

Chikaming Township Park Board Regular Meeting –

January 25, 2021

Electronic meeting via Zoom

Approved February 22, 2021

The January 25, 2021 meeting of the Park Board was called to order at 6:33PM by Chair Arthur Anderson (Harbert). Also present were board members Shelly Taylor (Three Oaks), Kathy Sellers (Florida), Sherri Curry (Harbert), Jocelyn VerLee (Harbert), Steve Ellis (Sawyer), and Garth Taylor (California), along with members of the community.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** led by Anderson

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Moved by Anderson to approve the agenda as amended, Supported by G. Taylor. No objections, Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Fran Wersells – We don't need new signs, but rather need to correct old signs. Will be addressed under New Business. She was wrong about McKinley report – it is loud from day-trippers.

Joseph Reed – Clarify motion about adding to agenda.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Steve Pierangeli, Prosecuting Attorney

Noted that he loves spend time at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve with his kids.

His objective is to review the purpose of OMA. Always err on the side of caution to be more OPEN.

NOTICE – Post at principal office and website, if meeting changes then post with 3 days of change.

QUORUM – half plus one, so 4 in our case of 7 board members

DANGERS WHEN MEETING – be careful when quorum is present, social gathering is okay so long as not talking about public policy, do not discuss or make decision on policy, New Technologies – email, text, chat groups, etc. cannot talk about policy or other board decisions.

CLOSED MEETINGS – vote of 2/3 or hiring (new hire could request it to be closed). Limited purposes, minutes still must be taken but not put out to public, deliberate and discuss but cannot make decision.

PUBLIC – Open to public and held in public place, no one excluded except if breach of peace AT meeting, cannot require name to attend but can if they wish to speak, public is allowed to record the meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES – OMA doesn't apply if less than a quorum, solely advisory and can just make recommendations, subject to OMA if given authority to put policy into effect.

NEW LEGISLATION – might be re-evaluated 3/31 on virtual requirements.

Questions – Can you decide committees outside of public meeting? Yes, as long as you're not deciding policy. Since we operate under township board, does this apply? Depends on decision vs. advising. Can you send email with opinion if you're not expecting an answer? Replies are the problem. Sending BCC is okay, Round Robin calling is an issue. What about Microsoft Teams? If public has access to see discussion, you have to have notice. Public could chime in but board cannot deliberate. Can committee have team and other members read along?

Yes but cannot make policy. Other board members can read them but cannot participate in debate or deliberation.

Steve's contact number is 269-983-7111 ext. 8311.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Parks Manager, Alex Schrader. He thanked board for this opportunity. Josh Higgins will be a great team with Alex.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:**

Moved by Anderson, Supported by Sellers. No objections, Motion Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Sellers reviewed report – \$861 in bills, \$66,776 in budget unspent. Salaries and wages – Alex came in later so we'll save money there, saving money on minutes, mileage is over-allowed and currently only at 13%. VerLee was asked if we could use some for community promotion including tents and fliers for promotion.

Beach signs – changing wording, Doyle at Art FX is doing a sticker. \$150 for 7 beach signs. We cite ordinance but don't need to print it out.

Curry suggested we pre-pay legal fees, set aside for Harbert Stairs, or a company vehicle. Anderson replied with the stairs being in next year's budget and we can sign out the company vehicle.

**REPORTS**

All reports are placed in folder.

Harbert Road Beach stairs – Joe Sipek spoke on this: He is passionate about beach access, has 3 options.

1. Platform similar to Cherry, 2. Aluminum straight to beach from platform, 3. Ships ladders – have to build two, better for people with low mobility. Sipek recommends option 1 -reinstall decking, create seats on platform, well within \$6,000 budget and will gather volunteers.

How is Cherry looking? 2.5 feet of sand replenished, went from 14 steps to 7 steps from platform to sand.

Harbert – about the same, more sand and no more erosion.

Who did GoFundMe? Joe did and has a list of supporters. Ellis would be happy to write letters and help volunteer efforts. Hopefully we don't need a GoFundMe and it'll be in budget instead.

Fran Wersells – Are we giving up on Pier St.? Haven't looked at it, but was all rubble last time it was checked. Depends on if sand fills in, maybe next year, asking for money for repairs.

Big thanks to Sipek for working on this.

