

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

Minutes of the April 28, 2008 Meeting

Chairman Joanne Sims called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members Dan Buckenmeyer, George Swanson, Ruth Magdzinski, Bernie Abendshein and Brad Williamson present. Absent was Janice Gibson. Also present were Kirk and Janet Schrader and Recording Secretary Marisue Hojnacki.

Election of Officers: Buckenmeyer moved to elect Williamson as Secretary/Treasurer and close the nominations. Abendshein seconded the motion. Motion carried with Williamson abstaining. Magdzinski nominated Sims as Chairman and Williamson seconded the motion. Williamson moved, supported by Swanson to close the nominations. Motion carried with Sims abstaining. Swanson, Sims, Abendshein, Magdzinski and Williamson said that they will be running for the Park Board in the November election.

Approval of Agenda: Swanson moved, supported by Abendshein to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Williamson moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2007 minutes as read with the correct date in the footer. Abendshein and Buckenmeyer supported the motion. Motion carried. Swanson moved, supported by Buckenmeyer to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2008 meeting with the correction of the amount of the signage on page three of \$1,259.93, not \$1,539.93. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Williamson opened discussion on a letter from Peter Erlinder about his concern about the use of the township beaches, specifically Pier Street. He felt what was happening at the road end beach at Pier Street diminished the use and marketability of his home next to the beach. Williamson felt three of the issues were Park Board related and the others were Safety Committee issues. Erlinder threatened legal action. Williamson felt they needed to respond that they received the letter. Sims said that she talked to Supervisor Dudeck and that she was going to bring it to the Township Attorney's attention. She felt that he should probably respond to the letter after talking with the Park Board. Sims felt he has some valid complaints, but Williamson did not think that it devaluated his property. He thought they should focus on those areas that they could assist on. He felt that the success of Chikaming Township was going to reflect on the use of their facilities. Sims said that they have discussed surveying and marking the road end beaches. There are surveys in the township office that were done in 1979 that show where the markers are. She talked to Merritt Engineering about the cost. Magdzinski said that they had a lot of problems at Pier Street beach this past year. Sims said that the security people can only ask the people to stop doing things; only the police can give tickets. Williamson said that two officers on the beaches during the summer would cost a quarter of a million a year. They

could have a park police unit responsible for the beaches and parks. Magdzinski felt they should get two Park Board members to go before the Safety Commission and work this out. Sims pointed out that they do not state anywhere how wide the beaches are and had a small notice that could be posted about the width of the road end accesses. She said that she talked to the Road Commission and they can't do anything to help them. Magdzinski suggested asking for no parking on one side of Pier Street from downtown to the beach. Sims said that Merritt will charge around \$500 to \$600 to survey one beach. It will be less if they do more beaches. The process would take two weeks. Sims pointed out that the McKinley road end beach is only 40 feet wide. Williamson said that three years ago they were looking at six inch square poly golf course marker posts that cost hundreds of dollars each, but were very sturdy. They would need two to three on each side. It is money that the Park Board does not have at this time. George felt that Sims had an immediate fix with laminating her posters and putting them up at the beaches. He also expressed sanitary concerns and the need for port-a-potties. Sims said that they need to take a neighborhood watch approach with a town hall meeting and said that she has asked John Gooch to write an article for the newspaper about it. Buckenmeyer said that he had identified five problems from the letter: 1) boundary markers on the beach, 2) signage at the parking area noting width of the beach, 3) trash pickup, 4) port-a-johns and 5) park police/enforcement. Williamson said that he would get new quotes on the markers and Sims would get the cost on port-a-johns. It was decided not to respond to the letter until they meet with the Safety Commission and the Township attorney. It was noted that they pay \$930 for two port-a-johns from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Magdzinski suggested having extra ones for July and August.

Some of the Park Board members had received a package of information from Janice Gibson that was initiated by Joe DeAngelis' complaint about the Park Board restricting access to the beach by limiting the parking. Magdzinski felt that the issue was settled over a year ago by the Township's attorney and the State and they should leave it alone and let the attorney answer any questions.

There was also an application for the use of the pavilion at Harbert Park for a graduation on May 31st from 2 to 5 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Williamson said that in March they only had \$220 in expenditures recorded leaving a balance of \$8,655. Sims said that they have outstanding bills of \$2,500 for the prairie burn and \$1,259 in signage.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beach Maintenance Reports:

Parking Passes – Sims reported that they are being laminated and will be available by the first week in May.

