, that Heirman contact the owner of the property adjacent to Cherry Beach to discuss the possibility of its purchase. The board will then have a public meeting to discuss plans moving ahead.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>MOTION TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY NEXT TO CHERRY BEACH</p>
<p>Brian Kern came forth to state that he was a part of installing the mile markers on the beach. He clarified that the mile markers have nothing to do with high water mark. Kern added that the safety department had to go to each property owner and ask to place the markers. They were placed where they would be out of the way. Schrader stated that she was told differently by a township employee. She then read an email from a township employee stating that the mile markers note the high water mark and fences are not to be installed below them.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p><b>Moved Sellers, seconded Tarpley, to adjourn meeting at 9:41 p.m.</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNED</p>
<p>MONDAY, July 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
<p>Minutes submitted by Jessica Miller</p>	