

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting – APPROVED

August 30, 2021

Chikaming Township Large Meeting Room

The August 30, 2021 regular meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:32PM by Chair Arthur Anderson. Also present were board members Kathy Sellers, Sherri Curry, Steve Ellis, Garth Taylor, Jill Underhill and Shelly Taylor, along with members of the community both in-person and via Zoom.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Led by Anderson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Curry made a motion to add a re-vote on rebuilding Pier St. beach stairs this fiscal year, Supported by Anderson. It was stated that the board has spent enough time deliberating and should wait as originally voted. All in favor: 1, Opposed: 6, Motion Failed.

G. Taylor wants to add status of Abonmarche contract.

Underhill moved to approve agenda with addition from G. Taylor, Supported by Sellers. All in favor: 7, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Olga Georgiev – Not prudent to rebuild Pier St. stairs but wants plan to take care of rocks after winter.

Tom Stillman – Park Board should protect the little beach we have, need to deal with revetments and boulders.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Anderson recognized the 22 Harbert Community Park demolition project workers.

Curry recognized the Cherry Beach Project, and beach is now deeded to township. Anderson said celebration is rescheduled from Sept. to Spring. Anderson also thanked Janet Schrader for getting this rolling.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Janet Schrader – Mountain Bike Trail ride Sept. 30 at 5:30PM (Kirk's birthday), hosted by Janet and Alex Schrader. No race due to pandemic, Harbor Country Hikers will lead walk on the trail. Working to install public bike repair stand, will cost several thousand dollars and may people want to give money. Need a plan for monetary collection. Would like to see a once-a-year recognition to those who contribute to trail and parks, possibly beginning with mountain bike trail.

Saturday, Sept. 11 at 10AM sign on Cherry Beach being moved down 40 feet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July Regular Meeting Minutes, No objections, approved as submitted

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$95,908.88 is current balance.

REPORTS: In packet

Parks and Beaches:

Pier St. – Joe Sipek put off clean up until Sept. to look at beach and rocks (due to weather). Curry would like to be able to reach beach in winter for taking a walk, Sellers thinks removing some rocks now would make a good dent. In regards to recourse with owners and/or EGLE, EGLE hasn't signed off on it yet. Contractors are coming back to remove boulders, there is a claim that rocks are not from revetments.

Harbert Community Park – G. Taylor:

Major grants (Rec Grant, DNR, Agriculture)

Write during 2022, if awarded begin 2023

Marcy Hamilton (Southwest Michigan Planning Commission) writes text

- Altamanu coordinates concept/ design
- Abonmarche prepares civil engineering documentation

Will require 40% + match

- \$40K - \$50K per grant in PB 2023 budget

During 2022

Smaller component pieces -- discovery area, viewing areas, landscaping, non-cement pathways

- Altamanu is working with us to develop a list of options,
- Volunteers + grants

Encourage local donors

Local foundations (Pokagon, BCF, Upton, TCU, banks)

- \$5k - \$10K range, require local match

Marcy Hamilton writes, based on Altamanu drawings & design specs

- PB 2022 budget, \$15K for local matches
- PB 2022 budget, \$2K to Altamanu

Maintaining volunteer engagement – 2021 & beyond

Removing invasive species, clearing vistas & picnic/bench areas

Planting -- particularly donated ornamentals

Building non-cement pathways

Programming the meadow

- PB 2022 budget, \$5K for materials,
- PB 2022 budget, \$5K for programming

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING (The list below shows the main area of activity, but just about every volunteer worked on just about every task)

REDESIGN OF HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK

August 30, 2021

BUILDING REMOVAL CREW -- cutting, hammering, sawing, heavy lifting Rich Sullivan

Bernie Dahl

Jordan Klint

Tom Krieger & TDK

FENCE WRESTLING CREW -- fence removal, post digging

Arthur Anderson

John Gunnar Gooch

Steve Ellis

Allyn Gooen

PATH AND VISTA CREW -- clearing invasive species

Graham Tree Services

Beth Dahl

Josh Higgins

John MacManus

Josey Bellalta

FOOD & DRINK CREW

Sherrie Currie

Enrico Heirman

Carolyn Drier

Sawyer Garden Center

Fran Wersells

Deborah Hall-Kayler

Pam Poindexter

DUMPSTER & RECYCLING CREW

Alex Schrader order & remove dumpsters

David Heyn Sr. scrap metal removal

Joe Reed

Cherry Beach – Anderson meeting with Janet Schrader and Pat Fisher to see about pathways through addition, potentially ADA, and maybe rebuild overlook. Curry working on getting price to extend fence. Anderson looking into grant.

Miller Beach – Steve Ellis dug up boundary markers and Alex used compass tool to move signs 12-14 feet. University of MI promised to do formal survey. Invasive plants and some tall trees need to be removed. New picnic table, Alex, Josh and Ellis will build platform for it. Path needs cosmetic maintenance and wood chips.

