

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting – APPROVED

May 24, 2021

Electronic meeting via Zoom

The May 24, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:32PM by Chair Arthur Anderson (Harbert). Also present were board members Shelly Taylor (Three Oaks), Kathy Sellers (Lakeside), Sherri Curry (Harbert), and Garth Taylor (Harbert), along with members of the community. Steve Ellis and Jocelyn VerLee were not present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Anderson

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** No objections, Approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Joseph Reed – Agenda is different than website, “dogs on beach” was added under old business.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Bernie and Beth Dahl for the Cherry Beach parking plan.

Mike from the Berrien County Road Commission for his work also on the parking lot.

Harbert Beach Stairs – many people played a part and a letter of appreciation will be written by Anderson and signed by Bunte to be in the Harbor Country News. There will be a plaque on top of the stairs. Big thanks to all workers and food donations.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 26 Regular Meeting – No Objections, Approved.

May 10 Special Meeting – VerLee needs to be marked as “not present.” No objections, Approved as corrected.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Given by Sellers, \$116, 534.87 left in budget

Pat Fisher – Weesaw Township Contractor for mowing couldn’t do it anymore. Low bid was 4x previous contract, high bid was 10x more. Tom Krieger is good until March 31 but might see cost increase next year, struggling to find workers.

**REPORTS:**

All reports are in folder

Cherry Beach parking lot - Bernie and Beth Dahl – 36 spaces at Cherry Beach potentially, emergency spaces factored in. Angled parking makes aisles narrower, 16 feet allowed, angles and regulations came from municipal code. One way in, loops around counter-clockwise, 2 ADA spaces on either side of outlook. Alex and Josh are putting tire stops in, adjustments are still being made. Need more parking stops. G. Taylor said it looks great, thanks Bernie and Beth! Amazing what can be done. Curry said guard shack needs to be moved, will be talking to Brian Kern.

Beach passes – Kim Swartz has been mailing them out. Suggested list be given so passes can be handed out at Cherry Beach gate.

Garbage pick-up at Harbert Rd. Beach – had trouble finding can. Sellers scheduling a talk to get a few issues straightened out.

Pier St. Beach – Sellers said staging tile is gone at Pier St. The place next door looks really good (to the North).

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Miller Beach measurements, Arthur will draft a response.

Sellers received correspondence from Joseph Reed regarding desire to be on board. Anderson said we will discuss under new business.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Township voted down dogs on beach, don't see any way forward.

Curry appreciates Anderson putting it forward and trying.

List of Enhancements:

Sent out today in packet, location of benches and other enhancements will all work, splashpad, etc. Pickleball courts will be tricky because they're enclosed, South of dog park, perhaps, but that belongs to water department. Sellers said Holland has a permanent fire pit, we don't need something that grand but something permanent would be nice. There's might be gas, but something welcoming and pretty would be a great addition. G. Taylor received correspondence from someone requesting it also. Bring own chairs? Benches? Benches would be good in winter so no one has to drag out chairs. Next step will be to write all this up and present it to the township. Specificity on costs - demolition of ball park and set up of stage. Meet with township board so they have documents ahead of time. G. Taylor asked about doing a presentation at the June township board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Trees for Harbert Community Park playground

Motion by Anderson to appropriate \$1,300 for purchase of two trees for Harbert Community Park. Supported by G. Taylor.

Discussion - Curry wondered if there's a guarantee on new trees, for 1 year, for example? Sellers said the dead tree is too old to be under contract still.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson - yes

Curry - yes

Sellers - yes

G. Taylor - yes

S. Taylor - yes

5 yes, 0 no, Motion Carried.

Park Board Vacancy - VerLee sent a resignation email, Bunte said attorney and MI township association said she must submit resignation to township and the board must approve resignation. Anderson sent her an email with explanation but she did not respond. Paula has not yet received a letter from VerLee. Sellers suggested a prompt go to VerLee from Paula.

Curry suggested that safety signs be mounted next to safety rings. S. Taylor said the beach safety committee has looked into rings in the past but they are too much of a liability if not checked daily. Curry said she would be

able to check daily and questioned if the liability goes away if rings are donated rather than purchased by township.

Sellers questioned if we could use water from the pond to water the new trees. Answer - not without a well to pump it out.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER:**

Fran Wersells, Union Pier - Miller Beach correspondence, wants to know now and why about the incorrect property markings. Anderson said there is an expense for surveys but may be done free by Michigan State University so he wants to see if we can get it free first. The association is welcome to do it themselves if they wanted. Wersells said they don't have the authority to do that. Sellers asked if we can put the onus on the property owner. Anderson said there is potential for the free survey in a few weeks to a month. Wersells wondered if signs were in violation of the ordinance, Anderson answered that they were not, and are legal on the beach. Deborah Hall-Kayler was allowed to and she replaced a sign Janet Schrader had put up. Sellers asked if we can write a letter to the home-owner and ask them to provide the survey. Anderson said we have the survey, but the sign doesn't correspond to where it's supposed to be. Need a surveyor to mark it with a flag. The paper is just a number on the map. Curry asked if we can cover the sign that is in the wrong place, Anderson responded no, a court ordered sign has been put there. Could be north or south that is in the wrong place. Curry asked about using GPS coordinates on the survey, Anderson said we need a professional to do that. G. Taylor requested the cost for the survey. Anderson agreed to pursue.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next regular meeting is Monday, June 28, 2021 at 6:30PM.

Josh will be at Cherry Beach until 5 on the weekend and then Curry will cover.

**ADJOURN MEETING:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Taylor