



Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, May 23, 2016

**Chikaming Township Park Board
Regular Meeting**

Monday, May 23, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Chikaming Township Hall
13535 Red Arrow Hwy
Harbert, MI 49115

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<p>Park Board Chairman EnRico Heirman called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: Joseph Reed, EnRico Heirman, Janet Schrader, Karen Tarpley, Shelly Taylor, and Chris Thompson were present. Kathy Sellers was absent.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p>Moved by Thompson, seconded by Reed, to approve the agenda for the May 23rd regular meeting.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>AGENDA APPROVED</p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding March regular meeting minutes.</p> <p>Thompson requested that a change be made to page three, section three. He asked that the verbiage be amended as follows, "Reed presented signage wording for one small sign to be installed below the CTP&P sign in the back pavilion area to recognize Chikaming Open Lands (COL) assistance to the Township in securing the funding necessary to acquire the Park & Preserve. Thompson declared a conflict of interest on this matter. He is the Executive Director of COL. Thompson recused himself from the discussion that followed and abstained from voting."</p> <p>Moved by Tarpley, seconded by Thompson, to approve the minutes of the March regular meeting. Due to his nonattendance at the prior meeting, Heirman abstained from the vote.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>MINUTES APPROVED</p>
<p>Heirman reported that he received correspondence from the Berrien County Health department notifying the board that the department would be resuming their annual beach monitoring system. As in previous years, the water quality will be tested at the Cherry and Townline locations. Reed reminded them that a link to the results of the testing is available on the Park Board's website.</p> <p>Heirman reported that the garden club had yet another successful plant sale at the Harbert Community Park. He alerted them to the fact that</p>	<p>Correspondence</p>

<p>the pavilion will be improved in the near future.</p> <p>Davy Ramburg sent a message of concern regarding the new plantings at Pier St. Beach. After further discussion it was realized that the bushes were previously existing and may simply require trimming. Heirman and Schrader will meet with TDK to review and discuss trimming.</p>	
<p>Sellers was not in attendance to discuss the report. Thompson mentioned that he spoke with Sellers about the report prior to the meeting. Sellers wanted to discuss a point of order regarding the payment of invoices. She had spoken with Clerk Paula Dudiak regarding a more efficient process to expedite payment. Dudiak suggested that her name be copied on all invoices sent to the township. The approval process would still go through Sellers.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>
<p>Local Chikaming resident and treasurer of the Union Pier Beach association, Chris Dudiak, was present with some questions. She first questioned the purpose of the new plantings at Miller Beach. Tarpley explained that the new plantings were to replace trees that were removed there by AEP the previous year. Dudiak questioned when the beach stairs will be shoveled off. Schrader responded that in previous years she spent several hours shoveling the base of the stairs. Heirman suggested that Schrader be paid for her efforts shoveling the beach stairs. The board agreed that \$10/ hr. would be a reasonable rate for the shoveling. Schrader estimated that the total expense will be about \$300. Dudiak also suggested that a beach clean-up take place to remove the dried grass and open up seating space. Dudiak asked that the public be notified prior to the staining of the stairs. Heirman offered to speak with the contractor about giving notice ahead of time.</p> <p>Dean Stevenson from the local Harbor Country Rotary Club was present. He informed the board that a deadline is rapidly approaching for a grant that the board and club could team up to apply for. He suggested picnic tables or physical improvements. Heirman offered to contact Stevenson after the meeting to continue discussion of the grant.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Townline Beach - Nothing new to report.</p> <p>McKinley Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Miller Beach Access– Tarpley reported that the plantings went well. She continued that when watering is necessary, the neighbor will be paid \$25/ mo for use of her water. Tarpley questioned if the excess money saved from plantings could be used on a clean-up at the entrance of the beach.</p> <p>Berrien Beach Access – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Pier Street Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Cherry Beach – An attendant is needed to work at the entrance stand.</p>	<p>Beach/ Park Reports</p>

