



Chikaming Township Park Board Meeting, Monday, January 22, 2018

**Chikaming Township Park Board
Regular Meeting**

Monday, January 22, 2018 6:30 p.m.
Chikaming Township Hall
13535 Red Arrow Hwy
Harbert, MI 49115

MINUTES	INDEX to MINUTES
<p>The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.</p> <p>Members present: Joseph Reed, Deborah Hall-Kayler, Janet Schrader, Shelly Taylor, and Jill Underhill were present. Kathy Sellers and Arthur Anderson were absent.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Approval of the meeting's agenda.</p> <p>Moved by Underhill, seconded by Schrader, to approve the meeting agenda.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	<p>AGENDA APPROVED</p>
<p>Motion to approve preceding meeting minutes.</p> <p>Underhill requested that "little free" be added ahead of the word "library."</p> <p>Taylor requested that the spelling of the name Rennie be corrected.</p> <p>Moved by Hall, seconded by Underhill, to approve the minutes of the December regular meeting.</p> <p align="right">CARRIED</p>	<p>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</p> <p>MINUTES APPROVED</p>
<p>Hall informed the board that \$16,532.33 remains in the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p>
<p>The Three Oaks Baseball Association was mentioned as a possible collaborator for the Harbert Community Park.</p> <p>Former Park Board Chair EnRico Heirman congratulated the Park Board and those involved on their pending grant approval.</p> <p>Harbor Country Hikers thanked the board for their involvement.</p> <p>It was reported to the board that someone drove down the prairie path at the Chikaming Park and Preserve. Schrader recalled that there are telephone poles at the Park and Preserve that are meant to be used to block access to the trails.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p>

<p>Charles Bronson, formerly of Tom’s plumbing, wrote to say that he is starting his own plumbing business and would be happy to help the board with their yearly turning on and off of the water as a donation.</p> <p>Rotary of Harbor Country is proposing adult exercise equipment for the Harbert Community Park. The equipment would have very little required maintenance and Rotary would secure funding for the project. If they are available, Rotary will be added to next month’s agenda for a further conversation.</p>	
<p>Fran Wersells stated that trash cans at Miller Beach are all about half full. Schrader responded that she has seen the garbage cans overflowing with fireworks at Townline. Hall will ask the trash company how often they are picked up. Wersells added that she has not seen the public safety shed used once over the past summer.</p>	Public Comment
<p>Pat Fisher was present to talk about park stewardship. He expressed the importance of local trails having well placed and easy to understand markers. He informed the board that good signage is the best way to leave hikers with a good impression.</p> <p>Fisher stated that great signs are also important to gain support for a trail. He stated that there are 27 miles of trails between New Buffalo, Three Oaks, and Chikaming. Fisher stated that he would like to see more the trail signage unified between all of the local communities.</p> <p>Schrader thanked Fisher for his time and information.</p>	Special Presentation
<p>Harbert Beach – Reed reported that erosion continues to be an issue. Cherry Beach – Schrader had nothing to report. Berrien Beach – Underhill had nothing new to report. Miller Beach – Hall had nothing additional to report. McKinley Beach – Taylor had nothing new to report. Townline Beach – Arthur was not present to report. Schrader reported that they are having a trash problem. Pier St. Beach – Schrader had nothing new to report. Chikaming Park and Preserve on Warren Woods Rd. –Taylor had nothing new to report. Harbert Rd. Park and Preserve – Hall reported that her husband enjoyed snowshoeing there. He had observed that someone is throwing household trash in the park trash can. Harbert Community Park – Underhill suggested that the Christmas lights be taken down in February. Taylor stated that Rennie does a wonderful job maintaining the rink and she would like him to be hired as the person to maintain it due to his high level of expertise. Hall suggested that a sign-up sheet for skates be added in the concession stand so that usage can be assessed.</p>	Beach/ Park Reports

The gifting committee has something for former Chair EnRico Heirman and would like to present it to him at an upcoming meeting.

Old Business

Hall informed the board that she has had a request for bids published in the New Buffalo Times for both a Waste Management Contract and Grounds Management. Bids are due by February 15th.

Hall reported that the budget meetings went well. She informed the board that the proposed budget is \$109,500 and that all wish list items are tentatively accepted.

Schrader reported that the Cherry Beach committee has been meeting almost weekly. She asked that Mary Margol and Susan Phelan be appointed to the committee. Reed appointed Mary Margol and Susan Phelan to the committee.

Moved by Schrader, seconded Underhill, that the Chikaming Township Park Board recommend that Chikaming Township apply for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to purchase the property at 13870 Cherry Beach Rd., Harbert, MI and that the Chikaming Township Park Board recommend that the Chikaming Township Board pass the required resolution to submit the grant application at their March 8, 2018 regular meeting.

MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPLICATION FOR A GRANT

Roll call vote as follows:

**Schrader - Aye
Underhill - Aye
Reed - Aye
Taylor - Aye
Hall - Aye**

Moved by Schrader, seconded by Hall, that the Park Board hold a special meeting on Saturday, February 24th, at a time to be decided, with the purpose of allowing the Cherry Beach Committee to make a presentation and for time to allow the public to comment and make short statements into the minutes.

MOTION FOR A SPECIAL MEETING

CARRIED

Hall reported that the social media committee will be meeting on Friday.

The board has been hearing positive news about the Harbert Community Park Grant Application. Reed appointed Underhill, Schrader and himself to a grant committee.

New Business

John Wagner was present to report that last Celebrate Chikaming Event was a success. The plan for the coming year is to do food, beer and wine once again. The committee is also seeking local vendors and entertainment. He asked that the Park Board consider putting aside \$5,000 for the event. The date of the event is yet to be decided. Schrader expressed concern that the township is not more involved.

<p>Fran Wersells questioned what can be done about the garbage issue. Reed appointed Wersells to the Beach Safety Committee to continue the conversation within that group.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>Moved Underhill, seconded Schrader, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. CARRIED</p>	<p>ADJOURNED</p>
<p>MONDAY, February 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p>
<p>Minutes submitted by Jessica Reed</p>	