Chikaming Township Park and Preserve – Burn scheduled for September. Disc golf was put on hold, may re-initiate.

Harbert Beach – Curry said needs trimming because grape vines are attaching into trees.

Dog Park – No more mulch because small dogs are eating it, need flooring under shelter, maybe concrete.

Berrien Beach – Underhill said stairs repaired, fill in more sand at bottom.

Townline – Anderson said deck needs to be remodeled, Van Thornton said wheelchair could fall down the stairs, hard to get wheelchairs over curb from street to deck.

Pier Street Beach – Falen sent notes to Zack Chamberlain, their opinion is debris is not from revetment. Plan is to take boulders out of water to add to revetment, per Zack.

McKinley Beach – S. Taylor said “Closed” sign is rotting, need bench to replace make-shift bench.

Harbert Road Preserve – Ellis said boardwalks should be over areas of pond and wetlands, would be \$600 to cover 2 of 5 places. Cattails are invasive, Chikaming Open Lands has a way to deal with them. Would like line item in budget for volunteers to take care of it. Regarding vandalism, Schrader is looking into new photo equipment, Police have interviewed suspect.

CORRESPONDENCE: In packet, marked as read
Filming request on Cherry Beach, can film on public area but can't reserve.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Items – covered in report.

- Chikaming Park and Preserve burn – window in Sept. but weather dependent. Can do in March if needed.
- Harbert Beach – bench would be nice.
- Landscaping contract with TDK expires in March, \$24,000 a year for 2 years, prior was \$20,000.
- Replacement of trail camera - borrowed from PD and now stolen, 2 needed at \$150 each. Moved by G. Taylor to replace two cameras not to exceed \$500, Supported by Underhill. All in favor: 7, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried.

- Drain Pipe Inspection – send camera down length of pipe, installed 30 years ago, need to inspect interior. \$300 per hour for about 4 hours. Motion by Anderson to appropriate \$1,500 for drain inspection, Supported by Underhill, All in favor: 7, All opposed: 0, Motion Carried.
- Underhill moved to authorize Ellis to move forward with tree removal at Miller, not to exceed \$5,000, Supported by Sellers, All in favor: 7, Opposed: 0, Motion Carried.

Updated Topo Survey for Harbert Community Park – Altamanu said updated was last done in 2016, Taken out of appropriation for HCP

Options for Concession Stand at Harbert Community Park – stand needs maintenance so do we modify or demolish and rebuild? John Chipman suggested demolish and rebuild for \$100,000, he will produce floor plan and vision board, free of cost, to include bathroom, storage, kitchen, etc.

Grant Writing – Is this in the budget? Marcy Hamilton – to what extent will she write grants?

NEW BUSINESS:

Labor Day – can't park on Cherry Beach Rd., call back if beachgoers have a pass. Suggestion of shuttle but not enough time to put in place and heavy liability.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

Chris Dudiak – Question about burn, will wildlife be scared off beforehand? (Yes, and it is done outside of the nesting period). Asked for clarification on Miller Beach tree removal and clarification on path towards picnic area. Suggested continuing the railing on last 3 stairs of Miller on the left side, cut roots out of paths on walkway, older rusty signs on private beaches should be removed, sign on dune is old and faded, old tire on south end. Curious about verbiage on “our” property. Questioned land for sale on Red Arrow and Goodwin.

Fran Wersells – Mosaic development, impact analysis? Perfect place for park, no other parks on south end of township.

Janet Schrader – acknowledge community for Cherry Beach project, we live in a fabulous community! Past Park Board wrote a policy on commercial filming. Dam was filmed approximately 3 years ago. Cutting trees down on Miller can destabilize dune and migrating butterflies could be affected by removing invasive species.

Enrico Heirman – applauds our board and we are unsung heroes, he's proud as he sees improvements at parks. Joe Sipek has made herculean efforts, applauds chair and board for all the behind the scenes work. He'd like 10 min. in the next meeting to share his experiences and knowledge.

Olga Georgiev – Would like sign at Cherry for unstable dune, may kids climbing. EGLE permit 20ft. in water shocked her, thought it stopped at water's edge. Permit allowing rocks in water was exceeded, wonders whose responsibility it'll be in 2-3 years when rocks move. Anderson will talk with EGLE and continue conversation with her.

Sue Phelan – Questioned what's going on to south of Pier St. Property just changed hands and parking signs have been removed. Janet commented that she was assured they are just down to remove trees and build deck. Lawsuit brewing if public can no longer traverse north.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mountain bike ride Sept. 30

Cherry Beach postponement of event

Next regular meeting is September 27th at 6:30PM.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 9:04PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Taylor