Mountain Bike Committee – Plan to extend the trail, additional loops. Walk through when it's very wet to assess how it would work.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Placed into folder as read:

Lindland regarding signage on Miller

Struecker regarding hosting yoga classes. G. Taylor supports bringing people together in parks and these events encourage people to use these parks. Ellis agrees, this gets people of all ages outside. Curry agrees, if it's done right it's like doing an event for us. Suggests manager oversees event first few times. Sellers asked why we don't have donation boxes. Anderson replied we just haven't purchased and put them up yet.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Moved by Anderson to approve committee assignments, Supported by G. Taylor. No objections, Motion Carried.

Moved by Anderson to approve changes in by-laws as ready by Steve Ellis, Supported by Sellers.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson - yes

Sellers - yes

S. Taylor - yes

VerLee - yes

Ellis - yes

Curry - yes

G. Taylor - yes

7 yes, 0 no, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Schedule of meetings has been posted, 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month but may change December meeting to a week earlier.

Moved by Anderson to approve schedule of meetings with December one week sooner, Supported by Sellers. No objections, Motion Carried.

Moved by Anderson for \$1,500 to be spent on participation for M-Parks Conference, Supported by G. Taylor. \$249 for members of M-Parks to attend all 3 days of virtual conference, or \$99 for one day. Seminars can be looked at after the fact if someone cannot make those days. Interested members include VerLee, Anderson, and Curry, along with Alex Schrader, all are planning on all 3 days.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson - yes

Sellers - yes

S. Taylor - yes

VerLee - yes

Ellis - yes

Curry - yes

G. Taylor - yes

7 yes, 0 no, motion carried.

Request for addition signage on Miller - we don't like signs on the beach. S. Taylor feels if we do it at one beach then we may have to do it at others. Sellers suggested homeowners call police about trespassing if someone sits

on their beach. Ellis said we don't know where the borders are so it is in our best interest to mark all boundaries, otherwise the homeowner could try to squeeze extra land. G. Taylor would encourage the owner to put up signs. VerLee feels signage is a great idea and we could put a positive community spin to it. This could be very helpful. Concern over one sign being in the water. Signs show neighbors we're happy to respect their property and we could do it as needed or as request arises. Sellers thinks surveys may already be in the cloud.

Fran Wersells says that house in question doesn't respect boundaries. There is concern of too many signs blocking public safety. Very bad precedent to start marking beaches. Jill Underhill agrees that it sets a bad precedent.

Anderson moved to authorize a sign at no expense to township to demarcate the line at the south, at the legal point, identical to the one at the north, Supported by G. Taylor.

VerLee feels it's a pro-active stance so all signs are the same.

Discussion has been postponed to a later date.

~~Harbert Community Park - Sellers, G. Taylor and Anderson had a discussion with someone confusion over last meeting and what was to be done, whether it comes out of this budget or next. Fees for legal and consulting could be increased for next year.~~

~~Motion by Anderson to authorize no more than \$2,800 for plan of Harbert Community Park for consultation on plan, Supported by Sellers.~~

Sellers, G. Taylor and Anderson had a discussion about funding for planning for HCP, whether it will come out of this year's budget or next.

Motion by Anderson to authorize no more than \$2800 from this year's budget for consultation by Bill McCollum Architects to prepare plans and budget estimates for improvements for Harbert Community Park. Supported by Sellers.

Should it come from this year's budget or next year? There is concern over spending it in time. If it's not spent, it can go back to township and then put on next year's budget.

Roll Call Vote:

Anderson - yes

Sellers - yes

S. Taylor - yes

VerLee - yes

Ellis - yes

Curry - yes

G. Taylor - yes

7 yes, 0 no, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Fran Wersells – no public facilities, people who come for a day don't know how to use our beaches. Maybe we should declare all beach state property line, like Indiana did.

Joseph Reed – Why Bill McCollum for consultation at Harbert Community Park? G. Taylor recommended him and has worked with him before, and he is doing things for free. Sellers said Bill will look at plans we already dew up and liked. Reed asked why we didn't gather 3 bids. G. Taylor said we will be building on previous ideas. Sellers said Bill is pro-bono and we like to use community help. Reed would like to be part of sub-committee for Harbert Community Park.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next meeting is Monday, February 22, 2021.

**ADJOURN MEETING:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:16PM with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Taylor