



**Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, March 27, 2017**

**Chikaming Township Park Board  
Regular Meeting**

Monday, March 27, 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 6:35 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: EnRico Heirman, Kathy Sellers, Deborah Hall-Kayler, Joseph Reed, Janet Schrader, Shelly Taylor, and Jill Underhill were present.</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 Schrader, to approve the agenda for the March 27<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.</b></p> <p align="right"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA APPROVED</b></p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding February regular meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Moved by Hall, seconded by Underhill, to approve the minutes of the February regular meeting.</b></p> <p align="right"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p><b>MINUTES APPROVED</b></p>
<p>Heirman reported that this year's budget was increased to \$113,000. Sellers reported that there are still some bills that need to be paid for the month but as of March 20<sup>th</sup> \$3,780.74 remains to finish out the fiscal year.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p>
<p>Hall reported that she received a correspondence from a concerned citizen regarding garbage at Pier Street.</p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>
<p>No public comments at this time.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p><b>Harbert Beach</b> – Reed had nothing new to report.  <b>Cherry Beach</b> – Schrader will order new Cherry Beach passes.  <b>Berrien Beach</b> – Underhill had nothing new to report.  <b>Miller Beach</b> – Hall had nothing new to report.  <b>McKinley Beach</b> – Taylor had nothing new to report.  <b>Townline Beach</b> – Schrader reminded the board that half of the maintenance costs for this beach need to be shared with New Buffalo.  <b>Pier St. Beach</b> – Sellers had nothing new to report.  <b>Chikaming Park and Preserve on Warren Woods Rd.</b> – Heirman reported that the drain at the preserve was clogged badly by beavers and has since been dug out. Postema suggested that a system called</p>	<p>Beach/ Park Reports</p>

<p>“the beaver deceiver” be reviewed to see if it might solve the problem.  <b>Harbert Rd. Park and Preserve</b> – Hall had nothing new to report.  <b>Harbert Community Park</b> – Underhill reported that holes are being filled in at the dog park and the gates will be repaired.</p>	
<p>Schrader informed the board that more deaths occur each year due to drowning than from tornadoes and fire combined. However, schools provide better education for fire and tornado safety. Schrader informed the board that Dave Benjamin is willing to do 4 water safety presentations in the local schools at a cost of \$500 traveling expense. Schrader is suggesting that 2 assemblies take place at River Valley and 2 take place at New Buffalo school district. Police Chief Todd Taylor has offered to host the program.</p> <p><b>Moved by Schrader, seconded by Taylor, that the Park Board fund the water safety presentation sponsored by Great Lakes Search and Rescue at an amount not to exceed \$600 and based upon approval by the school board.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Heirman informed the board that Bob Ford plans to submit the grant proposal for the walking path and pond overlook at the Harbert Community Park by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.</p> <p><b>Moved by Schrader, seconded by Sellers, that the Park Board contest the DEQ decision to grant Reed Beidler the permit to build on a critical dune. Roll call vote as follows:</b></p> <p><b>Reed- Aye</b>  <b>Sellers- Aye</b>  <b>Heirman- Aye</b>  <b>Hall- Aye</b>  <b>Schrader- Aye</b>  <b>Taylor- Aye</b>  <b>Underhill- Aye</b></p> <p>The board reviewed three quotes to do a prescribed prairie burn at the Warren Woods Park and Preserve.</p> <p><b>Moved by Underhill, seconded by Schrader, that the Borneman rate of \$3,700 be accepted to do the prescribed burn at the Warren Woods Park and Preserve with the assistance of the Chikaming Fire Department.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Schrader informed the board that JV Peacock secured \$1,000 for the mountain bike trails.</p>	<p>Old Business</p> <p><b>MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR WATER SAFETY PRESENTATIONS</b></p> <p><b>MOTION TO CONTEST DEQ DECISION</b></p> <p><b>MOTION TO ACCEPT QUOTE FOR PRAIRIE BURN</b></p>
<p>Ryan Postema, Director of Chikaming Open Lands was present to inform the board that the organization is seeking a property to name in honor of Chris Thompson. Postema explained that Chikaming Open Lands is currently establishing a criteria for the ideal property. Postema invited the board to send the committee any ideas they may have on</p>	<p>New Business</p>

properties. He added that the committee has a goal to complete the project in a year.

Mark Moreno, summer camp director for Renaissance Kids, was present to share a presentation and proposal for an art project at the Harbert Community Park. Moreno explained that the summer camp has a weeklong program where the children would build forms at Andrews University for the proposed project. A professional artist would then assemble the project. The installation would be called “The Peace Project” and it would be honoring a local citizen, a statement on immigration, and a memorial for Moreno’s brother. The estimated cost is \$25,000 which would be collected in donations.

Reed expressed uncertainty about the Park Board pursuing memorial projects on the park properties. He also asked if the Park Board would be responsible for future maintenance of the work. Moreno responded that the project would be a gift to the park.

Underhill questioned the size of the project. Moreno responded that the diameter is estimated at 18 ft.

Schrader stated that she supports the idea of free community art. She suggested that the property between the Harbert Community Park and the Township Hall be considered for the project.

Moreno added that the full concept is not yet in place and that the property owner will have final review and approval of the project.

**Moved by Hall, seconded by Sellers, that the Park Board recommend the consideration of this initiative to the Township Board for further consideration and collaboration with the Park board on project details and a time frame to be considered.**

**CARRIED**

Hall came forth to update the board on details of the summer’s Celebrate Chikaming event. She informed the board that the event will take place from noon until 6 p.m. on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The committee is seeking sponsorships to defer cost. Hall added that the committee is seeking a \$5,000 amount from the Park Board budget to support the event.

Reed reminded the board that they have a \$6,500 amount in their budget for community promotion.

Hall further explained that \$10,000 is budgeted for the event and the township will cover half of the cost.

Schrader expressed discomfort with supporting a 6 hour event at a cost of \$10,000. Hall explained that the event will be much larger this year.

**Moved by Hall, seconded by Sellers, to provide an amount not to exceed \$3,000 of the Park Board’s budget to support the collaborative**

**MOTION TO RECOMMEND PROJECT BE FURTHER CONSIDERED WITH THE TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**MOTION TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE CELEBRATE CHIKAMING EVENT**

<p><b>Celebrate Chikaming event.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Heirman informed the board that Mike Homier has agree to host a workshop on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. at a cost of \$1,000 and neighboring communities would be invited to attend.</p> <p><b>Moved by Underhill, seconded by Schrader, to approve the workshop with Michael Homier from Foster Swift to take place on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. at an amount not to exceed \$1,000.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION TO APPROVE ATTORNEY WORKSHOP</b></p>
<p>Paul Rook was present to introduce himself as a resident of Shorewood Hills interested in learning more about the community.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p><b>Moved by Sellers, seconded by Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p>ADJOURNED</p>
<p>MONDAY, April 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
<p>Minutes submitted by Jessica Miller</p>	