

Chikaming Township Park Board

Minutes of the June 28, 2010 Meeting

Meeting Called to order by Joanne Sims at 7pm.

- Present: Bernie Abendshein, Dan Buckenmeyer, Ruth Madgzinski, Joanne Sims, Brad Williamson, Rich Sullivan
- Not Present: George Swanson

Approval of the Agenda:

- Buckenmeyer moved to approve, Williamson supported with unanimous consent

Approval of April 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes

- Abendshein moved to approve, Williamson supported with unanimous consent.

Correspondence:

- A letter from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) was received, noting that an inspection of the Chikaming Township Park and Preserve was conducted. This required, routine inspection of grant-assisted sites found Chikaming Township Park and Preserve to be “maintained, operated, available to the public and properly signed including a MNRTF plaque in compliance with the program requirements.” The letter continued with a “Thank you for supporting the MNRTF program by providing a very real testimony to its impact in Michigan’s local park and recreation facilities.”
- An unsolicited donation was received from an individual, specifying support for the Dog Park at Harbert Community Park.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Williamson submitted the report. No outstanding issues.

Beach Reports:

- Townline, McKinley, Miller, Berrien, Pier, Harbert
 - Review and discussion of cleanup efforts conducted in the wake of recent storms.
- Cherry
 - Significant damage from storm damage, including massive uprooted trees, was rapidly addressed by the board and clean up was nearly complete. A further assessment of needs for repair to fences and leveling of the parking area is being led by Abendshein and Buckenmeyer.

Park Reports:

- Harbert Community Park, CTP & P
 - No new business
- Harbert Preserve
 - TDK Landscaping was present to discuss needs identified in the Preserve. Issues include overgrowth along the trails, waterlogged paths and areas, trees that are down or leaning. Approval was given to remove downed trees and other risks and hindrances to trail utilization.

Committee Reports:

- Security
 - It was noted that security will be doubled by the Chikaming Twp and New Buffalo Police Forces at the beaches for the 4th of July weekend. Efforts will include cooler checks for glass and alcohol, ticketing for infractions (in lieu of warnings for first offenders) along with regular policing efforts.
- Signage
 - Signage is nearly complete and should be ready for pick up at the vendor soon.
 - Buckenmeyer and Abendshein to lead efforts to remove old signage and install new.
- Bike Trail
 - Sims reported good attendance at a New Buffalo Township-organized official opening to then designated bike trail at Townline with a tricycle race and other activities.
 - Sims continues to represent the Park Board at monthly meetings. .
- Parks Brochure
 - No update.
- 5-Year-Plan
 - Sims presented the final version for public review and submission to the consultant.draft and the Board discussed it in detail. Sims, Swanson and Buckenmeyer to review and incorporate changes and/or results of discussion. A special meeting in early July will be held if deemed necessary.

New Business:

- A board member commented upon a news story that ran noting that the Township had voted to table action toward the purchase of the “Glavin” property to the North of Harbert Community Park to allow expansion of that facility.
 - Chairperson Sims was asked to request direct notification on such future matters from the Township Board and also to confirm whether the Park Board is still free to pursue other funding avenues for the initiative.

Public Comments:

- Harbor Country Public Arts Initiative
 - Representatives of HCPAI were present and updated the park board on the progress of their efforts, which included the installation of a sculpture at Harbert Community Park. They are moving into the next phases of their initiatives which will include additional sculpture installations and collaborative programs with area schools.
 - HCPAI presented a plaque thanking the Park Board for participation in the program.
- Miller Beach
 - A concerned resident offered report including photographs of trash cans and refuse that are allegedly piled repeatedly in front of the Miller Beach access. The park board agreed to communicate with the owners of the residence immediately North of the access to ask that they refrain from encroaching on public property.

There being no further business, Buckenmeyer moved to adjourn and Williamson supported with unanimous consent.

Recorded by Daniel J. Buckenmeyer - Chikaming Township Park Board Secretary