

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

Minutes from the February 12, 2007 Meeting

PROPOSED

Chairman Joanne Sims called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Brad Williamson, Bernie Abendshein and Janice Gibson present.

Absent: Ruth Magdzinski absent. Sue Petterson had turned in a resignation letter that was accepted by the Township Board at their February 8, 2007 meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Abendshein moved, supported by Gibson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: Abendshein moved, supported by Williamson to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2006 meeting with the correction that it is "Janice" not "Janet" Gibson. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Williamson said that they had a letter from Fran Wersells about the beach markers. There was also information on the MNRTF application deadlines and workshops. Sims said that they would not be making an application this year. There was a letter of resignation from Sue Petterson and that she will continue to support the Park Board's efforts, but not be a member. Jack Gibson said that the Township Board has formally accepted here resignation. Sims said that Kirk Schrader gave them his Bird-a-thon money and asked that the \$245 be used at the Park and Preserve. She said that this is the second or third year that he has done this. Petterson sent him a thank you and also one to AEP for the \$12,000 for the new trail. A thank you was sent to the MNRTF Board after their final payment, the people they dealt with at I&M and Merritt Engineering and then the Harbert Business Association for their donation for Harbert Park. Petterson sent a thank you to Carolyn Schuler at RVHS for bringing the students out in the fall to help with the Autumn Olives at the Preserve. Sims said that they need to follow up with the Township Attorney about Cherry Beach parking passes and how to differentiate between co-ops and the Chikaming Cabins. Sims said that they still have some weed control and forestland improvements to do for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Grant for reforestation from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She added that the Township would like a report on what they accomplished this past year and she will put that together and e-mail it to everyone.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Budget for '07-'08 – Williamson went over the proposed budget for 2007-08. It showed revenues of \$75,000 with expenditures of \$100,000. The expenditures include \$25,000 for playground equipment at Harbert Park. He said that they are

not requesting the extra money for security this year so that item went from \$17,500 to \$7,000 with the bulk being moved to the development of the new trail at the Preserve. They got \$12,000 donated and it will cost about \$19,000. The beach marker issue will be set aside for a year due to financial concerns so they don't have to do the beach mile markers and the beach markers in the same year. Williamson said that the playground equipment was moved from a priority B to A project because of the liability issue. The dream is to get an extra \$25,000 to put in new core equipment this year and then finish it the next year. Sims said that they are going to see if they can buy something through the state contract program to get a better price. Abendshein said that they had to do away with swings at the State Park because of the liability issue. Williamson said that because the Risk Management people looked at it, they have to address it sooner than they had expected. He added that they did not request anything that had to do with the property next door that will become part of the park. Sims said that she sent New Buffalo Township a statement for their half of the upkeep for Townline and they sent a check for the \$680.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beach Maintenance Reports:

Townline Stairs – Sims said that she has been talking with Pete White about an estimate on new stairs and platform for Townline and he will be at the meeting to talk to them. She said that she has been in contact with New Buffalo Township and they are willing to split the cost. White said that the new code states that for every 12 feet of vertical rise, they have to have a landing/resting area. The steps have to have seven inch rise. They now have a seven and a half inch rise so this pushes them further out. He said that it is currently 4" by 4" construction and the new one will be 6" by 6" construction. Sims asked if they could make the platform handicapped accessible and White said yes, but they may need to change the parking because he felt there was a curb there. He said that he would put a synthetic board on the handrail so that no one would get splinters. The stairs would be five feet wide, not three feet so that two people could pass. Sims suggested that they list the maximum weight on the platform. It was suggested that White go to a New Buffalo Township meeting and explain the plans to them. Sims said that it is in a high risk dune, but they don't need permits as long as it is done by hand. They will use a back hoe from above to remove the stairs and dismantle it on top. White asked which building inspector would do the inspection and Williamson suggested that Chikaming's do the inspection seeing that they maintain the stairs. Jack Gibson suggested that they go out to bid on the project and Sims responded that she felt that they only had to go out to bid on projects over \$25,000, but she will look it up to be sure. Williamson moved that they accept the project contingent that it falls within the guidelines on going out for bid and New Buffalo Township agrees to pay their half. Abendshein seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Miller Beach – Mudd’s – Sims said that Petterson had been in contact with both Dr. and Mrs. Mudd and they know that they have to paint the gate and put in grass seed.

Other – Gibson asked who graded the parking lot at Cherry Beach as they did a nice job. Sims felt that maybe Rich Fadder had done it.

Parks Maintenance Reports:

Harbert Community Park – No report.

Harbert Road Preserve – No report.

CTP&P -

AEP funds for new trail - \$12,000 – Because they are not dealing with a grant, Sims will talk with Hollerbach and get a quote. They are looking at doing the same type of trail with wood chips. They will need a small bridge to go over the creek in the ravine. She said that at the last meeting they talked about a culvert on the Prairie Trail and she will have him look at that at the same time.

Burn Autumn Olives – Sims said that they did a lot of cutting and now they need to burn them. However, they have to wait until the snow is gone so that they can stack them into a large pile for burning.

Grant Funds – Received the final payment of \$193,200 from MNRTF and they will have two more years with the WHIP Grant.

Dam Inspection – video in hand – Sims said that she had not viewed the video. The work has been done and they don’t have to do anything for another five years.

Committee Reports:

Security/Beach Safety – Sims said that the township is going to supply an officer and vehicle to do regular beach patrols.

Boundary Signs – This project is on hold until next year.

5 year recreation plan – plans for future need to be outlined – They are getting some surveys back and Abendshein and Sims will have something for the April 30 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Board Member or reducing board to five members – Gibson felt that five was a nice number. It was noted that they are not looking for the board members to do all the work as this will discourage people from serving on the board. It was noted that the township board was going to advertise for members. Williamson moved, seconded by Abendshein to recommend to the Township Board that they

reduce the Park Board to five members contingent on the response to the advertisement for members. Motion carried.

Next meeting – Sims said that their next meeting wouldn't be until April 30 so suggested that they also meet on April 9th. They all agreed to have two meetings in April to prepare for the season.

Volunteer group – It was noted that Petterson offered to help Abendshein and Sims with volunteers.

Maintenance Person – It was agreed that they will set up a monthly schedule of tasks for Kirk Schrader to do. When they discussed going out to bid for mowing, Gibson stated that when they advertise they don't get anyone to bid so they should call the people who advertise in the paper and ask them to quote. Williamson said that they should watch out for selective bidding as it may be improper.

Adjournment: Williamson moved, supported by Abendshein to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Motion carried. Jack Gibson stated that it should be noted in the minutes that this was the shortest Park Board meeting on record.

Marisue Hojnacki
Recording Secretary