

Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting - APPROVED

May 18, 2020

Electronic meeting via zoom, per Governor Whitmer's order

The May 18, 2020 meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:30PM by Chair Hall-Kayler. Also present were board members Reed, Sellers, Underhill, Anderson, Schrader and Taylor, along with members of the community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Hall-Kayler

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Moved by Underhill, supported by Anderson. All ayes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: given by Sellers

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED MINUTES:

Regular - April 27, 2020 - removal of one retraction statement by Hall-Kayler that was written twice. No objections, motion carried.

Special Meeting May 7, 2020. No objections, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joe Sipek - disappointed about Cherry Beach closure. He and neighbors have lost access to their beach. He'd like a date on when we can reopen.

Mary Kerncamp - Disappointed about Cherry Beach closure and wondered about a plan to reopen.

Sarah Doty - Supports closing Cherry Beach. Suggested we set up a fund to donate to rebuild stairs.

Viki Rivkin - Disappointed about Cherry Beach closure. Would like to see minutes from May 7 meeting so she can see how we got to this decision. It would be helpful for everyone to have the same set of facts.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was presented to the board and placed on file as read.

Further discussion regarding Rachel Collins correspondence -Motion made by Anderson to reimburse Flagship for damage done by contractor and we will supply her with a marker to mark the spot and she needs to locate it off of park property.

6 ayes

Schrader abstained

OLD BUSINESS

Anderson shared signage about Cherry Beach closure. We need similar signs at Harbert Beach and Pier Street Beach.

Schrader was concerned about the instability of the viewing platform. It will be removed this week. She also expressed concern over the unsafe trails being made by people going down to the beach, as nowhere is stable.

Josh Higgins' report was shared.

Park board members reviewed updates on work projects to be completed, and what each person's responsibility is.

NEW BUSINESS

Benches – The benches at CTPP are falling apart. Andy Brown presented a bench he could make, and Harbor Country Hikers offered to make and donate benches. Both benches are known to last for many years but vary in attractiveness. We will compare prices with a few businesses before purchasing.

Motion by Anderson to accept the proposal of benches and ask for ten benches. Supported by Underhill. No objections, motion carried.

Reed would like these donated benches anchored to the ground.

The thought is that the donated benches could be placed on trails, while the benches we may purchase in the future could be in more visible areas.

REPORTS

Josh – reviewed report in packet and we appreciate how thorough he is. There were concerns of excessive use of the leaf blower (noise pollution and necessity concerns) so he will be asked to sweep or rake whenever possible. Schrader noted that she is opposed to him blowing the sand off the stairs, as it makes them slippery.

Hall-Kayler visited all beaches today and had some findings:

Harbert – direct drop off

Cherry – stairs and posts have been removed, fissure on dune, overlook being taken down this week

Pier – Riprap exposed

Berrien – loads of debris on beach, approved by Chief Davidson to do a burn of beach debris when weather and wind are favorable

Miller – sign sticking out of ground

McKinley – smashed kayak, unclear if its on private or public property

Townline – erosion at bottom of stairs due to pipe, and there are posts that need to be removed

Update on signage at CTPP – Anderson reported that signs have been ordered using the \$3,000 grant money from rotary. Pat Fisher and Chief Davidson will be meeting to discuss the 911 markers at Harbert Road Preserve.

Waste management – Sellers reported there is no port-a-john at Cherry but this will be revisited if beach opens, no garbage pails at Harbert and Pier.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

There should be updates on the Cherry Beach project.

Community outreach at Cherry Beach has been seen as excessive and fliers seem unsafe during this pandemic. The citizen is being viewed with affiliation to the board. Citizen claims this was not her intent.

More information is requested about how we came to decide to close the beaches. It's not satisfactory to direct residents to beaches where there is a charge. Many share the same disappointment about the beach. The decision was made based on safety, with hopes to re-open.

Request for mile markers to be put in, or at least stenciled on our stairs. A map is needed so this will be addressed with Chief Davidson.

The lake is the highest its been in years and projected to raise even higher in the next three months.

Dog park needs more benches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hall-Kayler read a statement regarding beaches this weekend. All need to follow the governor's guidelines if beaches are to remain open. The community is asked to please follow these guidelines carefully.

Next meeting is Monday, June 22 at 6:30pm.

ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Taylor