



**Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, December 18, 2017**

**Chikaming Township Park Board  
Regular Meeting**

Monday, December 18, 2017 6:30 p.m.  
Chikaming Township Hall  
13535 Red Arrow Hwy  
Harbert, MI 49115

MINUTES	INDEX to MINUTES
<p>The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: Kathy Sellers, Arthur Anderson, Deborah Hall-Kayler, Janet Schrader, Shelly Taylor, and Jill Underhill were present. Joseph Reed was absent.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p><b>Moved by Underhill, seconded by Sellers, that the vote on the contested case hearing happen following the Cherry Beach discussion.</b></p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	<p><b>AGENDA APPROVED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA</b></p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding meeting minutes.</p> <p>Taylor requested that the spelling of the name Renny be corrected to Rennie.</p> <p><b>Moved by Underhill, seconded by Sellers, to approve the minutes of the November regular meeting.</b></p> <p align="right"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>MINUTES APPROVED</b></p>
<p>Sellers informed the board that the ledger is caught up with the bill pay. She reminded them that \$18,750 is reserved from the amount for grant matching funds should the grant be approved. There is \$17,211.37 remaining in the budget.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p>
<p>Hall reviewed some positive press the Park Board has been getting. She noted the addition of Anderson to the board and the caroling photo. Hall also mentioned that there was a letter to the editor written in opposition to the skating rink.</p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>
<p>Sarah Doty was present to state that she understands it is not easy to be a caretaker to the parks since you must be an advocate for an environment that cannot represent itself. She commended the board for its service.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p><b>Harbert Beach</b> – Reed was not present to report.</p>	<p>Beach/ Park Reports</p>

<p><b>Cherry Beach</b> – Schrader had nothing to report.  <b>Berrien Beach</b> – Underhill had nothing new to report.  <b>Miller Beach</b> – Hall had nothing additional to report.  <b>McKinley Beach</b> – Taylor had nothing new to report.  <b>Townline Beach</b> – Arthur was assigned to oversee Townline.  <b>Pier St. Beach</b> – Schrader noted that there is erosion at the bottom of Pier Streets beach stairs and the railing will need to be watched.  <b>Chikaming Park and Preserve on Warren Woods Rd.</b> –Schrader suggested that Anderson be the new individual assigned to oversee this property. Taylor will also continue to assist in overseeing the preserve. Taylor stated that the gate needs to be locked at the park and preserve.  <b>Harbert Rd. Park and Preserve</b> – Hall reported that the invasive species stewardship day was canceled due to the snow.  <b>Harbert Community Park</b> – Underhill had nothing new to report.</p> <p>Schrader noticed that the trash cans have been tipped over at many beaches and she would like this to be reconsidered. Hall added that she does not see the trash removed frequently at the preserves. Schrader suggested that they be removed during the winter. She added that people throw and miss at trash cans.</p>	
<p>The gift committee gave brief report. Hall suggested that an acknowledgement be given to the board’s service providers. Schrader asked to be removed from the Trail of Trees Committee next month. The Trail of Trees idea is still being discussed.</p> <p>Arthur Anderson was appointed to the Trail of Trees Committee.</p> <p>Hall sent a letter to Tom’s Plumbing thanking them for their in-kind donation to turn off the water.</p> <p>Taylor updated the board on the ice rink. Rennie is hoping to get it filled in the coming week and has had a difficult time coordinating with the water department. Schrader informed the board that she responded to the letter to the editor from Garth Taylor and she will share the response with the rest of the board. Taylor will write a press release for the paper. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for January 13th and the sponsors are still being arranged. The press release will also be included in the River Valley School newsletter. Taylor added that there will be a kids rink. Sellers asked that the donation to purchase skates for \$500 be reviewed.</p> <p>Anderson informed the board that he walked the Harbert Community park to review the placement of wood chips with Underhill.</p> <p>Schrader stated that the Cherry Beach Committee has nothing to recommend at this time.</p>	<p>Old Business</p>
<p><b>Moved by Underhill, seconded by Sellers, that the Park Board drop the contested case and move forward to pursue an acquisition of the Biedler property.</b></p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>MOTION TO DROP CONTESTED CASE</p>

<p><b>Roll call vote as follows:</b>  <b>Anderson - Aye</b>  <b>Sellers- Aye</b>  <b>Underhill - Aye</b>  <b>Hall - Aye</b>  <b>Schrader - Aye</b>  <b>Taylor - Aye</b></p> <p>Hall reminded the board of Open Meetings Act emailing requirements.</p> <p>Hall asked the board to recall their year’s accomplishments including the volleyball courts, ordinance drafting, the prairie burn, and attorney workshops. Taylor added the riptide education program for the local schools. Schrader highlighted the mountain bike trails and beach cleanups. The library was also added to the list.</p> <p>Hall encouraged the board members to consider improvements to their parks. Underhill suggested a rack for materials at the Welcome Center. Schrader stated that she would like to see the gate back at Cherry Beach to be closed at night as well as a parking plan. Schrader added that she would like to see an event at each park property. Schrader stated that she would like to see all trail maps online. Taylor stated that she would like to see the shed at the Harbert Community Park Cleaned out.</p> <p>Sellers informed the board that she will be out of town from the beginning of January to the end of March. She will be able to meet with the budget committee remotely and is looking forward to doing so. Anderson stated that appears to be no rules around teleconferencing at meetings. Hall will review this with Attorney Hilmer and David Bunte.</p> <p>Hall appointed a budget committee consisting of Hall, Reed, and Sellers. Sellers reminded the board to email their their wishes for the coming budget. The week of the 26th is the deadline for budget requests. The beach safety committee will discuss the possibility of a Cherry Beach access gate.</p>	
<p>Sarah Doty stated that she would like to suggest interpretive signage about the various environmental features at the park properties.</p> <p>Todd Taylor discussed the possibility of hosting some baseball games at the Harbert Community Park. He made some suggestions of what can be improved at the ball field there to make it playable.</p>	Public Comment
<p><b>Moved Underhill, seconded Schrader, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. CARRIED</b></p>	ADJOURNED
<p>MONDAY, January 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.</p>	NEXT MEETING
<p>Minutes submitted by Jessica Reed</p>	