<p>Beach passes are being issued at the township hall. Schrader summarized that 700 passes were issued for the 35 parking spots at a first come first serve basis. Schrader will ensure the port-a-johns are dropped off prior to Memorial Day.</p> <p>Harbert Beach – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Warren Woods Park and Preserve – Thompson stated that the water fountains need to be turned on.</p> <p>Harbert Road Park and Preserve – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>Harbert Community Park – Nothing new to report.</p>	
<p>There was no update on the status of the proposed development adjacent to Cherry Beach. A natural features inventory was scheduled to take place in the spring but the status of the study is unknown. Schrader stated that many members of the public have informed her that they would like another public meeting to take place following the pending determination by the DEQ. Thompson offered to reach out to Prismic Engineering as well as to inquire with the DEQ regarding a status update.</p> <p>Schrader stated that the board has about two more months to order the new liner for the ice rink. The estimated cost is \$300. Heirman advised that further discussion regarding the purchase of the liner be placed on the next month’s agenda. Reed suggested the current liner be saved for a children’s skating rink. He expressed that with new skates being purchased via the grant he thinks the demand for skating will increase. Thompson advised adding the second rink as a phase two after the demand is observed.</p> <p>Heirman gave a status update on changes to the Harbert Community Park. Currently finishing touches are being added to the pavilion. The wood is being aged for the framing of the existing pavilion and sign.</p> <p>Schrader ordered a bucket, a broom, and hand held pinchers for Townline Beach to facilitate beach clean-up. She is still researching contractors to build garbage can enclosures. Schrader added that the current status of garbage pick-up needs to be reviewed as it seems that most of the garbage cans have been flipped over and remain unused for the most part.</p> <p>Heirman reported that he is currently unsure of the status of the Taste of Chikaming. The Fire Department will be hosting a community pig roast separate of the event. He would have like the event to be a forum to dedicate the new pavilion to the park. Schrader added that historically the event was every other year and it was hosted entirely by the township. Full time resident, Deborah Hall, stepped forth expressing interest in getting involved with the Taste of Chikaming. Taylor stated that she likes the idea of having some sort of</p>	<p>Old Business</p>

<p>entertainment act to attract folks in addition to the mixing with members of the community. Tarpley stated that planning needs to start earlier to have a successful event and include more business owners. Schrader added that many business owners she has spoken with would like to see an event earlier in the season. Thompson expressed that he feels the leadership from the township is a must. The board decided the best approach may be to contact the fire department to consider teaming up to do a combined event. Heirman will discuss with Rich Sullivan plans to move ahead.</p>	
<p>Kirk Schrader was present to share further information regarding the possibility of mountain bike trails at the Warren Woods Park and Preserve. Schrader took a class in Kalamazoo sponsored by the International Mountain Biking Association to learn about the construction process of sustainable mountain bike trails. He stated that his next step is to build a bike club to construct and maintain trails. His only request of the property is use and access. He would like a few members of the board to walk the park with him so that layout can be discussed. Schrader estimated that the trail project would take 2 years at a minimum. Costs could be covered by the bike club. Expenses would include tools, signage and any bridge structures. Schrader explained the purpose of signage would be for emergency teams to pinpoint locations on the trail. He continued that a minimum of 5 miles of trail would be the desired length. Schrader walked the preserve with a member of the Northern Indiana Mountain Bikers Association who agreed that the property would lend itself well for trails. He stressed that the trails are minimally invasive with most being no wider than a deer trail and very unnoticeable in the woods.</p> <p>Thompson stated that the possibility of restrictive covenants exist on the deed of the property need to be explored to ensure the township is protected legally simple to make sure it is allowable. Thompson stated that a request should be put into Wayne Warner for any documents related to the Warren Woods Park and Preserve for review before going any further.</p> <p>Tarpley stated that gaining various types of recreation for the future was part of the master plan and she thinks mountain bike trails would fit this criteria.</p> <p>Schrader reported that her April 22nd workshop meeting was a great success. She stated that there are more drownings among 1-5 year olds than there are fire or tornado fatalities. She feels that water safety classes need to be taught in Chikaming and surrounding committees.</p>	<p>New Business</p>
<p>No public comments at this time.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Moved Schrader, seconded Tarpley, to adjourn meeting at 9:03 p.m. CARRIED</p>	<p>ADJOURNED</p>
<p>MONDAY, June 27, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
<p>Minutes submitted by Jessica Miller</p>	

