

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting - APPROVED

December 21, 2020

Electronic meeting via Zoom

The December 21, 2020 meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:33PM by Chair Arthur Anderson (Harbert). Also present were board members Shelly Taylor (Three Oaks), Kathy Sellers (Lakeside), Sherri Curry (Harbert), Jocelyn VerLee (Harbert), Steve Ellis (Sawyer), and Garth Taylor (Harbert), along with members of the community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Anderson

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Moved by G. Taylor to approve the agenda as amended, Supported by Sellers.

Roll call vote:

Ellis - yes

VerLee - yes

G. Taylor - yes

Curry - yes

Sellers - yes

Anderson - yes

S. Taylor - yes

7 yes, 0 no, motion carried

OPENING REMARKS:

Steve Ellis - our parks are amazing, looking to move forward, expand, and connect parks with a trail.

Jocelyn VerLee - no remarks at this time

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jill Underhill - lights look really pretty at Harbert Community Park

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:

No objections, approved as submitted (will change "Verlee" to "VerLee")

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Sellers reviewed report - \$317, 295. 80 balance. Remove \$250,000 for Cherry Beach. Bills \$185.11 not on summary. Balance up-to-date is \$67,110.69. Doesn't anticipate short falls in any accounts.

REPORTS

Previously approved minutes are in folder

HCP by Garth Taylor - there is life in the pond (turtle), 2 major pieces to work through are South side and North side.

South - What should go in place of baseball field, if anything? Not a lot of direction

North – lots of direction, 2 major projects are a walkway around the pond and a viewing platform. Volunteers will check zoning and code requirements. Plantings are needed along pond. What process do we go through to move ahead on the 5-year plan? We should eventually talk about fundraising. Improvements along Red Arrow will have implications about boundary of park. How do we get our input in? Kathy mentioned the North end also needs a walkway from the pavilion to the platform. We need to discuss what kind of walkway. Garth would like to see benches as intimate meeting places. Performing platform came up in the survey and was listed as a top priority. He'd like to talk about it during the upcoming 12 months. Ellis likes a coordinated plan. Is in favor of pickle ball courts, says there are none in this area but keep you very active and are a social engagement. Anderson said John Chipman of the planning commission says they are at the planning stage of Red Arrow and wants the Park Board opinion of redesigning the highway. 2016-2017 map of park was done, there was a design idea, and this will be shared out. Ellis mentioned parking and restrooms being available for cyclists. Garth suggested the township lot but VerLee said that causes issues with emergency vehicles. Sellers mentioned the shed and front of shed belong to the Water Dept. We could look into that land being transferred to Park Board or work on agreement with the water department to use it.

Ice Rink – S. Taylor reported no new updates, waiting on weather. G. Taylor said ice rinks are closed, per the governor's order, so we have to be careful how we advertise it.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Curry updated us on the Harbert Community Park lights. She brought lights from her house to put on the concession stand. Wayne and Rob, who are dog park friends, along with Vicky who is a Cherry Beach friend, and also VerLee were all helpful. VerLee helped with the wreath.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

2021-2022 Budget – Sellers wants to give raise to employees, both Josh and the parking lot attendant, at an increase of \$1 an hour, changing from current \$12.25 to \$13.25. That has been penciled into the budget.

Motion by Anderson to raise the hourly rate of assistant and parking lot attendant, starting April 1, 2021, to \$13.25, Supported by G. Taylor.

Discussion – VerLee clarifying number of people, does \$15,600 in budget include 2nd person? Sellers believes it includes 2 attendants. \$16,380 in budget is for manager.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson – yes

Sellers – yes

S. Taylor – yes

VerLee – yes

Ellis – yes

Curry – yes

G. Taylor – yes

7 yes, 0 no, motion carried.

Signage – Anderson wants estimate from Art FX on changing signs to have same language on all signs.

Motion by Anderson to approve Preliminary Budget for 2021-2022 for Park Board, Supported by Sellers.

Discussion – G. Taylor said we need to account for the 5-year plan expenses. Where are the funds to do that? We need plans, drawings, and a facilitator. Sellers said we can go for a grant or have a fundraiser, which is not included in the budget. G. Taylor feels it's a bad idea to put things off until can be written. Would like to see line item for 5-year plan. Would like \$10,000 in there to get matching grants. VerLee brought up fixed expenses vs. revenue expenditures. Should have money set aside so we don't have crisis. Sellers questioned how to budget for a crisis. We asked for \$10,400 for Harbert Beach and then \$4,000 for Cherry Beach and Pier St. Beach. We don't know if we can actually build in the spring. It is difficult to ask for \$10,000 more without a plan. G. Taylor said we could re-allocate, not ask for more, in next year's budget. Andersons said we cannot ask for more money without a plan. Sellers reminded us we still have \$2,500 gift. Curry suggested we set money aside for a matching grant. VerLee said we need estimates and numbers, specific project outlines. Discovery is year 1 and Implementation is year 2. Sellers said we can use funds available until April 1 then take line items and change line items to look like matching funds sitting there. Sellers said legal and consulting will go to \$8,000 as placeholder, to cover cost of putting together plan. VerLee gave the example of turning Pier St. into a platform instead of beach stairs, and we could use that line item for research. Money could then be spent on researching another project. Sellers said we need to prioritize the 5-year plan, then start budgeting accordingly.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson – yes

Sellers – yes

S. Taylor – yes

VerLee – yes

Ellis – yes

Curry – yes

G. Taylor – yes

7 yes, 0 no, motion carried.

Park Manager Position – Sellers recommendation is Alex Schrader and Anderson and G. Taylor recommend Lanny Ross. There are no set days/hours written in. Josh is available on Saturdays. Ellis asked if this position is seasonal, with more full-time during tourist season and less in winter. Anderson said 80 hours is the assumption. Both candidates seem hands-on and have good skills. Schrader has good skills from working in a restaurant. Curry said it'll be a win-win no matter what. S. Taylor feels Schrader would be a good fit because he's from our community and has his heart in the right place, as he wishes to serve like his family has. He is not going anywhere, as he was born and raised here. Anderson sees this person as being in the field, not as an office job VerLee questioned if Anderson is the direct supervisor – Yes. Tools will be provided by the park board and will fall under maintenance.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson – Lanny

Sellers – Alex

S. Taylor – Alex

VerLee – Lanny

Ellis - Alex

Curry - Alex

G. Taylor - Lanny

4 for Alex, 3 for Lanny. Employment will be offered to Alex Schrader.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Assignments - send requests and/or recommendations to Anderson regarding what property each board member wants to oversee.

Bylaws conversation will be postponed until the next meeting, regarding date of election of officers.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Fran Wersells (Florida) commented on our nice productivity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting is Monday, January 25, 2021.

S. Taylor will look into the gate being locked at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve.

ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Taylor