Clean Up – Abendshein will work with Schrader on what needs to be cleaned up.

Equipment – The trash barrels will be painted green. Hojnacki had gotten a quote from LLS Lab Safety Supply, Inc. for 24 green drum tops, five picnic tables and two doggie bad dispensers for \$3,478.77 plus \$315.75 in freight for a total of \$3,794.52. Williamson moved to up the drum tops to 30 and approve an additional \$1,500 to the \$3,000 approved last month for the purchase. Buckenmeyer supported the motion and it passed unanimously. Swanson suggested having people purchase items such as benches and picnic tables and putting plaques on them. He will work on a policy to cover gifts and memorials.

Park Maintenance Reports:

Harbert Community Park – When reviewing the Grant Application from the Pokagon Fund for additional playground equipment, Buckenmeyer suggested that they mention that it was at the top of the list when they did their park survey.

Bleachers – The board agreed that they were not interested in donating them to the Three Oaks Little League at this time.

Tree trimming and removal of dead trees – Sims said that at Harbert Park there is a dead tree right by the pavilion and three others. Graham will charge \$1,250 to take them down and grind out the trunks.

Signage – The trail signs are up at the Preserve.

Trail maps – Abendshein moved, supported by Swanson to pay Graham \$1,250 to take down the trees and also expend \$300 for 2,000 more trail maps for the CTP&P. Motion carried.

Lakewood Estates encroachment license – Sims said that they now have a license to encroach on the CTP&P and it is all legal.

Prairie Burn – Sims reported that it was completed on April 15th and everything is growing back.

Boundary Signs – Buckenmeyer reported that he went with Schrader and did the section facing Mydra Road at the CTP&P and were able to find the stakes and resprayed them. They will need 20 stakes and 25 signs to mark the boundary. Williamson thought that he had about 30 yellow signs that say no snowmobiles and no ATVs. Williamson moved, supported by Magdzinski to authorize up to \$350 to purchase the posts. Motion carried.

Garlic Mustard Pull – Volunteers showed up at the CTP&P on April 26 to pull the Garlic Mustard. Sims said that where they pulled it up last year there is not much. They will do it again on May 10 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Spray for cattails - Sims said that she found something at Baroda City Mills that she will pick up.

Committee Reports:

Beach Security – Sims said that she had proposals from Rover and Seventrees. Williamson added that they had \$7,000 in the budget for security, but suggested they wait until they talk to the Safety Commission. Abendshein wondered if someone went through the training he did at Warren Dunes State Park if they could be deputized. It was mentioned that they may call a special meeting for the next Monday after meeting with the Safety Commission to decide on security.

Parks Map for Recreational Information folder – Sims reported that she had no information on that project.

5-year Plan – Williamson went through his rough draft with the Board. He called it a dynamic plan that is reviewed annually. He asked that in the next week or so they go through it and identify areas where they could be of assistance and get back to him. He would then e-mail them that section so they could work on it.

Bike Trail Progress – Sims said that four of them met and talked about finding a consultant to help put a plan together. There is a representative from Three Oaks, New Buffalo City and Township and Chikaming Township. They have five proposals to go through. They hope to have the Pokagon Fund fund the study.

Trash Removal – Schrader presented a contract bid of \$8,750 to pickup garbage two to three times a week in May and September and three to four times from June to August. He would also charge \$40 a week to clean the two bathrooms at the CTP&P like last year. Williamson moved, supported by Abendshein to accept the bid. Motion carried. Schrader was told that if gas prices demand, he could come back to the board for an amendment to his contract.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Comments – Janet Schrader told the board that as part of her Art Attack sand castle building program this next weekend she is going to talk about how to keep the beaches clean. She said that she walks the beaches all summer long and has taken many pictures of people violating the rules. She felt that a neighborhood watch program would work. She said that she talks to the people and has learned that a lot of the offenders are people who stay at the rental cottages. She felt that the leasing companies should be taxed to help pay for the needed policing. She also said that people park by the no parking signs and fire hydrant at Townline road end beach all the time.

Adjournment – Abendshein moved, supported by Williamson to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Next scheduled meeting – The next scheduled meeting will be on May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Marisue Hojnacki
Recording Secretary